

FFWPU New York City's Special Christmas Delivery to Homeless People

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December 28, 2020



More than 200 homeless people in New York City received care packages and a hot meal on Christmas Day, thanks to community donations and the fundraising efforts of volunteers from Family Church of New York City (FCNYC) and Queens Family Church.

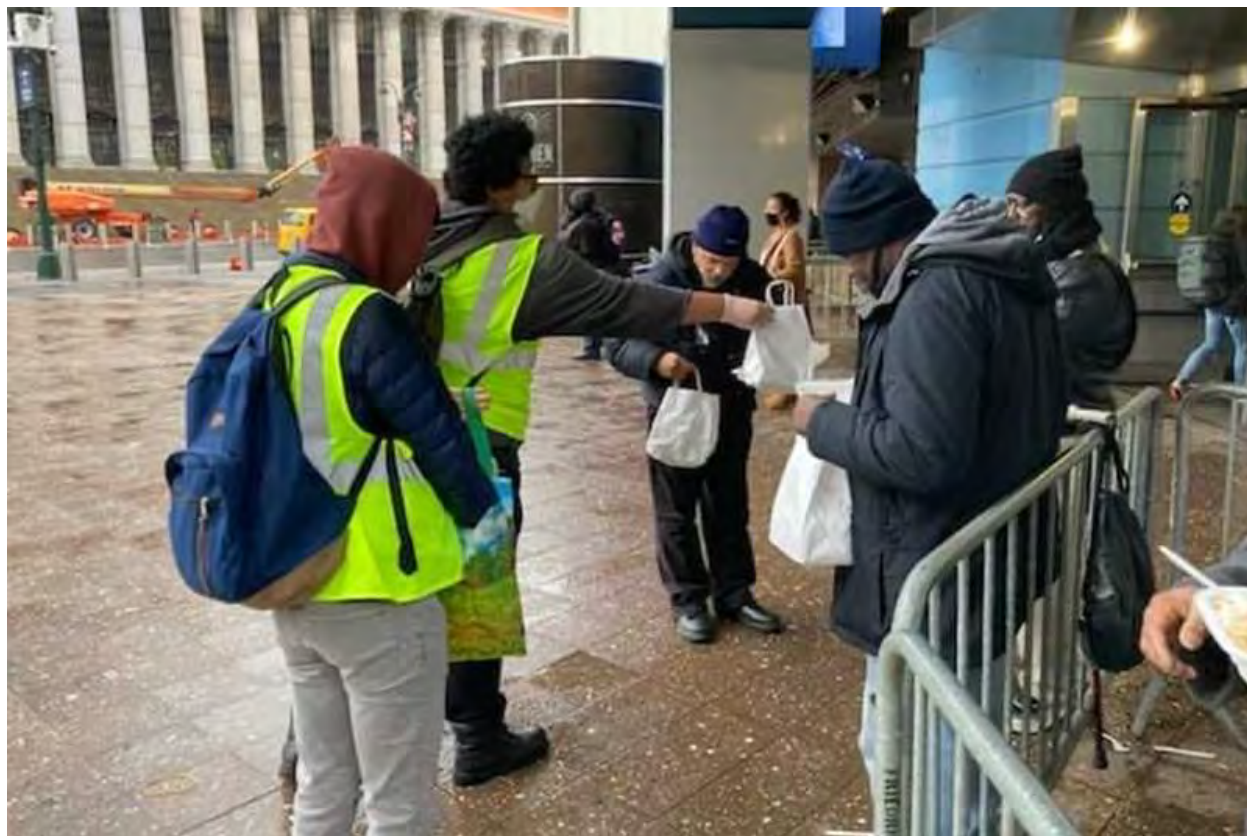
Related: [Santa to the Homeless](#)



Donations poured in for the service project Santa to the Homeless, helping FCNYC staff raise \$2,080 and exceed their \$2,000 goal on GoFundMe. Volunteers prepared fresh meals and care packages -- including snacks, water, hand sanitizer, gloves, and masks -- before handing them out to the homeless on Christmas Day.

"When we initially started this project, one of the objectives was to become God's vessel and to understand God's heart," said staff member Rei Park. "We were able to see this in our volunteers when everyone came ready with the heart to serve."

"We really couldn't have asked for a better team who surely made a difference in many people's lives on Christmas Day," added project organizer Stephanie Dias, assistant pastor of FCNYC. "We hope to do this again next year."



18 Dec
2020

Santa to the Homeless



Photo credit FFWPU-USA

Unificationists in New York City are filling the shoes of Santa this year, giving away hot meals and necessities to the homeless on Christmas—and you can help, too! [Donations](#) and [volunteers](#) are needed for care packages that will be distributed around the city on December 25.

“We are living in very tumultuous times and New York City has been one of the most impacted places in the world,” said project organizer Stephanie Dias, assistant pastor of the Family Church of New York City (FCNYC). “The COVID-19 pandemic has caused many people to lose their jobs and lose their homes. The city’s homeless rate skyrocketed this year and our team wanted to do something to give back and support them during this time.”

What was once a thriving top travel destination worldwide quickly dissolved into a ghost town in the months that followed a citywide shutdown in March. New York City became a hotspot of a different kind—the epicenter of the coronavirus outbreak in the U.S.

“Lots of homeless shelters are at capacity, and their resources are very limited,” said Dias. “We have organized a great service project and we’re inviting anyone to participate. We are collaborating with youth from the Queens Family Church for this amazing opportunity to give back to our beautiful city.”

Volunteers will hand out more than 200 meals and care packages on the streets Christmas Day. New York City accounts for more than 14 percent of the nation’s homeless population—an estimated 80,000 men, women, and children—according to a 2018 government report. Dias, who is seeking funds from the community through her [Santa to the Homeless](#) campaign on GoFundMe, said her staff is also teaming up with local supermarkets and restaurants for food donations.

“These funds will help in the event that we can’t get all of the things on our donations list,” she said. “We’ll provide not only the meal in the care packages, but also non-perishable snacks, juice boxes, and water, as well as gloves, hand sanitizer, and a reusable mask.”

In under a week, the fundraiser has reached more than \$700 of the \$2,000 goal. Volunteers will box all of the care packages at 5:00 p.m. on December 23 at the Queens Family Church in Flushing; then gather at the FCNYC building on 43rd Street in Manhattan at 10:00 a.m. on December 25 to assign the distribution sites.

“We hope that people will donate their time or any monetary amount that they can offer toward this wonderful cause,” said Dias. “This is truly what the spirit of Christmas is all about.”

You can get involved with the “Santa to the Homeless” service project by [donating here](#), or [signing up here](#) to volunteer.

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CYNTHIA

December 19, 2020 at 1:35 am | #

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