



A Chance to Know Him



“To see the looks and expressions on the children’s faces was amazing,”

shared Ms. Thomas of Broken Chain

Ministries after their Easter Bag outreach. Broken Chain is a partner ministry of Cru® Inner City.

After Pastor Adams preached the true meaning of Easter, Ms. Thomas and Pastor Sarah passed out the bags filled with candy, fruit snacks, a small toy, and child-friendly gospel materials to children ranging from one to seventeen years old.

“It has given me the opportunity to minister and form a relationship with the children to draw them closer to God”

Most of the children that received bags knew nothing about Jesus until they came to Broken Chain. But thanks to everyone who generously gave to the

Easter Bag outreach, the Powell family received bags and began attending Sunday School and the worship service each week to learn more about Jesus and what He did on the cross for all of us.

“It was a pleasure being able to do this project,” Ms. Thomas shared. “It has given me the opportunity to minister and form a relationship with

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A Chance to Know Him

the children to draw them closer to God.”

Broken Chain Ministries was just one of almost 250 ministries that were able to utilize the Easter Bags to share Jesus with thousands in their communities who desperately need Him.

Because of your investment in Easter Bags, gospel-based connections are formed... relationships between churches and the community are strengthened... and literally thousands are given the most precious opportunity of all: a chance to know Him. Thank you.



Volunteers like Ms. Thomas in almost 250 ministries helped deliver the message of the gospel to children last Easter.

A Personal Word



John Sather
Co-National Director

Sometimes, anxiety robs me of my joy. As we enter 2018, I'm pondering the Sermon on the Mount* as told in Matthew 6 and the impact it can have on us as we live by faith. Several verses have ministered to me:

6:25 *"Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about*

your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?"

We don't have to be anxious because life is more than the temporal things we often focus on. Instead, we can focus on the eternal!

6:26 *"Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor gather into barns, and your Heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?"*

We don't have to be anxious because life is God-given and He always gives exactly what is needed. The "struggles and suffering" in life bring us the joy of depending on Him!

6:32b *"and Your Heavenly Father knows you need them all."*

This Father has a Heavenly, eternal perspective on your life. This Father knows your every need. This is your Father!

6:33 *"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added to you."*

Abandon your life to kingdom purposes and God will take care of every other kind of concern.

6:34 *"Therefore, do not be anxious for tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble."*

God gives me my trials in such a way as to lead me to rely on His provision of grace moment by moment. His mercy is new every morning for this very reason!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John H. Sather".

John H. Sather
Co-National Director

*Some of these thoughts are from Dr. John Piper.



Faith Restored



Pastor Hugh was exiting the busy interstate highway when he saw a man standing near the off ramp. He

clutched a tattered cardboard sign that read “Need Help for My Family.” Pastor Hugh said a quick prayer and felt the Holy Spirit nudging him to stop and talk to the man.

He discovered that the man, named Jerry, had just been laid off, his family was cold and hungry, and their gas had been turned off. It seemed things couldn’t get much worse for Jerry and his family.

Pastor Hugh asked Jerry if he would like some blankets—which Jerry readily accepted. Pastor Hugh gave him four Homeless Care Kits, which come with a blanket, gloves, scarf, hat, socks, toiletries, and more. He also gave him several gift cards to buy some food.

“I’ve been praying for God to send someone”

“I’ve been praying for God to send someone,” Jerry told Pastor Hugh. The troubled man shared that he had been feeling discouraged, like he was at an all-time low... until Pastor Hugh showed up. Jerry was overwhelmed with gratitude and joy.

“Do you know Jesus?” Pastor Hugh asked. Jerry responded, “Yes, He’s my Lord and Savior.” Pastor Hugh prayed with him, for his family, and in return the man offered to pray for Pastor Hugh—thanking God for sending him.

Before Pastor Hugh went on his way, Jerry reiterated how grateful he was for the kits and the gift cards. “My faith has been restored,” he said, noting how encouraged he was.

Praise God for how He works through the Homeless Care Kits to bring hope and encouragement to those who are in need physically and spiritually.

