

LO Interact Club at Night Strike

Activity Report of 3/1/2018 by Ted Ricks

The Lakeridge High School LO Interact Club has been planning this trip to **Night Strike** under the Burnside Bridge for two months and finally made it on Thursday, March 1 2018.

Stuart Allen organized this activity that was enthusiastically confirmed by the LO Interact club. I had already been there for a 3- hour service project in 2016 with five LO Interact members.



Night Strike is a 15-year old mission organized and managed by the *Bridgetown Ministries* in Portland at 214 W Burnside Street, Portland, OR 97209 to administer basic needs to the 15,900 homeless men, women, and families in Portland over a week's period of time: Food (hot and cold), coffee/water, clothes, sleeping bags, blankets, haircuts, free books, and manicures/nail painting from 7:00 to 10:00 every Thursday night. There is a dental-free service van there as well.

The minimum age is 12 years of age for this service and an orientation at 6:45 is required.

The object is to humanize the homeless experience – yes, you are encouraged to talk with these people; the organizers say that you are probably the first person to look them in the eye that day. They say, "Loving people is important because people matter".

I found it perfectly safe, well-lit, well-managed and supervised. I saw no conflicts, outbursts, or alcoholic behavior and there must have been 100-200 people there. They stood in orderly lines for food and clothing, and milled around socializing in a courteous manner.



As part of the process of giving, the *Bridgetown Ministries* asks volunteers to bring warm winter clothes to give away to the homeless. They were looking for donations of blankets, sleeping bags, socks, jackets, scarves, gloves, men's underwear, shampoo, and toothpaste and brushes. We brought a winter jacket, a scarf, and bought twelve pairs of new socks and men's Jockey shorts as our donation to the homeless.

Our group: Stuart Allen, Jonah Tappouni, me plus three Fox University students joined us in a "walkabout". In this "walkabout", the six of us roamed an eight-block area looking for homeless men and women and found about 16: we talked with them, some told us of their experiences, and we gave them coffee, sandwiches, and socks. It was insightful and enlightening for they were articulate, with some education, and seemed basically down on their luck. They were grateful for our visit and for the food and drink. I treated everyone to a Zombie donut afterward as we walked back to the Burnside Bridge to help clean up and drove home around 10:30 PM.