



## CARDBOARD CITY

**SERVES:**  
**PARISH / POOR**

**TIME:**  
**SEP / OCT**

### PRESENTING THE NEED TO MY TEAM

- Have you ever slept outside overnight? Maybe you did in a nice tent while going camping?
- What if you didn't have a home? Where would you sleep at night?
- What would you do when it got really cold out?
- There are thousands of homeless people all over our country who do not have homes. Many sleep on the streets, in alleys and some in cardboard boxes, to attempt to protect them from the extreme elements of weather.
- How do the homeless get money for food? Sometimes in big cities, they work at street intersections and wash your windows of your car for a donation.



What can you do to help these people? How can you raise awareness of this sad problem? Are you willing to sleep in a box and wash windows yourself to help them?

### THOUSANDS OF HOMELESS PEOPLE SLEEP OUTSIDE EACH NIGHT!

#### OUR CALL TO SERVE

Let's organize a Cardboard City, where we will setup our own cardboard box city to sleep in overnight to experience what it is like to be homeless. We can also raise funds and awareness for this problem at the same time, by washing peoples car windows while they are at Mass for donations.

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

# PROJECT OVERVIEW

WEEK	STEPS	WEEKLY THEME
1	<p><b>Permissions:</b> First seek the permission of the pastor to organize, promote and host a cardboard city at your parish.</p> <p><b>Plan:</b> This project should be planned, organized and executed well to be a success. First choose the location, date and time. Ideally it should be done on parish property seen by all on a Saturday night (best for raising awareness and collecting donations after weekend Masses). Window cleaning on parishioners cars in the parking lot while they are attending Mass will help move people to give a donation after Mass.</p>	
2	<p><b>Decide:</b> What homeless charity organization this project will benefit.</p> <p><b>Flyer:</b> Make a flyer for promotion, stating what you will be doing, and that you will be collecting donations after the Saturday and Sunday Masses (dates).</p>	
3	<p><b>Cardboard:</b> Each member should begin planning to collect cardboard boxes to bring the next week to make the box city.</p>	
4	<p><b>Window Washing:</b> You will need to obtain supplies, such as lots of little buckets, window cleaner, squeegee window tools, clean cloths, hose, etc. (See the WINDOW CLEANING picture on the Team Leader Resource Center USB drive or online for ideas)</p>	

## CARDBOARD CITY







## CARDBOARD CITY

WEEK	STEPS	WEEKLY THEME
5	<p><b>Advertise:</b> Hang your flyers in places in the parish to begin promoting a few weeks prior to the event.</p> <p><b>Cardboard:</b> Give the team one last week to collect cardboard boxes for the city.</p>	
6	<p><b>Pledges:</b> The team could take pledges / donations ahead of time from family and friends (especially if they do not attend your parish) to survive sleeping overnight in a cardboard box.</p>	
7	<p><b>Build:</b> Build the cardboard city. Each team member should have their own box home. You can tape/staple boxes together, cut out doors and windows, paint or use markers to decorate. Once complete, a map should be made for where the city will be built with a basic layout.</p>	
8	<p><b>CARDBOARD CITY:</b> The box city should be setup at least 1 hour in advance of the Saturday evening Mass. The team should wash vehicle windows while the Mass is going on. An announcement should be made after each Mass that the Conquest group is sacrificing by living like the homeless for one night, by washing everyone's vehicle windows for a donation and sleeping in cardboard boxes to raise awareness for the homeless.</p> <p>Also see ACTIVITY FOR EVENING in the appendices</p>	

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

# TACTICS BY AREAS

**SERVES:**  
**POOR / PARISH**

**TIME:**  
**SEP / OCT**

## LOCATION

- **Parish:** The ideal place to do this apostolic project is on parish grounds, on grass or even in the parking lot. The cardboard city should be setup in plain view of where people will be going into the church and exiting.
- **Home:** This can also be done at one of the members houses, but it will obviously be less effective and not bring about the awareness many people. It also reduces the ability to fundraise for the homeless, the team members will only be able to take pledges in advance.

