



Ron's Midnight Run reflection cont'd. . .

An elderly woman from our *[First Presbyterian Church of Philipstown]* congregation was cleaning out her attic and came across some army blankets her father had used in World War I. We found new homes for them. John, a man who lives in a welter of belongings at the bus shelter at 23rd Street and 7th Avenue got one. The other went to a man sleeping at 46th and Park. Many people sleep on the subway grating there under a scaffold. This man was sleeping in a covered marble arcade leading towards Grand Central.

Alberto said he was probably sleeping there because there was no more room on the grate. He had one thin blanket, but we were able to give him one of the wool army blankets to keep him warmer. It's kind of like the blankets returning to the battlefield.

We distributed all of the food and most of the toiletry kits, all of the blankets and sleeping bags and most of the coats and sweatshirts we had. Between the supplies we received from the Midnight Run organization and the supplies donated from the community, we had more than we could carry down to the city. We will drop some off for storage and future use at the Midnight Run office, and save the rest for Runs in the near future.

Alberto, our helper, was indispensable last night. My two companions both said he was amazing, and I concur. He knows the people on the street, he organized the crowd at 53rd and 7th, about 30 people and helped with the distribution of coats and blankets. I swear he could have had a career in retail! He was great at helping people to choose supplies quickly, and at convincing them that each choice was just right for them. He helped round up people at stops, searching for people who were in the area but not present when we arrived. The care he shows for the people is remarkable -- evidenced by his helping the old man with the overcoat.

Many thanks to all made donations. You helped people stay warm, clean, and fed, and hopefully, in a moment of grace in a hard time, to feel cared for.

FPCP members Susan Jordan and Andy Larivee drove to NYC with Ron to make this Midnight Run happen. Thanks to all donors and volunteers!