

Wagon of Hope

Overview

Wagon of Hope is a very simple and cost-effective way to do evangelism and ministry on the front lines of a particular community. Many ATC centers are at or near the high-needs areas of a city or community. It is an excellent way for ATC students and clients to help use their transformation testimony to minister to a person who is where they have been.

Activity Prep and Execution

-A local ATC team meets one evening per week to pray for the streets and discuss where they have observed acute needs in the area. Is there a particular concentration of hunger, addictions or general concern that they have observed?

-Saturday night is often a good night to execute this outreach

-ATC Students (at least 6 months in Long term program) are teamed up with a SURGE or Emerging leader. They are trained for wisdom, discernment and “spiritual eyes” while they are in the streets.

-A pull wagon is loaded with simple food and drinks (ex: in winter, coffee and hot chocolate urns and summer cold drinks), Bibles, Condensed TCATSB books, Hygiene items, Clothing if available and Naloxone kits.

-The team moves along the streets toward those that appear to be in distress or need some form of encouragement. Food, prayer, and testimonies are offered. If the individual appears to respond with wanting additional help, they are referred to a Ready Now Recovery group, long term treatment, or other local helping partner.

-Promote this weekly event in local churches. Project Reach is a great time to do bulletin inserts, church website announcements, and show the PR video in the service.

-Promote and create excitement internally! Typically, if the following group chapel or devotional gives time to allow for testimonies of how it went, it creates excitement and anticipation with those that weren't sure about participation.

Time Requirement

-Usually, the event runs 2-3 hours.

-Additional training for evangelism needed.

Budget

-\$50 to cover supplies that have not been already donated. Many times, ATC centers already have a great stockpile of certain snacks and drinks, so the costs are minimized.

Volunteer Needs

-A healthy balance of men and women in recovery (recommend at least 6 months) and their leaders.

-The group can be as small as two, but larger than 10 is not recommended.

-Many local churches are often very happy to partner with ATC and our testimonies for evangelism opportunities. Give them the clear message that they do not need to run the outreach, but a few helpers that we speak with (and ideally train) ahead of time will greatly help to enhance the event. It also shows the churches our desire for evangelism and partnership.

Items Needed

-Coffee and hot chocolate urns or thermoses.

-Small amounts of prepared food/snacks

-Wagon that is easily pulled by one person

-Small stockpile of Bibles, TCATS condensed, or Book of Hope

-Small amount of business cards to join RNR groups.