



Annual Homeless Christmas Project

Program Description

Beit El's annual Homeless Christmas Project Street outreach prepares homeless individuals for the winter season by providing physical human supplies such as coats, blankets, hats, gloves, socks, shawls, and food gift cards along with written pamphlets referencing salvation and spiritual encouragement. Beit El guides homeless individuals to local government and nonprofit organizations that offer permanent housing, health, and mental wellness services through outreach, screening, and diagnostic treatment.

Homelessness Definitions

1. **Chronic homelessness**

Homeless for over a year or has had at least four episodes of homelessness in the previous three years representing 24% of the total homeless population. Older people between the ages of 50 – 70, living on the street, in a car, in a park, or in another location that is not suitable for human habitation.

2. **Episodic homelessness**

Homeless in the previous year and are younger people who may suffer from health issues or addiction. Help at this stage is critical as episodic homelessness can quickly turn into chronic homelessness and problems can become much more severe.

3. **Transitional Homelessness**

Homelessness is due to a major life change or catastrophic event. Many have lost their job or have no family or financial cushion. Generally, these are younger people and families who turn to a shelter or temporary housing system for only a brief stay.

4. **Hidden Homelessness**

Temporarily living, or with friends or family always on the move with no solid home. Living conditions are not guaranteed and there is no immediate assistance to find a home.

Beit El has assisted the homeless people of New Orleans for two years, providing essentials for the winter season such as knit hats, gloves, socks, twin- or full-size comforters, water, personals (dry shampoo, toothbrush/paste, dry bath wipes, female personals, deodorant), and food gift cards to local establishments serving hot food. Beit El also partners with organizations that offer long-term solutions to end homelessness.



In surveying the people of New Orleans, who reside under the interstates of the city, Beit El discovered 90% of the those serviced were aged 50 – 70 years old; being homeless for two years or more.

Beit El not only ministers to the homeless in offering biblical salvation, and immediate physical needs, but we also partner with other organizations to find permanent housing and health services for those who seek it. Some of the homeless people are drug addicts and choose to live on the streets, nor do they want to transition to permanent housing.

Nevertheless, the bible shares Jesus says, “For ye have the poor with you always, and whensoever ye will ye may do them good: but me ye have not always.”, therefore, it is society’s responsibility to provide as much assistance as possible for those who are homeless (Mark 14:7 KJV).

How can you help? What we need: In-kind gifts such as unisex hats, gloves, socks, and twin- or full-size comforters, personals (dry shampoo and bath wipes, deodorant, toothbrush/paste) as well as [cash donations](#) or in-kind to provide food gift cards so the homeless can purchase a hot meal.

In-kind gifts may be shipped to 1801 Manhattan Blvd, Suite J224, Harvey, LA 70058, or for local pickup call (800) 705-6840.