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Summary of the idea, organization, fund raising and distribution of sleeping bags to the homeless

**As told by Natthan Mesfin
January and March 2014**

I wish that some day there will be no homeless people in the world.

What made me think about helping the homeless was when I went to Ethiopia a few years ago, I saw lots of homeless and hungry people on the street. What touched me the most was when kids run up to me and asked me for money. One day, some kid came up to me and asked for some money. I gave him about \$3. He said thank you to me and he looked very thankful. Then the next day when we went to town, we saw the same little kid standing right there in front of us. This time he had gum and candy for sale on a tray that he was holding on his chest. Yesterday didn't you ask us for money and today you're selling gum, my dad said to him. Yes he said it's me, I am trying my best to get money for my family. Then I bought couple pieces of gum from him. When we returned to our car that was parked near a coffee shop, a bunch of kids started running up to me and asked me for money. I distributed all the money that I had in my pocket, I was surprised to see all those homeless kids on the street it was pretty crazy. But what I saw there was stuck in my mind and I cannot forget about it.

Entered January 2014:

For Christmas we all want and get toys, money, phone, clothes, and all kind of things, we have lots of food and desert and stay in our warm house. On Christmas I thought about the homeless people. It is very cold now and on the news, they show how homeless people are dying on the street because they get too cold. I thought that while us and most people are at home warm, homeless are sitting in the cold freezing with no blankets and nothing. My family could just donate a little bit of money. So on Christmas day, when everyone was at our house, I told them my plan to help the homeless and had my whole entire family promise to give me money and I raised a lot of money. I spent the last few weeks trying to find the best sleeping bag for a very good price and I found one that would go to -15°. I plan on using all the money that I raised to buy blankets and food and giving it out to the homeless. I usually see the most homeless people in San Francisco and Berkeley and Oakland. So I plan on going there and giving out blankets to the homeless people. I hope this will at least help some people.

Entered March 2014:

A few weeks ago, we loaded up the car with all the sleeping bags and went to Oakland. We only found a few people to give out, then we went to Berkeley, some didn't want it, some took it and were very happy. A few, I just left it where they were sleeping. And then, we drove out to San Francisco in the evening looking for some homeless people to give the sleeping bags. We found this guy sitting in front of a bookstore. He looked very cold, we asked him if he wanted a sleeping bag, he said yes and we were very happy because he was the first person to take a sleeping bag from us in San Francisco. He told us to go to downtown San Francisco and we drove there. Most of the homeless that we found in downtown had several blankets on them so, we were just driving around and we saw this guy on a wheelchair. We stopped our car by him and I asked him if he wanted a sleeping bag. He said yes, I asked him if he knew how to open it, he said of course, I was in the navy. He told us to take our bags to a church

near by (Glide Memorial Church) and gave us directions. Out of the many we found sleeping by the church, one saw us and came to us so we gave her a sleeping bag. There were lots of homeless people around the church sleeping on the floor. She woke up every single person except the one that she didn't see. I walked around with her and asked them if they wanted a sleeping bag and each one said yes and I gave it to them. She told us about one that didn't have a leg. She told us to go to him because he didn't come to us. The girl that she didn't see came running down the sidewalk she kept on saying can I have a sleeping bag? By this time we only had one sleeping bag left that I saved for the homeless guy with no legs. We drove up the street to find a guy with no leg turns out he did have a leg. But he was on a walker. We gave him a sleeping bag he kept on thanking us. Came home happy because I gave out all the sleeping bags I took.

My hope is that you will help me with my next fundraiser or you will make your own.

Natthan Mesfin