

1. Should we stop giving out Rock Thrift Store vouchers immediately when the homeless come to the Rock for physical needs, or should we just refer them to Father Joe's for help?

We will continue to serve the homeless that come to the Rock for physical needs (*Deuteronomy 15:11 - There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be openhanded toward your brothers and toward the poor and needy in your land.*)

We will help refer the homeless to places that we are partnering with like Father Joe's to receive assistance.

We are also exploring partnership opportunities with other service providers such as San Diego Rescue Mission, Salvation Army, Uplift Ministries, and more.

Currently this initiative is specific for the homeless on the street.

2. Why are we stopping the feeding of the homeless on the streets? Isn't it biblical?

Yes it is biblical to feed and help those in need (*Proverbs 19:17 - He who is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward him for what he has done.*)

But it is also biblical to be wise and a good steward of our opportunities (*Parable of the talents - Luke 19*).

We've realized the homeless "street" feedings that people participate in throughout the city are not necessarily always helping; they can also be hurting people by enabling them to stay homeless and not seek the long-term help they need.

The manner in which some people give food and clothes to the homeless may also increase violence since at times some fight over the best of what is given and then discard unwanted items as trash.

The vision of our church is to partner with homeless advocates and the City of San Diego - to work toward ending homelessness in San Diego and beyond. One major way we can help is by partnering with other organizations like Father Joe's Village.

Our heart as a church is to continue to meet the needs of the homeless; we are realizing we need to adjust our strategy on how we can best accomplish this mission. We will be collaborating with other similarly passionate service providers so we can accomplish more as a combined force than any of us can accomplish by ourselves. One plus one can equal three — if we join forces!

Feeding the homeless and providing clothing has resulted in an increase of trash on the streets from what they don't want and throw away. As a result more homeless people are coming to San Diego and staying on the streets. As a result local business owners have

expressed frustration because they are losing business. The end result of our efforts at times is perpetuating homelessness rather than providing hope for the future by an integrated program of food, medical attention, clothing, job counseling, psychological counseling, transitional housing, and ultimately a home of their own off the streets of San Diego.

The meal is a gateway to ending homelessness. Through a hot meal trained counselors can then begin to work with individuals and families identifying their specific needs and creating a pathway from the streets to employment and ultimately permanent housing. Through these partnerships we will also be giving them a place for community and an opportunity to connect with others as they work through this transition. We want to be a hand up not a hand out. As the body of Christ, we can lock arms together and love the homeless back to a life of purpose and dignity. (*James 2:15-17, 1 John 3:17-18*)

3. Why are we only partnering with Father Joe's?

We are exploring partnerships with a number of entities including Father Joe's Villages. Father Joe's specifically approached us with an invitation to join forces with a vision of collaborating in this effort to end homelessness.

We also have an in-house ministry called Homeless Services, which is going to connect people who want to help the homeless with opportunities to do so. Contacting this group will be an easy way for any group or person to be directed towards homeless ministry opportunities. By sending an email to **homelesservices@sdrock.com** with "The Home Team" in the subject line, Monica Ball and her team will direct volunteers or ministries accordingly.

Loving Spoonfuls (<http://www.loving Spoonfuls.org>) is working on a website that will provide meal provider information for volunteers that want to feed the homeless on an individual or continual basis within service provider locations.

4. Is the Rock telling me I am personally unable to feed homeless people?

We aren't telling individual people that they can no longer feed homeless people, but rather as the Rock Church, we will no longer be having our own personal feeding programs and feeding people on the streets. We aren't putting this rule on members, but rather we are committing to a different path as a ministry. We are unable to dictate what people do with their individual time, but we are able to take responsibility for what we do as a ministry.

We would also encourage you to take members of the homeless community out for a meal, spend time with them individually and get to know them. (*Luke 14:12-14*)

This is another way to be used by God to encourage them in becoming self-sufficient and getting off the street.

