



CLOTHE THE NAKED

**SERVES:
THE POOR**

**TIME:
ANYTIME**

PRESENTING THE NEED TO MY TEAM

Imagine there is a young man living on the downtown streets. The cold wind whips down the alley between 3rd and 4th street. The young man grabs his ragged blankets and pulls them up to his neck on his cardboard bed and tries to nap for a few hours before the snow comes. His dreams pass to a simple meal as the whistling of the cold wind lulls him to sleep.



- This is not your imagination, this is a reality today in most cities, big and small.
- How can we let people like this suffer in the cold without warm clothing?
- Can we try to relieve some of their misery, to help alleviate Christ's suffering in them?
- What can we do to help these people that do not have enough clothing?

LET'S TRY TO HELP CLOTHE 100 PEOPLE IN NEED!

OUR CALL TO SERVE

Over the next few weeks, we can collect clothing and funding to help those people in need! We can then personally deliver these to a local homeless shelter and help out to make a difference in these peoples lives.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

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WEEK	STEPS	WEEKLY THEME
1	<p>Call: One boy needs to find a local homeless shelter and call them to try to find out their most urgent needs in the upcoming weeks.</p> <p>Flyer Competition: The boys should have a competition during the project planning time to make a flyer for the project – asking for clothing and donations.</p>	
2	<p>Judge: The flyers are judged and the winning flyer design chosen – print out many copies to distribute.</p> <p>Ask: The team needs to brainstorm ideas of people they can ask (family, friends, parish or school) for clothing and donations, and distribute flyers in the next week.</p>	
3	<p>Guest Speaker: This week is a good time to invite a guest speaker – or have the dads or boys share their experiences of people in need. Watch a YouTube video on the homeless.</p> <p>Ask again: Check on how many flyers were distributed, and make a plan to distribute more – perhaps at the parish after Sunday Masses. Plan a route for next week.</p>	
4	<p>Knock for those in need: This is the first week where you go on a planned route and knock on doors to explain the project and hand out flyers informing them that you will come back to collect clothing items next week. You can also ask for donations.</p>	

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5	<p>Get a truck: This week you will need a truck or van with the seats removed for the dads to follow the boys through the planned route to collect clothing and donations.</p> <p>Pray: Invite people you visit to pray with you for the homeless and those in need. (An Our Father prayer works well for most Christians).</p>	
6	<p>Sort and size: Pre-sort the clothes for women, men, boys and girls by sizes. They need to also get rid of unusable clothing.</p> <p>Call: A boy should call and confirm a date (for week #8) for delivering the items to the homeless shelter and see how they can help while there.</p>	
7	<p>Explain: This is the final week to finish any collection of clothing or donations. The boys should explain the project to the younger Conquest program members or to others. They should share a few testimonies with team about their visits to homes. They should come up with a plan on how to continue helping those in need.</p>	
8	<p>Deliver and serve: This is the week to deliver and to serve at the homeless shelter. This does not have to be a normal group night, but can be a weekend day. If possible, it would be best have the boys personally distribute the clothing themselves.</p>	

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TACTICS BY AREAS

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LOCATION

- The clothing collection route on the street must be planned well in advance since they will go to the same places on two consecutive weeks. An easy way is to print out a map of the area and mark streets visited with a highlighter. Make sure to be aware of neighborhoods that have “No Soliciting” signs posted.
- They should choose a homeless shelter that helps people spiritually, not just physically. Catholic ones are preferred but sometimes non-denominational can provide a great opportunity to evangelize.

PROVISIONS

- For week 4 and 5 you need two dads to drive the boys to the neighborhoods planned. Week 5 is more critical because at least one of them has to have a large enough vehicle to collect the clothes. The dads should stay on the street to watch all the teams, encourage the boys between houses and organize clothes in the back of the vehicle.
- Flyers need to explain the need and what types of clothes you are looking for. You do not want rags as they can’t protect anyone from the cold.
- Club shirts should always be worn out in public so the boys look and feel like a real team and appear as professional as possible.

