



# Heart 'n Hands Mission

An Outreach Ministry of  
St. Timothy Evangelical Lutheran Church  
APRIL 2020 NEWSLETTER

*Our mission is to collect and provide clothing and other necessities to the homeless and working poor of Northeastern 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 an Outreach Ministry which provides quality donated clothing and personal care items to the homeless and working poor at five food pantries, soup kitchens and community outreach programs in Paterson, Passaic and Hoboken. We also assist a poor congregation in Newark and provide clothing for Veterans and their families in Paterson. We are in our tenth year of service in Wayne reaching **2,000** people with our monthly distributions. We also support Wayne Interfaith Network and members of the Wayne community. 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.

## Preakness Reformed Church

On a winter Monday **Pastor Eric Nichols** of **Preakness Reformed Church** in Wayne arrived with several bags of clothing and asked when he could deliver a large amount of clothing that his congregation had collected as “admission” to a church breakfast. We followed him back to the church and saw that he wasn’t kidding. The collection filled a van and a pickup truck, providing much needed clothing and coats at just the right time. Our sincere thanks to everyone at Preakness Reformed Church and Pastor Eric!

## T-shirts to Tote Bags

Submitted by Marie Beyer

We are grateful for the ingenuity and thoughtfulness of our faithful donator **Katie Baron!** Katie learned how to turn ripped or stained T-shirts that we would normally throw away, into reusable tote bags for clients to use at our distribution sites. By cutting out the neck line, cutting off the sleeves and sewing a straight stitch across the bottom to close up the shirt, you can turn unwearable T-shirts into reusable and washable tote bags! They also help our environment by reducing the number of plastic bags we normally distribute at our sites. Katie completed 50 tote bags in one weekend for the Mission and it only took her 2 and 1/2 minutes per bag. It just shows what one person with a pair of scissors and a sewing machine can do! THANK YOU Katie, you’re a blessing in more ways than one!

## A Mission Moment

Submitted by Craig Beyer

My brother **Rick Beyer** is a member of the Heart 'n Hands Monday volunteer crew. He does a lot of work to help sort the clothing and load the van so the Driving and Distribution teams can make their monthly deliveries. I asked Rick if he would like to be a part of the D & D team to the First Presbyterian Church in Passaic on one of our 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday deliveries to see all the people who benefit from his volunteer work. He was able to join us in March. He got to meet the site facilitator, Debra Hansen and her family of helpers. He also talked sports with Ray, the resident Yankee fan. On the way home he said he was glad he got to go to see all the people we help and all the other site volunteers that help us. He said it was fun.

## **A Significant Gift from the Airbus Group**

For the second consecutive year, the **Airbus Group** has made a significant donation to Heart 'n Hands Mission on behalf of the **C. Jeffrey and Katherine Knittel Foundation**. These very generous gifts are providing meaningful assistance beyond our monthly distributions to our gathering sites, filling special requests and seasonal needs.

So far this year, the funds have been used to purchase:

Youth and Adult Hoodies  
Men's, Women's, Children's Underwear  
Long Sleeve T-Shirts  
Socks  
Adult Jeans

Many of these items were prepared for delivery in March and April. And then we learned the devastating news: COVID-19 was impacting our communities and all non-essential businesses and non-profits were ordered to shut down. As the Heart 'n Hands Mission Board members prepared to shelter at home, we were left with the question: If we cannot deliver all of the new and donated clothing that had been prepared, what can we do to help our sites?

We decided to provide what they needed most, items necessary to keep the food pantries running and providing sustenance for their clients. As of this publication:

Shop Rite Gift Cards were purchased for Wayne Interfaith Network's Food Pantry  
Coffee, Coffee Cups, Individual Oatmeal Cups, Water Bottles, V8 drinks and take-out food containers  
were ordered and sent to food pantries in Hoboken and Passaic

We are extremely grateful to Kathy and Jeff and to the Airbus Group for their generosity and we are happy to be able to continue to support our Gathering Sites during this pandemic.

## **A Message from Bob Davidson, President of Heart 'n Hands Mission:**

During this challenging time, circumstances limit what we can deliver to support those who depend on our mission for clothing, necessities, and comfort. But together, through individual efforts while we are all at home, we can prepare more than ever before to provide maximum support when we can safely venture out and resume our activities. This is a great opportunity for the family to clean out a closet, or a game cupboard, to round up those old reading glasses hiding in drawers, or to gather bedding and towels for our friends in need. Please consider holding a family collection. We will accept donations as soon as we are able and deliver your collections quickly.

In the meantime, we will provide whatever support we can to our gathering sites, and we'll keep you informed. Thank you for your continued support, and we hope that all of you remain healthy and safe.

## Home, Sweet, Home!

Submitted by Pastor Jane Harlan

In the midst of this Covid-19 storm, one evening I was sitting in my lazy boy (now I know why that chair has that name) and thinking how blessed I was to be in the safe haven of my home! As I took my phone and scrolled through face book, I saw the Mayor of Hoboken sharing that the parks and local walkways were now going to be closed. At that very moment my heart sank, as I immediately thought of the homeless we serve in Hoboken and wondered where will they stay or find shelter during this epidemic? Where is their "Home, Sweet, Home" if all the local places they walked or found a bench to rest were taken away?

