

## Important News for All Sandwich Run Volunteers

Dear Friends,

Thank-you for your continued willingness to volunteer for Sandwich Runs at Project417. Many of you have been helping Ekklesia and Project417 since the beginning, many years ago. We want to express our gratitude - without your volunteer service, the sandwich runs could not be so successful. The lives of the homeless street people we help would be much more hopeless without your cheerful and enthusiastic presence. Lives have been changed. Hearts have been healed. God's name is glorified.

We are writing you now to announce **an important policy change** for operating the Sandwich Runs.

**Effective February 1, 2007, all groups volunteering for the sandwich run will be requested to pay a fee of \$10 per person to attend.** For many years, Project417 has resisted the need to collect a fee for the operation of the sandwich runs. Due to ongoing and increasing operating expenses of this critical ministry, combined with a sharp decrease in charitable donations to Project417 - Ekklesia Inner City Ministries, this is a necessary step to ensure the survival of the sandwich runs.

With your help, Project417 will continue to provide your groups with an effective and rewarding ministry experience. You all know that a sandwich run is more than delivering food to the homeless. It is a relational outreach during which meaningful communication can take place and bridges of trust built to reach the street people. *The collection of the new \$10 per person fee will help contribute to the following services:*

- **Experienced Project417 team leaders.**
- **Group Safety, and Orientation & Debrief sessions.**
- **Team leader training - crisis intervention, social service referrals, health and safety.**
- **Travel expenses for Project417 team leaders.**
- **Mentorship program for formerly homeless and/or street involved team volunteers.**
- **Vehicle expenses.** (our Director's personal vehicle is used extensively for van runs).
- **Follow-up outreach to the homeless, by Project417 staff.** ("After the Sandwich Run" program)
- **Project417 website, email and online sandwich run scheduling.**
- **Storage of donated clothing, blankets, sleeping bags and hygiene kit items.**
- **Professional Memberships & conference fees.**

During this recent transitional period, the scheduling of your volunteer group *may have been delayed during January.* We will be contacting you soon to resume the sandwich runs following the new group guidelines. Thank-you and God bless you for your faithful willingness to serve.

Sincerely,

Rev. Joe Elkerton, Director, Ekklesia Inner City Ministries - Project417  
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Ekklesia is a registered, faith-based, Christian Canadian charitable organization. Tax deductible donations can be made to -  
Ekklesia Inner City Ministries, Project417, P.O. Box 43131, Mavis Postal Outlet, Mississauga, ON L5B4A7

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