

NEWS

- Check out our new website at fillingthevoid.com.
- You can quickly, safely and easily give online.
- Volunteers have logged ~1,700 service hours YTD.
- We've prayed for nearly 5,000 people in 2022.
- We've already done 275 outreaches this year.
- We served 24,187 meals in the first 9 months of 2022.
- Lunches served are up 17% in 2022 vs. last year.
- Our all-time sack lunch tally is now at 244,424.
- August was our biggest month ever – 3,679 meals.
- We fed 516 people in the Pacific Northwest in October.

October 2022
We Feed. The Soul.

Walking In Our Shoes

Reaching out to help others in their darkest hour may be glorious, but it's not glamorous. In fact, there's a gritty, grungy, raw and somber side of the ministry that we seldom advertise.

This story isn't pretty or G-rated. It's a graphic glimpse into some of the rare heart-wrenching experiences we have. Indeed, this is the cold hard reality of our calling.



These replacement kicks came to the rescue.

In August, we worked in encampments under Houston highways after a hard rain. The heavy downpour left standing water and wet conditions wherever we walked.

A volunteer's shoes absorbed some runoff and whatever was in it. Hours later, the shoes smelled like sewage. They were unwearable and had to be replaced.

In January, we found a young man in his 20s at a Popeyes restaurant in Katy, TX, with threadbare clothing on a subfreezing night. A manager let him stay while we ran to Walmart.

When we returned, he was on all fours playing with trash. He could not dress himself. Two volunteers tediously layered him up with warm apparel to help him survive the night.

At an outreach in Tulsa, a man wearing light gray sweatpants accidentally soiled himself from waist to toes. Again, we raced to gather what he needed to protect his dignity.

Another time in Houston, a man was lying down outside a convenience store with flies buzzing around him. That's because his head was literally inches away from a pile of human waste.

In downtown Denver, two Spring Break volunteers from a church prayed with a distraught young man whose arm had noticeable needle marks all over it from drug use.

On Sept. 25, Houston volunteer Beau Utley stooped down to feed a gaunt man sleeping on a sidewalk. The shirtless man whose ribs were showing wasn't responsive. He was dead.

Please don't feel sorry for us or let this prevent you from serving. It's not always like this – not by any means. Precious lives are in dire, urgent, critical need. They're counting on us to come.