



Heart 'n Hands Mission

an Outreach Ministry of
St. Timothy Evangelical Lutheran Church

April 2017 NEWSLETTER

Our mission is to collect and provide clothing and other necessities to the homeless and working poor of North eastern New Jersey and to raise awareness of the plight of the homeless and working poor in this area and beyond.

Heart 'n Hands Mission of St. Timothy Lutheran Church is a mobile outreach program which provides good quality donated clothing and personal care items to the homeless and working poor at food pantries and soup kitchens in Paterson, Passaic and Hoboken. We also provide business clothing for Veterans and their families in Paterson, Kearny, Montclair and Newton, New Jersey who are seeking employment. We are in our seventh year of service in Wayne, currently serving over 1,000 individuals and family members with our monthly distributions. We also support Wayne Interfaith Network, members of the Wayne community and other local groups as we are able. Heart 'n Hands Mission is 100% volunteer and 100% of all monetary donations go directly to meet the needs of the homeless and working poor.

2017

This New Year brought with it many gifts to the Mission and to those we serve. We found new support in Wayne and the surrounding communities which enabled us to tailor and enhance our support to our 5 gathering sites and to the Veterans program. We are reaching more people through social media and our friends continue to spread the word about Heart 'n Hands Mission. We had our most successful Day of Service and we held additional fundraisers, thanks to the generosity of businesses in the Wayne community. The Mission has been able to use these funds, as well as monetary donations from individuals, to supplement our donations and purchase items to fulfill some specific needs of our gathering sites. We are grateful for the support of so many friends and family members who enable us to continue our mission.

St. Timothy Benevolence Gift

We thank the **congregation and the Church Council of St. Timothy** for their benevolence gift in December. We used these funds and a donation from **Bill and Dolores Monsees** to purchase sweatpants, thermals, socks and underwear to fulfill a special request from St. Matthew Trinity Lutheran Church Breakfast and Lunch Ministry in Hoboken, which serves the homeless. We delivered these much needed items on Monday, January 9th. Each and every recipient expressed heartfelt thanks for these gifts.



New Beginnings

In early January, we heard from our friend, **Jeannie Scognamiglio**, owner of **New Beginnings**, a consignment shop in Butler. She donated 6 bags of clothing and several boxes of toys – items that had not sold at the shop. Thank you, Jeannie for sharing your donations with us.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service

What a tremendous Day of Service we had at Heart 'n Hands Mission in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.! More than forty bags of clothing were donated. Eighty-seven volunteers gave of their time to sort, fold, box, bag, and prepare clothing, coats, hats, scarves, gloves, bedding, shoes, socks, diapers and wipes, books, toys, stuffed animals, toiletries and personal care items for delivery. Two vehicles were loaded for deliveries to St. Paul's Community Corp. and to Calvary Baptist Community Center, both in Paterson; and out of season items were stored. More than 288 boxes, tubs, crates and bags were filled by Mission Board members, families and friends, members of **St. Timothy Lutheran Church, Preakness Baptist Church, Church of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Our Lady of Consolation Church, Shomrei Torah, Preakness Reformed Church, the Wayne Alliance and National Junior Honor Society students from George Washington Middle School and Schlyer Colfax Middle School**, as well as members of the **Wayne and Montville communities**.

A huge thank you to everyone who came to serve!! Our friends in need were warmed by your caring. We also want to thank **Corrado's of Wayne** for donating a tray of cookies for refreshments. It was a truly inspiring day.



A Message from Calvary Community Center

Juanita Webster, director of the GED Prep Program at Calvary Community Center in Paterson, sent this message the morning after we delivered clothing and other goods in January.

"I woke up this morning trying to find the words to express my gratitude for you and your organization's continual help to my students...thank you, thank you. You are a blessing... I truly appreciate all that your organization does for my students and their families."

Blessing Bag Update

We began our Blessing Bag program in November of 2013 and in two short months were we able to collect and distribute 241 Blessing Bags. We distributed 520 blessing bags in 2014 and 565 in 2015, bringing our 3 year total to 1,326. This past year, we received donations from 35 individuals, families, congregations, scout groups, clubs, dentists, businesses and schools, as well as countless anonymous donations. We delivered the last few boxes of Blessing Bags in January. Our grand total for 2016 was **626 Blessing Bags!** We want to thank everyone who has supported this program over the last four years blessing nearly 2,000 individuals and families with much need toiletries that promote good health and hygiene.

Heart 'n Hands Mission Aids Fire Victims

A February 2nd fire in Passaic left several families without homes. Heart 'n Hands Mission Board member **Lori Van Der Stad** works in the office of the Passaic County Superintendent of Schools and learned of their plight.

