

# Calvary's Sack Lunch Program

In these difficult financial times, often those people in the margins are the first to suffer. This has been evidenced by increased numbers of hungry people coming to Calvary for sack lunches. In previous summers, we have usually served fewer than 10 lunches each day. This summer, we have been serving 20-30 lunches each day.

Our neighbors who are hungry can come to Calvary Monday through Thursday and receive a free sack lunch between 11:00 A.M. and 1:00 P.M. The lunches are bought, assembled, and distributed by Calvary members. The money and food comes from your donations through the Red Wagon. With the increased volume of lunches,

your help now is needed more than ever. Sandy Cook said that this summer they have just been playing "catch up" with lunch supplies. Yvonne Eagan does most of the shopping for the supplies, and her dedication is much appreciated. Janet Freeman-Daily and Sally Sell also help shopping for some items, which helps tremendously.



Here's how you can help:

Donate money or food through the Red Wagon or bring your donation any time to the church office. It takes \$100-150 each week to provide 20-30 lunches (Monday through Thursday.)

Help serve lunches. The Sack Lunch Ministry is in need of servers to help on a regular or substitute basis. You will receive a helpful orientation and can work as little or much as you like. Please pray about joining our server team. If interested in this ministry, even in trying us out, please contact the servers' volunteer coordinator, Nellie Gordon through the church office.

think that's what Jesus meant about not just feeding stomachs, but feeding souls." Some guests come every day. They grab a lunch, have a cup of coffee, and visit. The servers try to treat the guests to a listening ear, letting them know that they are people of worth. The guests often share their interesting stories. Some guests are just passing through and have heard the word on the street that Calvary is a compassionate place. Lunch server, Sally Sell, said, "It's like all the things Calvary does in our community ... it's why we are here." The lunches themselves are not the draw. They are, by no means, gourmet, so if a person is coming every day for a lunch, they have got to be pretty hungry. What are their stories? Let's find out.

## Dedicated Server Team

Our team of sack lunch servers are passionate about their guests (their "boys" as they call them.) Ruth Lee said that whenever she serves the sack lunches, she thinks, "What would Jesus do?" With much thought and prayer, we have shaped our procedure. We always have two people handing out the lunches. They gently assert the rules: no using Calvary's phone or bathrooms and no going into other parts of the building. They don't preach to the guests. If the guests want to talk about the Bible, they are happy to do that, but they don't initiate that conversation.

The sack lunches cost Calvary \$1.25 each, but the servers stress that what they're really giving guests is socialization. Sandy Cook said, "I



## Our Guests

Ask any of our servers about our guests. They have grabbed our hearts. The servers find themselves going home and praying for certain individuals. In other years our guests were primarily young men. Now we see many more women and families coming for lunches. There is a man, disabled as a youth, who now periodically brings his 4-year-old daughter.

Another man who comes daily feels value in “touching base” with us. There is one young man who has come here for a long time. Originally he was afraid of everything. Being more comfortable now, our servers delight that he no longer hides beneath his hood. However, the servers fear that he is on the cusp of falling in with a bad crowd ... and the servers’ prayers continue. One man who comes for lunches has a white van and regularly helps others by giving them rides. Another guest noticed that one of Sandy Cook’s tires on her car was flat. The guest changed the tire for her. He is very protective of the servers and often stays just to make sure they remain safe.

They need the lunch, but they also love being treated like people. Last spring our Learning In Motion kids decorated the lunch bags. The guests loved receiving the special bags. One man teared up and said, “The kids made this just for me?”

This is a very active ministry. Please pray for the guests and for the Sack Lunch Program. We would love it if you would get involved in any way that you are able.