



THE RELIEF BUS REPORT

A REAL ANGEL VISITS THE RELIEF BUS!



Angel and Steve Pastor

Steve Pastor, Relief Bus Outreach Director, met Angel in Harlem. Angel was born with a learning disability and lives in the projects. When he was only 14, his brother who was a crack addict, hit him in the head. He was so badly injured that he ended up in the hospital for 3 months and his mental abilities were slowed down even more. He ended up with a speech disability and obsessive compulsive disorder.

Angel came to The Relief Bus for soup, and at first would only stand at a distance and watch. Steve felt led by God to go and connect with him. He soon learned that Angel was very lonely and had no friends. During the first couple of months, Angel would cry each time the bus left for the day.

Now he knows that we are coming back.

Angel wasn't able to take care of himself well, so Steve jumped right in and had volunteers do his laundry every Thursday. According to Steve, the clothes were really filthy. Sometimes they would wash them four times and they still would be smelly.

A friend of Steve's heard about Angel and bought him a new wardrobe! Volunteers cut Angel's hair and manicured his nails that were 1 1/2 inches long.



Angel gets a haircut at The Relief Bus

Each week Steve would pray with Angel, and slowly trust was built.

Steve began to do lots of fun stuff with Angel like take him to the movies, a pizza party and even a Yankee's game. Steve had Angel sleep over at his apartment one night let him have the couch while Steve

took the floor. Angel wet the bed and his clothes so Steve bought him a new outfit. The next day at church Angel kept apologizing. Angel gave his life to Christ and comes every week to The Relief Bus.

Steve said, "He taught me a lot about grace. My friendship with Angel has changed my life. I used to be so selfish. God uses him to work patience in me because he can't be rushed. I truly have to serve him, even when he doesn't smell good. Sometimes he asks me the same question a dozen times, like "Are we still going to the Yankee's game?", because so many have let him down in the past. Angel has an incredible smile that brightens up the room even though he's missing a couple of teeth. **Every time Angel meets someone, he touches their life and they can't forget him.**"

Just one more story of how The Relief Bus is bringing help and hope to the poorest of the poor. It's also another example of how God uses the poor as a portal to His heart and keeps changing us to become more like Him.



See a video interview of Angel at [www.youtube.com/thereliefbus!](http://www.youtube.com/thereliefbus)

Relief Bus Volunteer Street Stories

COUNTRY CANADIAN COMES ALIVE IN THE BIG CITY!



Jenn and Angel

Amazingly, a super shy girl, from a small “hick” town on the Canadian prairies, fell in love with the people of New York during many urban missions trips there. I had many opportunities to work with other ministries, but I was excited to finally come across The Relief Bus. Finally, an organization that kept “the main thing, the main thing”.

Anyone can serve a cup of soup, **but this staff shows God’s love to the hurt and the broken.** This extends far beyond the last drop of the soup! The hard working staff connect with the people that come across the bus with UTMOST love and respect. This includes those coming for food, the communities in which they serve and the volunteers that come to help out.

Even I, just a volunteer, was treated like “family”.

I’ve been suffering with clinical depression since January and I wasn’t sure that I was going to be able to make the long trek from Canada again this summer. If you’ve had the unfortunate encounter with depression, you know how hard the simple tasks of life can be. But, with God’s help and the incredible support of the The Relief Bus staff, I was not only able to go for one week, but I ended up going back for an additional two



weeks! As I’ve been announcing to everyone, **I had the best summer of my life!**

The staff allowed me opportunities to step out of my comfort zone and try

new and exciting things. One of these things was working at the prayer station. I’m NOT an “out loud pray-er” and so I was quite nervous about trying this out. But, as I worked with other encouraging members on the team, I became more confident and when I was ready, I was able to step out and try it for myself. I’m glad that God listens to my “little out loud” prayer of faith. These times of talking with people and sharing in our sufferings became my FAVORITE part of going out on the bus!

It’s almost like things backfired. I went out to bless others, but at the end of the day I ended up going home feeling “filled up”. At the end of my trip, despite working hard, **I came back to Canada refreshed, filled with joy, motivated, energized and ready to share God in my own community where I live.**

For these MANY reasons, I have ended my search, looking for a ministry to work alongside. I’m sticking with the The Relief Bus! I’m counting down the days until I’ll be able to go back. (241 days!)

Jenn Metruk :)

See Jenn’s photos and many others at www.facebook.com/thereliefbus!

Please join our monthly support team today for \$25, \$50, \$100 or more so that The Relief Bus can continue for another 20 years, working to transform the communities we serve in. All gifts are tax-deductible. Make your check out to “New York City Relief” and mail in the enclosed envelope or give online at www.reliefbus.org. Thanks for caring.