5. How will this make us more effective and maximize our impact?

By giving ministries a place where they can serve a hot meal and develop community with the homeless, we are then able to identify what their real needs are and then address the underlying issues facing the homeless community. The greater purpose of the combined efforts is to help provide individuals with an opportunity to move off the streets, into a life

of dignity and purpose and ultimately maximize their God-given potential.

6. What about the homeless that are unwilling to go to Father Joe's and other organizations like them?

We should pray and develop relationships with them, love and encourage them as well as invite the homeless to church.

Establishing relationships with the homeless is crucial because when you earn their trust they will more than likely begin to trust what you say. Your personal relationship may ultimately be the gateway to a future life off the streets!

7. If Father Joe's and other organizations are doing such a good job, why do we still have so many homeless on the streets?

Housing is the key factor in this and because we don't have central intake housing it makes it more difficult.

A number of affordable housing providers are joining this effort with an increasing number of transitional and permanent housing units coming online in the next couple of years. These affordable housing units are specifically set-aside for homeless individuals and families who have successfully come through programs such as those offered at Father Joe's Villages.

In addition, some homeless people don't want to get off the streets because of things like illness or substance abuse. These issues are also being addressed by a variety of non-profit service providers in San Diego. We want to direct them to places where they can get the help they need for those chronic problems that have them trapped in their situation.

8. What about Good Friday events, Microsites, Church Without Walls - these events offer a cleaner San Diego?

In a controlled environment like Good Friday, Microsites, and Church Without Walls we should take an even greater initiative in cleaning up the area and making sure we leave the area better than we found it and bring resource information to help the homeless get off the street.

In events such as these, there is a ministering to the spiritual needs of individuals — it's not just a handout. Each case is different. At some of these events no feeding will occur while others are events where everyone eats and there is an organized clean up effort as part of the event. The increase in homelessness also facilitates an increase of human waste being deposited throughout the neighborhoods.

Developing a habit to visit a facility where transitional help can be provided will also provide opportunity to address all personal hygiene concerns in the facility and not on the street.

9. Since we have been asked to no longer feed the homeless in the streets, whom can we contact to serve the homeless in other ways?

We will be developing ministry partnerships throughout the county in order to address this issue countywide.

We have ample opportunities to feed the homeless on different days as well as aid in their needs! Homeless Services Ministry has created a Home Team that will direct your group with all the information you need to volunteer.

Email them directly: homelessservices@sdrock.com

For all other homeless inquiries please direct your questions to kimberly.jenson@sdrock.com.

If you are looking to bring hot meals to the homeless on a **SUNDAY** see the list below and just plan to show up at the time and place! If you have any questions regarding these sites contact microsite@sdrock.com.

ROCK THRIFT STORE // 8AM

3191 Sports Arena Blvd, San Diego, CA 92110
A retail storefront // open to public

TERALTA PARK // 10AM

San Diego CA, 92105
A public park // open to public

LINDO LAKE PARK // 10AM

Lakeside, CA 92040
A park service // open to public

SOUTHERN HOTEL // 10AM

1159 6th Ave, San Diego, CA 92101
A downtown underground theater // open to public

OCEAN VIEW LAUNDRY // 10AM

3109 Ocean View Blvd. San Diego, CA 92113
A Laundromat // open to public (Spanish subtitles)

FAMILY GYM // 12PM

101 17th St, San Diego, CA 92101
A fitness gym // open to public

GROCERY OUTLET // 12PM

1002 Market St, San Diego, CA 92101
Meets in loading dock // open to public

CITY HEIGHTS RECREATION CENTER // 12PM

4380 Landis St. San Diego, CA
A community center // open to public

CHICANO PARK // 12PM

San Diego, CA 92113
A community park // open to public (Spanish subtitles)

THE ARLINGTON // 12PM

701 7th Ave, San Diego, CA 92101
An open-air housing complex // open to public

JAMES GANG CO. // 6PM

1931 Bacon St. San Diego, CA 92107
A printing company in OB // open to public

SALGADOS AUTO REPAIR // 6PM

3680 Fairmount Ave. San Diego, CA 92105
An auto-repair shop // open to public