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TACTICS BY AREAS



RESPONSIBILITIES

- At least one boy from each squad should compete to design the flyer. It should be small, simple and direct, but be able to move people to give their old clothes.
- When the boys go out both to deliver flyers and collect clothing they should go in teams of two or three and work down both sides of the street to ensure they are all close enough to the dads.
- Several boys, who were particularly moved, should prepare testimonies for week 7 to explain to the whole club how they felt working with strangers collecting the clothing and donations. (Conquering their fears and going outside their comfort zone.)

CONTACTS

- Homeless Shelter Director: These people need to know you are real. If you can mention other specific projects your team has previously done, they are more likely to let you help. You can show your professionalism by mailing him a letter and flyer.
- When you go to the door to ask for clothes you need to make the connection immediately and show professionalism with your flyer. If you show that you are working with an established shelter and you are organized enough to go to the same houses for two consecutive weeks you should get a good response.
- At the homeless shelter the boys need to be charitable with the homeless. The team leader should explain to the boys on the trip there that they are on a mission. He should encourage them to not be afraid to speak of spiritual themes with the homeless. A rosary should also be prayed on the return trip.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

DEBRIEFING

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SPECIAL OPS

- Never enter any house. The boys should always be within the vision of the dads. If they leave his vision; he must immediately respond and find them.
- It is best that the kids go to their own neighborhood as they will then be easily able to compare their own wealth with the poverty of the people at the homeless shelter.
- Each boy should be encouraged to offer some money to buy clothes for the poor.
- The boys can be asked in week 1 or 2 to go home and check in their closet and dressers. What clothes have they not worn in months? They can start by giving what they have. What clothes does their parents and siblings have as well that they could donate? This could be a competition between boys or squads.

CONTINGENCY PLAN



- The plan is to help a homeless shelter, but a home for unwed mothers, a foster-care organization, a thrift store that will re-sell clothes and buy food for the poor, or some other charity works just as well.
- Collecting other items such as standard toiletry items (toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, etc.) is also recommended if the homeless shelter will accept them.
- If you can find a poor parish or a trailer park where you can go, that will probably even work better. In this case the boys would need to visit to find out what they need and then go ask for these things in their neighborhood.
- Asking for donations to sponsor people through rehab or a job training program also may be an opportunity to investigate.

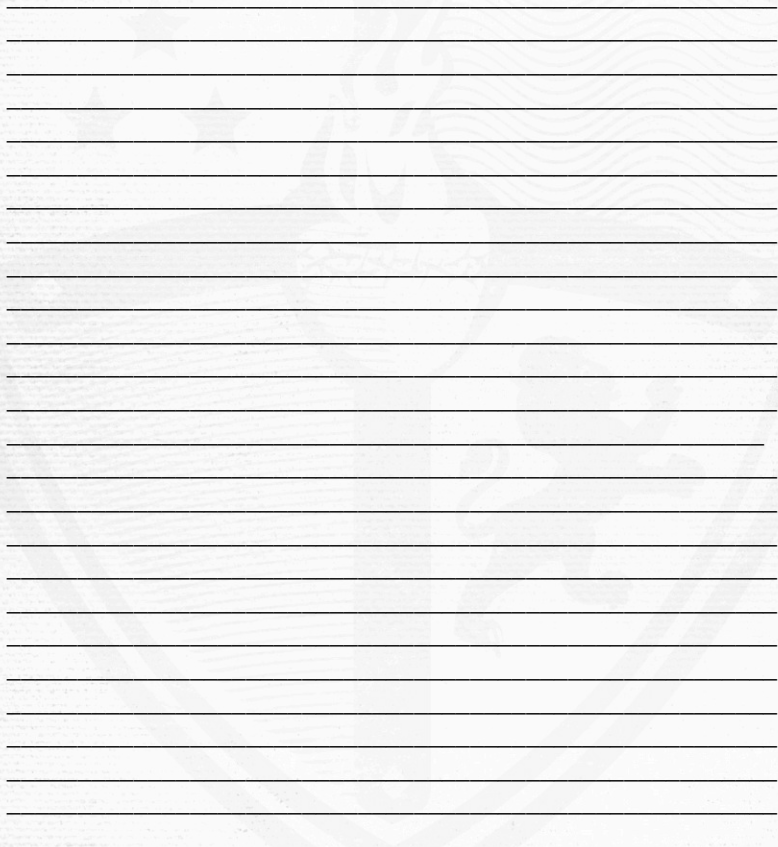
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