“Knowing that our Heart 'n Hands Mission had just had the Martin Luther King Day of Service and our staging areas were heavily stocked, I reached out to the Relocation Officer for the City of Passaic to ascertain if we could assist them with clothing and hygiene items. Ms. Miriam Gonzalez indicated that there were over 20 individuals that had lost everything and stated any items would be very much appreciated. On February 3rd, Barbara and Pat Kaplan and I gathered clothing, bedding and towels, hygiene items, stuffed animals, coloring books, hats, scarves and gloves. Passaic Relocation Office staff picked up the items on February 6th for distribution to these families.”

Thanks to the generous support of so many, we were able to provide some necessities and comfort to these families. We thank **Lori, Barbara and Pat** for their quick response to help.

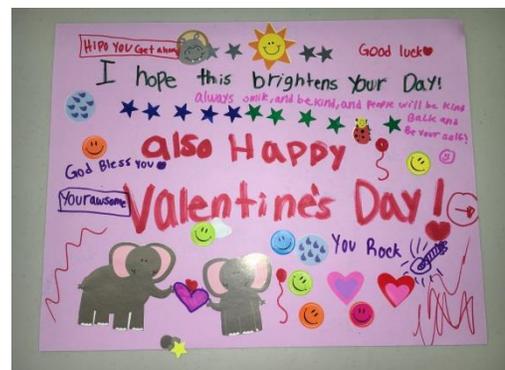
Montville Girl Scouts Learn about Heart 'n Hands Mission

In February, HHM volunteer **Cliff Konnerth** met with the girls and leaders of Montville Brownie Troop #96439. Based on a connection made through social media, the troop was very excited to hear about the wonderful things Heart 'n Hands does to help the community. They were also anxious to find out how they could help.

The spirit of community service was very much in evidence as the girls made cards of well wishes and encouragement for our needy clients. They also pledged to go home and clean out their closets and collect those gently used items that would be appreciated by those we serve. Thank you leader Anne Badal and troop! We look forward to working together following the words of the Girl Scout Pledge.

On my honor, I will try:

**To serve God and my country,
To help people at all times,
And to live by the Girl Scout Law.**



President's Day of Service and Our New Shed

We would like to thank everyone who came to volunteer at our President's Day of Service on Monday, February 20th. Fifty volunteers from elementary school children to senior citizens gave their time to sort clothing and prepare items for distribution in the coming weeks. One hundred and eleven boxes, tubs, bags and crates were filled with clothing, shoes, purses, bedding, back packs, hats, gloves, scarves, socks and toiletries. Coats and business clothing were hung on racks, out of season clothes were prepared for storage and the van was loaded for our trip to Hoboken the following week.



Behind the scenes, lots of activity took place outside as well. The trailer was completely emptied of summer toys, summer storage tubs, and dress clothes, and the interior shelving and outside ramp were disassembled. We had been planning for several months to add more shelving to our storage trailer in the spring in order to increase its capacity. However, we discovered extensive water damage in the framing, and mold inside the walls.

With the support of the Church Council, we developed a plan to replace the trailer with a 12' x 16' shed. The shed provides increased storage and is a tremendous upgrade. The installation complies with all Wayne Township zoning and building codes, and permits were secured.

The shed is essential to our continued service to over 1,000 people in need each month, and was a major financial investment for Heart 'n Hands Mission. The shed arrived in mid-April, was inspected by Wayne Township, and installation of interior shelving and storage lofts will be completed in May and June.



Why do we need a storage shed? We are blessed with consistent donations of clothing, bedding and personal care items. In-season clothing is sorted and distributed as quickly as possible. Out-of-season clothing is stored in watertight tubs in the shed. We accept all wearable, clean clothing year round.

Where do we store in-season clothing? Donations are kept in the Orange Room until they are sorted every Monday by our faithful crew of 5 to 10 volunteers. Then they are staged by gender and size on the lower level outside the elevator, ready for distribution. We deliver approximately 40 boxes of clothing to each of 5 different sites each month, and try to have at least 80 boxes staged and ready at all times.

What else do we do in the Orange Room? The Orange Room is our operations center. In addition to bags of donated clothing that arrive each week, we keep donated toiletries, socks, underwear, shoes, bedding, small toys, children's books, school supplies, diapers and empty clothing distribution boxes. It also has a rack for clothes that arrive on hangers.