## PROVISIONS

- **Cardboard Boxes:** You will need lots of boxes to tape together to make a small city. Each boy should have his own cardboard home to sleep in.
- **Tape, box-cutters, paint, markers, etc.**
- **Window washing supplies:** small buckets, window squeegees, window cleaner spray, clean rags/cloths, etc.
- **Baskets for taking donations after Masses**
- **Poster board and markers:** for the evening activity
- **Computers:** for the evening activity
- **Printer:** for printing pictures for the evening activity
- **Coats / blankets:** Each member should bring a coat/blanket to keep them warm overnight, but discourage the use of sleeping bags/pillows to help them better experience how the homeless really live.



# TACTICS BY AREAS

## RESPONSIBILITIES

- Cardboard: Each team member needs to collect several cardboard boxes.
- Window washing: A team member (or two) should be in charge of collecting the window washing supplies and executing the washing.
- Flyer: One or two members should develop and print the flyers.
- Pledge cards: A member should be responsible for making and printing pledge cards.
- Speaker: A member needs to receive permission to make announcements after each Mass the weekend of the project. (or ask the priest to make the announcement).
- Evening Activity: A member or two should be in charge of organizing the evening activity, as well as making sure they have the needed supplies.

## CONTACTS

- Pastor: You will need his permission for the event . He needs to see how this can really help to raise awareness for the homeless and help raise funds.
- Parents: Dads can help with this project,. Two adult chaperones will be needed for the overnight activity.
- Parishioners: The goal is to help them be more aware of the homeless and their needs, and how they can help.
- Homeless Charitable Organization: Choose an organization that ideally is Catholic if possible. Ensure they are a non-profit, and that the funds you raise will go to directly help the homeless in need.

# PROJECT OVERVIEW



# DEBRIEFING

**SERVES:**  
**POOR / PARISH**

**TIME:**  
**SEP / OCT**

## SPECIAL OPS

- Make sure the team is careful while washing windows. Dirty water running down the paint of vehicles could upset people rather than making them feel thankful. Professionalism is key.
- The team ideally should sacrifice, and not have snacks – possibly even skipping dinner and offer up their hunger for the homeless. This will give them a much deeper experience. If you choose to do this, ensure a good breakfast is provided.
- A few team members at a time could go to each Mass, so that everyone on the team is able to attend and fulfill their Sunday Mass. Make a schedule ahead of time.
- Work with the parish for the donations. Ideally all donations (checks and cash) should be given to the parish, who in turn can provide a check to the charitable organization that you chose.
- If the organization you chose an organization that serves the homeless, see if they need help. Schedule the team to visit the organization to present the check and to help serve. This could be an ongoing project in helping them serve on a monthly basis.

## CONTINGENCY PLAN



- If it rains, the cardboard city could be moved indoors. Unless the team is willing to really sacrifice, and be miserable. Just be careful that it is not too cold.
- Simply washing vehicle windows during weekend Masses to raise awareness and funds can be done without actually spending the night outdoors in boxes.

# CARDBOARD CITY



**SERVES:  
POOR / PARISH**

**TIME:  
SEP / OCT**

## **APPENDICES:**

### Evening Activity Ideas:

- Prepare a talk on the suffering of the homeless. Look up stats and reasons why there are so many homeless.
- Invite the organization you will support to come and speak Saturday evening.
- Invite someone who has been on a mission trip that has experienced first hand the poor, suffering and dying to give a talk on their experience.
- Break the group into a few small teams. Give them time to look up issues such as social justice, advocacy, world hunger, homelessness, various charitable organizations, etc. You can assign each small team one of these topics, and ask them to prepare a poster from their research. The poster could include stats, pictures, but most importantly answer the question “what can you do?” The posters can be displayed after the Sunday Masses on easels or by having the members hold them while asking for donations. Some real example posters are available as pictures on the Team Leader Resource USB drive or online for this project.
- Team members can make cards for the homeless. Writing them a note stating that they are praying for them, and that they care about them. Saint cards or other small religious things could be included.





**SERVES:  
POOR / PARISH**

**TIME:**  
**SEP / OCT**

**PROJECT NOTES:**

[illegible]