



*Thank you for your compassion and time spent. Your gift brightened my day and made me feel cared for and loved when I was feeling lonely and homeless.*

*--A note from a lady in local shelter*

May-June 2016

Dear **GC** Friends:

One small part of what *Grandma's Comfort* does is give "comfort bags" of personal items and snacks to panhandlers at intersections. On occasion I have been asked if anyone had ever turned down a gift bag. Interesting question. The simple answer is No. In fact, recipients have only ever expressed gratitude. This is true not only of guests at shelters but also panhandlers at corners or at trash bins. Their typical response is, God Bless You! In fact, we have had some very specific reactions:



**Socks!** *Oh, thank you, I only have one pair* (lady)

**Socks!** *I really need them* (man)

*Everything helps. Thank you* (men and women)

Are there "tricks" used by panhandlers? Sure. In fact, over time, the messages on the cardboard signs change. For awhile it was

*Hungry. Will work for food.*

*Family of 4. Will work.*

Then it became

*Homeless. Please help.*

*Anything helps.*

Recently

*Spare change* (reminiscent of much older days, "Sir, can you spare a dime?")

Do I know that some of these are scams? Yes, of course; the news media have covered these in detail. But not all of them are scams—many are truly poor, homeless people. At any rate, what a job—standing in the sun, rain, wind, for whatever they receive! Not even minimum wage! Do I know the laws about panhandling? Yes, legal in Michigan. Does panhandling bother me? No, not at all.

You see, the broader issue is every person's need for Jesus, including me. So, in every **GC** gift bag we enclose a Christian tract, a book of devotional readings, and a **GC** card of encouragement and salvation. The more bags handed out, the more seeds of Good News planted! It's always about Jesus! In the King's Holy Name we hand out

- A cup of cold water for the thirsty  
*(well, actually, a juice box or water bottle)*
- Food for the hungry  
*(typically crackers, meat sticks, nuts)*
- Hope for those imprisoned by addiction  
*(the message of God's love and mercy)*

And every bag provides an information sheet on local shelters, food pantries, churches, thrift stores, and other resources.

Frankly, even if we would be turned down, we would still offer to help.

As unto Jesus!

Diane and Tom Zimmerman

### **Needs for the Summer**

- *Outdoor small toys; e.g., jump ropes*
- *Pencils and pens—especially children's pencils*
- *Coloring books—adult and children*
- *Colored pencil sets*
- *Deodorant—men and women*
- *Shower gel—regular or travel size*
- *Shampoo—travel size*
- *Soap—regular or travel size*
- *Toothbrushes or toothbrush/paste sets*
- *Toothpaste—travel size*
- *Washcloths—purchased or handcrafted*
- **Financial support:**
  - *Send a check to address below or use PayPal via our website at [www.grandmascomfort.org](http://www.grandmascomfort.org).*
  - *When ordering online, use Smile Amazon and select GC as your charity; we receive .5% cash!*