



Unity Park

Overcoming homelessness

...one person at a time

Group Leader Information

Age and Ability Restrictions Friends of all ages and abilities are welcome at Unity Park! Be alert that large sections of the grounds are uneven and have gravel which may limit the mobility of some Friends. Feed By Grace offers opportunities to serve for children when supervised by an adult Friend. For safety considerations, we ask that the Safety Guidelines (in your packet) are reviewed with the children just before serving and that they be supervised by an adult during their time here.

Scheduling Leaders of groups should contact the Feed By Grace Volunteer Coordinator in advance to schedule a **time to serve at Unity Park**. Our staff would be happy to help you set up a time that works for you, and we will answer any questions that you may have about serving.

Prepare for Service Please read these Guidelines before you serve. It will help you come prepared and will hopefully answer any questions you have. Then fill-in and sign the Group Leader Acknowledgement Form (page 7) and bring the form with you on the day your group serve. Contact our staff with any concerns you have. We ask group leaders to review the Feed By Grace Policies, Safety Guidelines and the Liability Form (included in your packet) with the group prior to the day of service. **A signed Liability Form must be on file for all Friends**; please turn in a signed form for any new member serving at Unity Park.

Finally, challenge you & your group to step outside of your comfort zones! Go up and have meaningful conversations with people in the park. In this way, we hope visitors' lives will be changed and transformed just as the lives of the people we serve are changed and transformed.

Key Information

Feed By Grace / Project GROWTH Offices: 1316 East Lancaster, Ste B, Fort Worth, TX 76102
Feed By Grace / Project GROWTH Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1602, Fort Worth, TX 76101
Unity Park Address: 1401 East Presidio, Fort Worth, TX 76102

Telephone: 817-744-8211

Business Hours: M-F, 8am to 4pm

Feed By Grace website: <http://www.FeedByGrace.org>

Project Growth website: <http://www.ProjectGrowth.org/>

Feed By Grace Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/feedbygrace>

Project Growth Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Project-GROWTH/150060071842058>

Feed By Grace Twitter: <https://twitter.com/UnityParkFBG>

The Basics

Unity Park is open to the public during its normal operating hours every Saturday from:



8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Breakfast Service - 8:30 a.m.

Snacks – 10:00 a.m.

Lunch Service – Noon

Please arrive at least 30 minutes before to get set-up

Timeliness

Both Feed By Grace and the people whom you serve rely on your commitment to service and punctuality. **Should your group not be able to honor a date you have previously scheduled, please contact the Volunteer Coordinator at 817-744-8211 Monday through Friday.** When arriving at Unity Park, locate and let a Feed By Grace staff member know you are here and ready to check in. Staff are easy to spot as they wear bright green T-shirts emblazoned with the word “STAFF”. **On Saturdays, if your arrival time will be delayed for any reason, please contact Deborah at 817-663-5321 or Neale at 817-658-0784 as soon as possible.**

Parking

Parking *within* Unity Park is **limited to visitors bringing in food and/or equipment (including grills and smokers). Even then, no more than two vehicles per group is allowed.** For safety reasons, we ask that these two vehicles use the Presidio Street gate; this gate is opened only to let vehicles in and out. *All other vehicles must park outside the park.* Parking can be difficult to find on the neighborhood streets. We recommend that Friends park at the unpaved lot designated for Unity Park parking at Presidio and Cedar. Then walk across the street to the main gate. Alternatively, park on the south side of Presidio on the street during Saturday park hours only.

Building, Facilities and Equipment Use

- Feed By Grace maintains both outside and inside bathroom facilities. While the bathroom facilities outside is open to the public, the bathroom facilities inside the building are limited to staff and Friends who are serving that day.
 - Feed By Grace has a **limited number of tables and chairs** for groups to use. We ask that groups either request these in advance or, if at all possible, we truly appreciate it if your group would bring your own. No equipment belonging to Feed By Grace can be removed from Unity Park.
 - Feed By Grace has an outdoor electrical outlet connected to the building; check with staff regarding ability to use your own extension cords. Use of the sound equipment is limited to Feed By Grace staff unless given permission.
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When in Doubt, Ask for Help!

The staff at Feed By Grace understands the issues at Unity Park. We encourage you to approach us with any problems or questions as they arise. We can assist you in determining the best way to respond in difficult or uncomfortable situations.

Food Distribution



Designated by the City of Fort Worth as the destination for people to come and serve food to the homeless, we at Feed By Grace welcome groups with a desire to feed and to minister to the homeless men, women, and children of our city to come serve at Unity Park. However, with concern for the health and safety of the people we serve, we ask that all groups to please follow the following guidelines.

Friends distributing food are strongly encouraged to bring enough to serve a **minimum of 250 people**. Any less than this number, as we have found, tends to run out quickly and leaves people unserved. Friends are free to use the outdoor faucet for any needs of water for drinking or cleaning purposes.

We also ask that Friends serving or distributing food consider all of the supplies needed for food distribution such as plates, utensils, cups, and napkins, as well as serving utensils and containers. We do not have supplies to give or loan.

For the health and safety of all the people we serve, we request that all Friends directly handling food **wear rubber gloves and follow food safety precautions**. We ask groups to comply with the City's Code in regards to food protection during homeless feeding.



To be consistent and keep order, there are designated times for breakfast (8:30am), snacks (10:00am) and lunch (noon). We ask that Friends serving food arrive at least 30 minutes before the meal to allow sufficient setup time. People who wish to eat lineup in orderly, single-file lines. **Please do not invite individuals to the front of the line for any reason (pregnancy, disability). Feed By Grace staff handles line control, but asks Friends to do their part.**

Special Note: *We at Feed By Grace believe that all food distributed at Unity Park should be a free gift of love for the people we serve. As a part of this belief, we discourage groups from requiring the people we serve to listen to a prayer before being allowed to eat, as this is construed by the community as "paying in prayer" for their food. A better approach to reaching out to this particular community, we believe, is relational ministry. Serve lovingly and respectfully, and then grab your own plate and eat alongside the people you have served. This approach tends to reach out far better to the people of this community who tend to have heard a countless number of sermons but may have experienced very little genuine and personal love and encouragement.*

Gift Distribution

Feed By Grace is a relational ministry, committed to serving the people of this community in ways that promote dignity and respect.