How do we keep track of it all? **Barbara Kaplan** is on the scene for at least 5 hours every Monday, assisted by her father **Lou Warner**. Barbara sets up the day's sorting operation, directs the flow of all goods, sees that the right mix of items is loaded into the van for each delivery, and keeps us all organized. Then she makes sure everything is consolidated and put back where it belongs before going home. We couldn't do any of this without her.

We are fortunate that the efficient use of these spaces allows us to do so much for so many. Thanks to all of you for your continued support. Special thanks to **Site and Facilities Manager Barbara Kaplan** for researching the shed, to our **Maintenance Crew Nathaniel and Pat Kaplan** for building the shelving, and to **President Bob Davidson** for securing all the necessary permits and meeting compliance restrictions for Wayne Township.

A BIG
THANK
YOU

We also want to send our heartfelt thanks to the **Jeff and Kathy Knittel Foundation** and to **Eddy and Marcia Schloesser** for donating the funds to purchase the shed. We are forever grateful for your kind and very generous gifts to Heart 'n Hands Mission. Our beautiful new shed will provide out-of-season storage and storage for some supplies for many years to come.

Delivery Drivers Needed!

Be a part of the Double-D team. How wonderful it is to have so many volunteers to sort and box our donations, but it's all for naught without drivers to get it to our friends in need. Please consider giving of your 'time and talents' as a driver to deliver the donations to one of our distribution sites. It only takes 2 or 3 hours to be a blessing to others!

Distribution deliveries occur once a month to each of 5 Gathering Sites (Food Pantries and Shelters) we serve. The first and fourth Mondays, second Tuesday, and second or third Saturday mornings are the usual scheduled days. Delivery teams of 2 people make those deliveries. Gathering Site volunteers assist Mission volunteers to unload the van and carry in boxes and bags of clothing and supplies. Helping our friends in need find appropriate clothing is also part of the visit. Then the van is reloaded to return to church. Two of our deliveries are simple drop-offs. Once the van is unloaded the delivery team is free to return to the church.

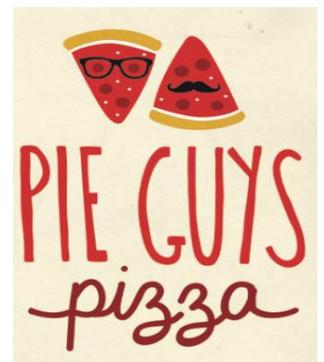
Please contact our Bob Davidson or Rich Wantula if you would like to assist with a delivery.

One Person Can Make A Big Difference

Lori Van Der Stad makes a big difference. Lori provides blessings to the homeless each day on her way to work. Through Mission donations and those of her friends and co-workers, Lori keeps a well-stocked box of necessities and snacks in her car. Each day she asks, "What do you need today?" and each day, Lori gives a blessing or two and a smile to make a difference for her neighbors in need. Thank you, Lori, for all you do to spread kindness and fulfill our mission every day!

Mission Mondays at Pie Guys

Dan and Kevin Conroy, owners of **Pie Guys** located in Ramapo Plaza in Wayne, sponsored "Mission Mondays" in February. Pie Guys donated 20% of all food and beverage sales throughout the day on each Monday. Friends of the Mission enjoyed lunch and dinner for 4 consecutive weeks all while benefiting Heart 'n Hands. Thanks to the generous donation from Pie Guys, the Mission was able to purchase travel size Gold Bond Medicated Powder, deodorant and wash cloths to add to the Care Kits we distributed to the homeless in March.



Schuyler Colfax Middle School STARS Club

In late February, we received a call from Schuyler Colfax Middle School teacher **Tracy Mara**. Mrs. Mara and **Mrs. Karen Masercola** advise the after school **STARS Club**, a group of students committed to developing friendships and working together to better their community. The club learned of Heart 'n Hands Mission through an online search of local service organizations, and wanted to do something with us to help the homeless in our area. **Mission President Bob Davidson** visited the group on March 1st. When Bob described what we do and how we help those less fortunate, the STARS Club members were inspired to collect items for us, and use grant money that they received to purchase necessities for distribution later this year. They are a delightful group of young women and men who want to make a difference, and we are honored to have them work with us.

Do you subscribe to a food delivery service?

Would you please collect the silver insulated bags that come in your package for us? Thank you !

An Important Message about Your Donations

We are thankful for all of your donations to assist those in need. Our volunteers are in the church on Monday mornings starting at 9:00 am, and will gladly assist you when dropping things off.

The church office is usually open 9:00 am to 12:00 noon, Monday through Friday, and will accept donations during those hours. Please call 973-694-8316 to confirm that the office is open before bringing your donations. To make arrangements for any other time, please call the church office and leave a message in the Mission Mailbox #6 and someone will get back to you. **Please do not leave items outside the church when the church office is closed. Thank you!**

Community Outreach Services, Inc.

