




FEED THE NEED

**SERVES:
POOR**

**TIME:
ANYTIME**

PRESENTING THE NEED TO MY TEAM

- How many of you have ever gone without lunch?
 - What would it be like if you didn't eat any food for a whole day?
 - Would your stomach be aching? Would you feel weak?
 - What would it feel like if you didn't eat for days?
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- Sometimes we think that people starving live only in other countries. We are used to seeing ads on TV on how to help those overseas. What about the people right here? There are many out of work and homeless people living among us. Do we even take the time to notice?
 - There are people starving right now here in our community today!
 - These people need our help to bring them food.
 - Will you help "FEED THE NEED"?

**8 MILLION PEOPLE STARVE
EVERYDAY! WHAT CAN WE DO?**

OUR CALL TO SERVE

We will collect lots of food for the needy and serve the poor together as a team to make a difference!

PROJECT OVERVIEW

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WEEK	STEPS	QUESTION OF THE WEEK
1	<p>Get dads: You will need to get several dads to commit to drive for the various nights and you will need to write a letter to a local soup kitchen.</p> <p>Decide: this week if you are just going to collect food, or if you are also going to serve at a local soup kitchen as well.</p>	
2	<p>Call the Kitchen: Follow-up with the soup kitchen by calling them on the phone.</p> <p>Advertise: Create a flyer to advertise the event. You may want to make this a competition between squads on the team.</p>	
3	<p>Judge: Review all the flyers and choose the best one and touch it up.</p> <p>Map it out: Plan the route to collect the food.</p> <p>Guest Speaker: This is a great time to bring in a guest speaker for a formative talk. Teach the boys about the Corporal Works of Mercy.</p>	
4	<p>Collect Food: Collect non-perishable food items in nearby neighborhoods. The boys can also bring their own items getting their family involved as well.</p>	

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WEEK	STEPS	QUESTION OF THE WEEK
5	Collect Food in front of a local grocery store: Collect non-perishable food items by asking patrons as they walk in to buy an extra item for the poor. It would be good to prepare little cards to hand to them as they enter the store to serve as a reminder to purchase an extra item.	
6	Get the Parish Involved: You can ask your Pastor if you can place food collection boxes in the back of the Church. There should be an announcement after each weekend Mass to ask people to bring food to the Church the following weekend. A parish bulletin flyer could also be helpful.	
7	Parish Food Collections: Have boys volunteer for specific Mass times to stand and collect food and thank people for helping the poor. Prepare to Share: This week should be used to prepare for the soup kitchen. Prepare them for what they may see (severe poverty).	
8	Serve the Poor: If at all possible the boys should be serving the poor people directly at the soup kitchen. If this is not possible, make sure they grasp how their organizing events like this can ultimately help the poor and make a difference in the lives of others in need.	

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TACTICS BY AREAS

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LOCATION

- A neighborhood near where the club meets that at least one boy knows. Map out a route beforehand to get the boys used to planning. Usually it is best to go between 6pm and 9pm or on a Saturday to get the maximum number of people home.
- A local grocery store where you can ask patrons as they enter to purchase an additional item to drop off on their way out for the poor. Remember to seek permission from the store manager well in advance.
- A soup kitchen where the boys can help serve. Choose a Catholic one if possible.

PROVISIONS

- Two vehicles with large rear spaces (either trucks or vans with seats removed) to collect the cans. The dads should remain with their vehicle and have the boys in sight. They can help organize the food in back if they desire.
- It is also a good idea to bring wagons for the boys to pull house to house collecting the food. You will need lots of grocery bags or large plastic tubs or totes.
- The team should have a flyer to distribute. It should contain information on your Conquest group and on the soup kitchen. There should be contact information for the Conquest adult leader with a brief description, and you can add an invitation to an upcoming event if you choose. There should be the full name of the soup kitchen along with any special needs they have at this moment. Depending on the neighborhood, a common prayer like the "Our Father" be can be added to pray with the people.

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TACTICS BY AREAS



RESPONSIBILITIES

- Adult Leader: A boy should be responsible for getting the needed adult leaders when the project requires it. He needs to get dads to drive for the can pick-up, neighborhood collections and to the soup kitchen. Do not forget to issue permission forms ahead of time if needed from the parish or group.
- Authors: One boy needs to write the soup kitchen and another needs to create a flyer to hand out. (or have a competition for the best flyer)
- At the soup kitchen: The team leader needs to ensure that every boy has a specific responsibility.
- Each squad: Should have a “reminder guy” named who calls up the other members 2 days before they go to the soup kitchen. The entire team needs to participate.

CONTACTS

- The directors of the soup kitchen or homeless shelter: They are usually very open to receiving donations. There are two things they want to see in the boys before they give permission. 1: They need to get a sense that the group is a professional organization. 2: They need to know that the boys really want to help the homeless; it is usually good to ask what food items they most need then ask for these by name at the houses you visit. Ask them for a formal letter of endorsement so people you visit will trust you.
- Parents: They may be worried about their boys going to a soup kitchen. “I don’t want my kid to have to see that!” Remind them that dads they trust will be there and that seeing this will both teach Christian charity and help them see the true needs of others.
- People you will visit: When you knock on a door, do you know what to say? Introduce yourself, say why you are there, hand them the flyer that you made to explain it, get the food item, and see if they have any prayer intentions.

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DEBRIEFING

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SPECIAL OPS

- Never enter any house. The boys should always be within the vision of the dads.
- Middle and upper-middle class neighborhoods work best.
- Make sure the boys experience how the poor were helped. If only some boys experienced it, testimonies should be done at the end.
- Each boy should offer some money he would otherwise use for candy, etc. to offer to the soup kitchen for food they need.
- If offered money, give it to the soup kitchen. If they specifically say it is for the Conquest group or the boy, offer it to the group.
- Sometimes it is best to first distribute flyers in a neighborhood a week prior to actually collecting the food items. This way, it let's them know a date and time that you will be coming through and they can buy items or set on their porches ahead of time.

CONTINGENCY PLAN



- We say soup kitchen, but this apostolic project needs no modification to apply to a homeless shelter or a poor parish where the priest gives you a list of names of families to deliver food.
- Working with a poor parish allows an opportunity for the boys to help the little kids with catechesis as well.
- Sometimes collecting at grocery stores works better than door to door. This adds one more permission to get, but usually is very successful. Places like bakeries usually give day-old food away to any community group that asks. To distribute this takes a little organization so you will need to plan well in advance for arranging pickups.

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PROJECT NOTES:

