

LO Interact Club at Night Strike

Activity Report of 4.16.2019 by Ted Ricks



Stuart Allen organized this activity for April 16th and the LO Interact Club enthusiastically confirmed it. Because I had a scheduling conflict, I asked Ken Jensen and Dave Riback to fill in for me as Advisors.



Night Strike is a 16-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: They serve hot and cold food; distribute clothes, sleeping bags, and blankets; give haircuts; hand out free books; and, provide manicures/nail paintings from 7:00 to 1:00 every Thursday night. There is a dental-service van there as well.



The goal 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 a perfectly safe, well-lit, and well-managed environment. There must have been 100-200 people milling around in an orderly fashion waiting their turns, holding coupons, and having a good time.



As part of the process of giving, the *Bridgetown Ministries* asks volunteers to bring clothes for the homeless. They were looking for donations of blankets to men's underwear to soap and toothpaste. We brought twelve pairs of new socks and men's Hanes' shorts as our donation that night..

We had six LO Interact members and three adults in our group: in the front, left to right: Pauline Petersen, Stuart Allen and Jonah Tappouni; and in the back, left to right: Karl Petersen, Karthik Sreedhar, Carter Larrance, Ken Jensen, and Dave Riback. Cathy Qin joined the group later at **Night Strike** as the ninth member.



Ken and two of the boys worked on the food truck doing prep work and distributing sandwiches while Dave and two other guys distributed drinks. Karl and the two young women were greeters and roamed the well-lit area introducing themselves to newcomers.

Around 10:00 PM the group began the cleanup and returning the leftover food and clothing to Burnside.

Dave concluded that, “The project went well, the kids eagerly participated, and it is definitely worth doing another time.”