When the water problem was discovered in our trailer, its contents had to be removed immediately. **Pastor Mountenay** gave the Mission permission to use the stage for the summer clothing stored in tubs and the hanging racks in the old Fellowship Hall narthex to hang professional clothes. Our **friend Carl Perry at Supportive Services for Veteran Families** had already picked up 2 full vanloads of clothing and coats in recent months and was unable to accept more clothing at that time due to their space limitations. He put us in touch with **Rev. Wayne Brown of Community Outreach Services, Inc.** This program, also located in Paterson, has a food pantry, a clothing ministry and a job assistance program and serves 1,200 people each month. They "are committed to the eradication of homelessness, hunger and poverty in the surrounding community." Rev. Brown was thrilled to pick up two vanloads of clothing to support his ministry and we were thrilled to be able to help more people in need.

Stop and Shop

It happened again! Cartons of toys arrived without fanfare in the Orange Room at St. Timothy. **Lisa Fabian**, an employee of Stop and Shop in Emerson and St. Timothy Church Council member, delivered toys to the Mission. Last fall, we distributed stickers and sticker books, small toys, water bottles, lunchboxes and games all courtesy of Stop and Shop. Our April deliveries included new boxes of Legos just in time for Easter and in the spring we will begin to distribute cartons of outside toys: balls, water balloons, pinwheels, jump ropes, kites, hoola hoops, as well as, summer paper cake plates and napkins. We are so very grateful to **Lisa and Jeff Van Valkenburgh of Stop and Shop Store 812 in Emerson** for bringing joy to so many young children who are served by Heart 'n Hands Mission.

A Note of Thanks

Basic necessities. For many of us, those necessities may include a computer to allow us to work from home or a television to watch our favorite sports team or a car to get us where we want to go. Unfortunately, for so many in our communities, necessities are clean socks and underwear, shoes without holes, a coat or a blanket for warmth on cold windy nights, medicated powder, soap, shampoo, deodorant, hygiene products or a razor. Heart 'n Hands Mission is able to provide many of these things to over 1,000 people in need every month through the generous donations of many who clean out their closets or shop for toiletries. Often times, monetary donations to the Mission are used for gas, insurance and maintenance for our delivery van. In the last six months we have been able to use those monetary donations to fulfill some urgent special requests from our gathering sites. A December donation from **Cathy and Paul Monsees** has enabled us to purchase and deliver new underwear for our homeless friends for several months. We are sincerely grateful to Cathy and Paul and to all who have made monetary donations to the Mission for their very generous gifts.



We send a huge thank you to each and every one who has given so generously to Heart 'n Hands Mission so far this year. Every donation makes a difference to those who have so little. We have been blessed with the following specific donations:

Terri Loftus - socks and men's briefs
Amy Mikelis – diaper wipes and feminine hygiene products
Darlene Brigitto – hand knit hats
Laura Dec – toiletries
Mr. and Mrs. "Elf" – weekly diapers and wipes

We also thank all of our supporters who have donated clothing, toiletries and supplies anonymously.

We are able to continue to spread joy and hope to our friends in need through your generous donations. We sincerely appreciate and humbly thank the following individuals who have blessed us with financial gifts. Your donations make it possible for us to continue our mobile ministry by helping to maintain our traveling van and provide necessities to those we serve.

Mary Laverack

Peg Gerding

Marjorie Davidson

Carol Neilson

Special thanks to **Art and Sandy DeRose** and **Lou Warner** for their willingness to make two deliveries in a pinch when our Driving Team had last minute family obligations.

We are so very grateful to all of the volunteers who serve the Mission each week sorting, loading the van and making deliveries. We couldn't do it without each and every one of you!

Heart 'n Hands Mission Board Members

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| Vice President | Rich Wantula |
| Secretary | Lori Van Der Stad |
| Treasurer | Cathe Davidson |
| Site and Facilities Manager | Barbara Kaplan |
| Care Committee Chair | Marie Beyer |
| Community & Corporate Support | Nancy Tammi |
| Community Resource Development Chair | Kathy Knittel |
| Publicity Chair | Craig Beyer |
| St. Timothy Outreach Committee Liaison | Robin Koegel |

395 Valley Road
Wayne, NJ 07470
973-694-8316 Mailbox #6

www.heartnhandsmission.org
info@heartnhandsmission.org



**Heart 'n Hands Mission is an outreach ministry of St. Timothy Evangelical Lutheran Church,
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