We do not allow clothing distribution at Unity Park. There are local agencies that provide clothing in a setting with changing rooms to assure proper fit and dignity. If you have clothing in good repair that you wish to donate, we suggest you contact one of the local agencies.

Feed By Grace must approve any gifts distributed at Unity Park. Before planning to bring gifts, contact Feed By Grace. Just as with friends and family, gifts should be new and unopened. We ask if you plan a gift, that you bring at least 250 to accommodate guests in the park. Gifts that are “one-size-fits-all” or where no sizing is required are best. In the past, seasonal gifts of sunscreen and bandanas, umbrellas and ponchos, and knit hats and scarves have been distributed. Other gifts have included toiletry kits with unopened, travel-size sundries or small bags of candies.

When You Are Done Serving

At the end of service, if there are leftover food or gifts that have not been distributed, we strongly encourage groups to consider donating them to another nearby organization or bring non-perishables back again next time. Feed By Grace has **no place to store or distribute food or gifts.**

If you borrowed tables or chairs, please make sure they are wiped down and returned to the shed – clean and ready to use the following week. If you borrowed sports equipment or games to play with our neighbors, please assure all pieces are accounted for and they are returned to the sports/game closet.

Feed By Grace is reclaiming Unity Park for the community, as a place of peace, beauty, and greenery for the people we serve. This is possible only if Unity Park is kept clean and free from trash and debris. It easily accumulates with the hundreds of people who use Unity Park each Saturday. So we please ask for your support to maintain the cleanliness and beauty of Unity Park during your time of service. *Everyone* is responsible for helping maintain the cleanliness of Unity Park during their time of service. We ask groups **to designate at least two of their members to help pick up trash** in the park.



Though Feed By Grace provides receptacles and a dumpster, we ask that groups **provide their own trash bags to collect any trash generated by their group and then take the bags to the dumpster next to the shed.**

MUSIC

Feed By Grace believes that Unity Park can be a place of fun, fellowship, and worship. We believe music is the natural overflow of this atmosphere. However, we also seek to be a respectful neighbor in our community and to uphold to our Christian standards; so we ask all musical groups at Unity Park to uphold these guidelines.

Feed By Grace offers opportunities for live musical groups to play at Unity Park. However, we do limit this to **appropriate, Christian music**, which should be first approved by Feed By Grace staff.

Out of respect for our surrounding community, **no music should be played before 9:00** in the morning, and music volume should always be kept at an appropriate level.

Feed By Grace has limited equipment available, so we request that any musical groups **provide their own musical equipment**.



Speakers / Microphone Use

With our focus on relational ministry and with our hope to be an inter-denominational ministry, we limit the amount of time groups may use the microphone to preach or to deliver messages. We do, however, offer an opportunity each Saturday for a group that requests it to deliver a brief message during our open microphone time.

Feed By Grace allows *one* group each Saturday the opportunity to deliver a brief message during our open microphone time. We just ask that groups request the use of the speakers and microphone during this time beforehand. **Feed by Grace offers a time to deliver a message before lunch from 11:30 – 11:45.** The microphone and speakers may also be used outside of this time at special events or in unique circumstances for special speakers.

Park Use Termination

Feed By Grace reserves the right to terminate park usage at our discretion. Violation of these policies may result in termination of Unity Park usage.

Distribution of Bibles or Tracts

Though we at Feed By Grace pride ourselves on being distinctively inter-denominational, as a Christian organization we are still concerned with the theology that is presented to the people here. We understand that the distribution of tracts can be a powerful evangelistic tool, but it also has proven at times to be detrimental. We have had issues with some tracts that have been handed out presenting theologies that we believe to be antithetical to our Christian beliefs. So to avoid this issue, as well as others, we have unfortunately had to ask people to no longer hand out and printed material at Unity Park.

If you are giving out Bibles, be mindful of how you hand them out. Most people in this neighborhood already have Bibles and Feed By Grace has Bibles available for anyone who don't have one and wants one. This is a relational ministry, so you may wish to ask people if they need a *new* Bible if theirs has become worn. Find out if someone would be better served with a new larger print Bible or one written in Spanish. In other words, have a plan and treat people as individuals and with respect. Unfortunately, distributing Bibles to everyone, leads to some being left on picnic tables or on the park grounds, disregarded. Please have a plan for recollecting Bibles that are left behind.



Special Events

All special events must be preapproved and coordinated with Feed By Grace at least one month in advance. Special events means any event taking place outside of regular Saturday Unity Park hours or any event that anticipates a greater turnout of visitors and/or people served.

Special events related to homeless ministry *may* require additional liability insurance. Please check with staff in sufficient time to arrange any insurance needed. This policy is for everyone's protection in case of an injury during the event.

Unity Park is available for rental during the week for special events that are not directly related to homeless ministry. These events must still be approved in advance by Feed By Grace and will require liability insurance be obtained by the event planners. Please check with Feed By Grace staff for rental fees and insurance requirements.

Group Leader Acknowledgement Form

I have read and understand the Feed By Grace Policies (pages 1-6). I agree our group will abide by these guidelines whenever we serve at Unity Park.

Signed by

Date

Printed Name

Preferred e-mail address

Street Address

Preferred telephone number

City, State, Zip

Church/organization/group