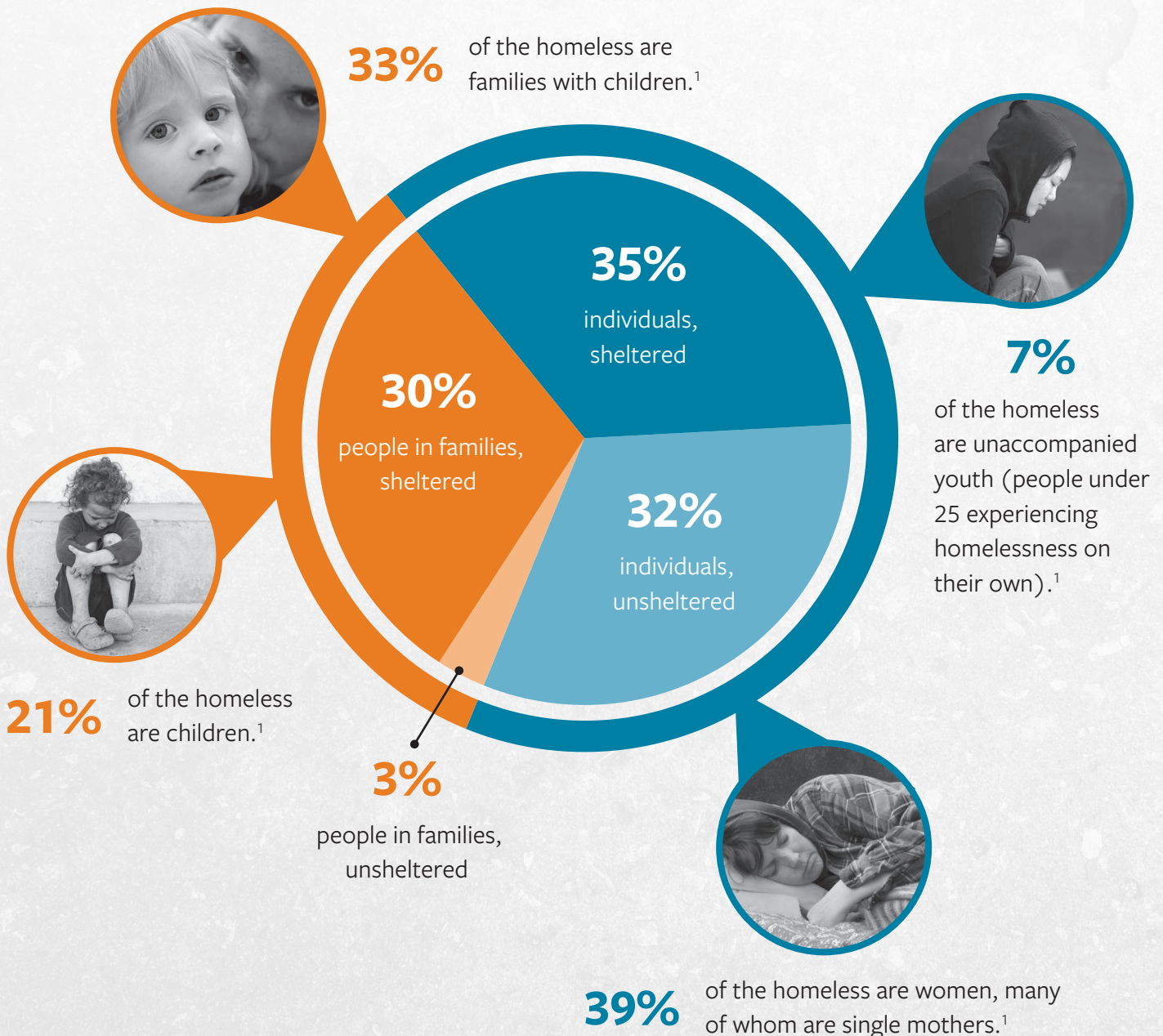
The Hidden Face of Homelessness

There are 553,742 people living on the streets, in cars, in shelters, or in transitional housing on any given night in America.¹ Who are these people?

People experiencing homelessness often contradict stereotypes, as do the causes: a lost job, low wages, a large medical expense, family conflict, and mental health issues are among a variety of

reasons. In 2017, a person working (full-time, year-round at minimum wage) could not afford the monthly Fair Market Rent for a two-bedroom rental unit in any state and still have enough money for food, utilities and other necessities.¹

What is clear throughout scripture is God's call to engage and care for those who have no place to rest their heads.



¹ According to HUD's 2017 AHAR Report



Each November, volunteers like Stacey and Joanne pack and deliver Boxes of Love® filled with a Thanksgiving meal and scripture to bring hope to people in need.

Just Like Acts



November is always an exciting month of outreach! Inner-city church partners and volunteers gather to pack thousands of boxes filled with stuffing, vegetables, potatoes, juice, yams, apple or cranberry sauce, bread, fruit, dessert, a turkey, ham, or chicken (depending on what is most culturally appropriate to the neighborhood) and more... plus scriptures.

The best part about Boxes of Love® is not just that a family in need gets to eat a fresh meal together in their own home, but that those who deliver the boxes are trained in evangelism. They're equipped to offer nourishment and hope that lasts longer than one meal.

In Chicago, a pair of volunteers—Stacey and Joanne—met a woman named Melinda on the street while distributing Boxes of Love and shared the good news of Jesus with her.

“You need to hear this!”

Melinda was so excited to hear about the free gift of grace and eagerly invited Jesus into her life.

She then turned to her 5 children in the car and exclaimed, “You need to hear this!” Upon hearing about God’s free gift of salvation through Jesus, they all prayed to invite Christ into their lives.

Melinda couldn’t contain her excitement: “I want my mom to hear this too!” Her mom was in the house. So Stacey, Joanne, and Melinda went to the door and shared with her and she accepted Christ in her life as well! It was like the book of Acts when whole families came to belief together!

We rejoice in God for orchestrating salvation for whole families through our church partnerships. Friends like you provide even more avenues for inner-city churches to minister to and connect with families in their neighborhoods, and many come to know Jesus.

Beauty from the Ashes



Life seemed like disaster after disaster...

Priscilla's husband had deserted her and their children. Then a fire ravaged her Bronx apartment. And she couldn't afford a new place on her own.

Just like that, Priscilla and her children became homeless.

Embarrassed. Horrified. Overwhelmed. Desperate. Priscilla felt it all.

Then, amid the ashes of her life, hope rose up again—thanks to you!

Just like that, Priscilla and her children became homeless

At Mercy Mission, a local ministry we partner with, you gave Priscilla and each one of her children a simple, yet priceless, gift in Jesus' name: a Homeless Care Kit.

The children's eyes lit up. Priscilla's, too. For the first time in a long time, they felt loved, encouraged... and full of hope!

Soon after, folks from the ministry got Priscilla and the kids set up in a one-room Christian residence. Cramped, yes. But safe and warm. And it was those Homeless Care kits that started them on their way to a whole new life!

Please make this transformation possible for more children and families in desperate need this winter by giving generously to provide Homeless Care Kits. Thank you!



Cru Inner City
2112 Broadway Street NE, Suite 100
Minneapolis, MN 55413

CRU.ORG/INNERCITY
innercity@cru.org



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