You see two years ago, although I had a heart for those in need, I became involved in the Heart 'n Hands ministry and life has never been the same since regarding the homeless. Why? I have a name and a face that goes with several in the Hoboken ministry now and I will never be the same. Today as I write this, with tears in my eyes, I wonder where Linda is staying and will she survive this storm? Or where is Evon, who is almost blind, and where is his "Home, Sweet, Home" this morning? I wonder about Spike who is running the center and how he is staying safe as almost 100 would be present on a given day in a small room? Or do they have enough clothing or toiletries since we can only deliver items to them and not help?

And then I think about my Jesus and how He loved everyone and held his arms wide open especially to "the least of these"! On this Holy Saturday, where normally I would be so busy as a Pastor with an Easter Egg Hunt, preparing the Sanctuary, and fine tuning the two services for Sunday, I sit in my "Home, Sweet, Home" and for the first time, truly can see the heart of Jesus for each of us, especially the homeless.

So as you read this, I pray that each of us will open our eyes and hearts more from this experience and realize "home is where the heart of Jesus lives" and that truly is our "Home, Sweet, Home"! And should you in the future be walking the parks of Hoboken and see a few of our homeless friends taking a nap on a local bench, remember that perhaps this is their home and you might want to sit down and have a cup of coffee with them. In fact, if you meet Linda or Evon along your way, say Pastor Jane says hi!

Blessings and Happy Easter! Hallelujah, He is Risen!  
Jane

P.S. When we are finally able to come together again, remember you always have a home at Heart 'n Hands to serve too! We promise there is a task just for you and an opportunity to lose the few pounds we gained being at home!

### **A Message from St. Matthew's Lunchtime Ministry, Hoboken**

Hello there,

Good to see Hoboken featured once again in a Heart 'n Hands communication. I am glad to report that our guests are doing okay. So far, none of them have gotten sick, and we have placed many of the older/more vulnerable ones in hotels. At Lunchtime Ministry we have put our sit-down services on hold and are handing out to-go coffee, sandwiches, and hygiene items. Guests are required to wash their hands and, because we have been receiving lots of donations, they can also pick out blankets and cans/boxes of food to take home. The Hoboken Shelter has also been staying open and feeding/sheltering lots of folks. It is of course difficult for the guests as they have vastly fewer places where they can sit down and chill. But the essential services have not abandoned them. We are thinking of you guys often and look forward to getting together again when this is over. Thanks for all you do for our community.

All the best and stay safe,  
SSE

## Easter Blessings

Amid this COVID-19 pandemic, there are so many people working tirelessly on the front lines to keep us safe, healthy, and fed, from sanitation workers and janitors to truck drivers and grocery store clerks to doctors and nurses, and so many more. They are truly angels among us. At Heart 'n Hands Mission, we have many angels as well. Some volunteer each week to prepare items for distribution and others work behind the scenes to bring special joy to those we reach each month.

**The Mikelis Family** is among our angels. Again this year, mom Amy and her daughters assembled Easter baskets and snack bags for our families at First Presbyterian Food Pantry in Passaic. Each basket contained a small stuffed animal, candy, a snack and an activity. Unfortunately, the food pantry cancelled their Saturday meals and suspended their food pantry operations for the month of April. We look forward to the day when the food pantry will reopen and we can deliver these beautiful baskets and snack bags along with our monthly van load of clothing, bedding, toiletries and toys.



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 those who have blessed us with financial gifts to our general fund since our last newsletter. Your donations make it possible for us to continue our mobile ministry.

We thank these supporters for their generous donations since our last newsletter:

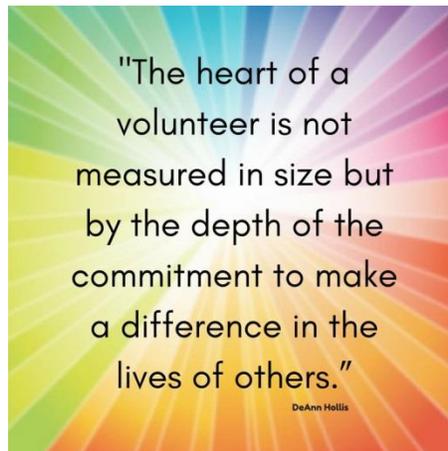
Judy Lupichuk

Craig and Marie Beyer

Patrons of the Montville Diner

We look forward to the time when we are able to get back to doing the work of the Mission. We pray that all of our volunteers and supporters are safe and healthy and that those we reach each month have found a source of healthy food and a safe haven to shelter in place.

Until then ...please take a few moments to reflect on how you can help the Mission and how you can make a difference for these 2,000 impoverished people who are truly suffering more than ever during this pandemic. They will need our support more than ever now. Thank you.



**Love. Care. Serve.**



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