







theOUTDOORCHURCH

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Dear Supporter,

Greetings from the Outdoor Church, and welcome to summer! I'm writing to update you about our work and ask for your financial support as we continue to bring hope, fellowship and pastoral care to the chronically homeless people of Cambridge.

If spring is here, so is summer...

Sometimes it seems to us that no sooner does spring actually arrive in New England than summer arrives just a few days later. The chronically homeless men and women of Cambridge to whom we minister grapple with a very different set of challenges during the summer months. Being outdoors at this time of year can be just as hard on a body as in winter: for example, the need to stay hydrated in the relentless heat is constant. No matter how many juice boxes and water bottles we pack in our coolers for our weekend outreach, we always have to stop en route to replenish our supply.

And with summer come more homeless youth...

Groups of young adult "travelers" pop up on the Cambridge Common and around the Harvard T station entrance as summer begins. Most of these young people generally just hang out to enjoy the excitement of the Square. However, a large number are fleeing traumatic, unstable or otherwise abusive situations at home. They don't trust adults and are reluctant to go to shelters frequented by adult homeless men and women. Because they have no other place to turn, their experience of life on the street can be very stressful. We use a gentle touch with these troubled youths and offer them whatever spiritual, emotional, and material support they're willing to take.

Thank God for interns and volunteers...

As summer begins, our student ministers, who have been serving with us since September, wrap up their internships and either graduate or venture off to start their summer plans. We enjoy being field education supervisors for these eager students and are always grateful for the assistance they provide as they accompany us on our outreach. Fortunately, we are blessed with volunteers from many of our supporting churches who turn out to help us with our street outreach after our interns depart.


Celebrating a shared purpose...

To celebrate the Outdoor Church's continuing ministry and inaugurate the busy summer ahead, we just held our first ever Bluegrass Barbecue, complete with a barbecue buffet and bluegrass guitar and banjo music! Over 45 people – Outdoor Church donors, clergy, former interns, and volunteers – joined in the heart-warming experience of shared purpose and community.

Your support makes a real difference...

As we enter July we find far, far more folks out on the street than there were even a few months earlier. Please know that it has been your generosity that has made it possible for us to be a church for these men and women, young and old, enabling us to keep pace with the need as it emerges and extending fellowship and hope to our congregants. Will you consider making a contribution to The Outdoor Church at this time? We will be ever grateful for your support: every gift counts – now more than ever – and every gift makes a difference.

Thank you always,



Thomas Hathaway,
Minister and Executive Director