



Heart 'n Hands Mission

an Outreach Ministry of
St. Timothy Evangelical Lutheran Church
December 2016 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 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.

Summer Review



We had our most productive summer ever! We would like to thank **Pastor Moutenay** and St. Timothy for allowing us to use an additional classroom. Traditionally, Monday morning volunteers set up tables and sorting boxes in the hallway outside the Orange Room each week and then store everything back inside the Orange Room in the afternoon. With the additional classroom space, we were able to leave the tables and boxes set up which allowed us to process and distribute more clothing this summer than ever before. We are also grateful to **Craig and Marie Beyer, Bob Davidson, Kathy Knittel, Cliff Konnerth and Rich Wantula** for making extra deliveries to many of our gathering sites, and we thank **Barbara Kaplan** and her dad, **Lou Warner**, for keeping us organized and staging so many deliveries. Our sites were very grateful for all of the extra summer clothing we were able to provide.

St. Timothy sponsored a collection of school supplies for our partner church **Elect Saints Lutheran Church** in Morrisville, Pennsylvania during the summer. In August, Bob Davidson offered to drive Pastor Moutenay in the Mission van to deliver all of the supplies. We were happy to assist St. Timothy in this vital ministry.

God's Work. Our Hands.

Heart 'n Hands Mission participated in the 2nd annual God's Work. Our Hands. event at St. Timothy on September 11, 2016. Members of St. Timothy were encouraged to learn about the various outreach ministries of the church and how they could use their talents in service to others.

There are many ways to help the Mission from supporting our fundraisers, to sorting clothes, to making deliveries and more. Our display table featured information on our Barbeque and Jazz fundraiser, our 4th annual Blessing Bag project and our annual Columbus Day of Service.

Barbeque and Jazz

Our fall fundraiser was a tremendous success! The Mission hosted a Barbeque and Jazz Night on September 23rd. Those in attendance feasted on a delicious menu from **Bourbon BBQ** of Wyckoff while **Nathan Eklund**, trumpeter extraordinaire, and his band serenaded us all with their cool jazz sounds. We would like to thank our **Hostess Jennifer Andersen** who kept the kitchen humming and our Youth Chaperones for the evening, **Hannah** and **Christian Wantula**. While the adults were enjoying BBQ and Jazz, the teens and tweens had a pizza party complete with snacks and a movie.

We truly appreciate everyone who came for a fabulous night of **Hot BBQ and Cool Jazz** to support the Mission including our friends **Paula White and her husband, Willie Pickett from Helping Hands Food Pantry in Passaic** and **Spike Enzweiler from St. Matthew Trinity Lutheran Church Breakfast & Lunch Ministry in Hoboken**. We were so glad you were able to join us!

Funds raised at the event enabled the Mission to purchase 60 undershirts for our Homeless friends in Hoboken, toiletries and snacks to complete 200 Blessing Bags for our annual fall Blessing Bag program, and will help to provide gas and insurance for our traveling van for 2017! Thank you all!



We would also like to thank our donors and contributors who helped to make our Barbeque & Jazz event a success:

Robert and Debbie Andersen
Bob and Cathe Davidson
Nathan Eklund
Pastor and Debbie Mountenay
Margot Weinert

Anita and Harold Bontekoe
Anthony and Janet DeStefano
Jeff and Kathy Knittel
Judy Lupichuk

A & A Fine Foods, Lincoln Park
Bagels Galore Café, Haledon
Claremont Distillery, Fairfield
Cricket Hill Brewing Co., Fairfield
FunTime Junction, Fairfield
Jersey Spirits Distilling Co., Fairfield
Liquor Outlet Wine Cellars, Boonton
Mother's Ale House, Wayne
North Haledon Ice Cream Bakery, North Haledon
Sultana Distribution Services, Bronx, NY
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Action Team Program
Village Gourmet Eats & Catering, North Haledon

The Amazing Escape Room, Montclair
Bourbon BBQ, Wyckoff
Corrado's, Wayne
DeBlieck's Pharmacy, North Haledon
George's Market, Pompton Lakes
Kidnetic, Montville
The Market Basket, Franklin Lakes
North Jersey Country Club, Wayne
SkyZone, Montville
Taphouse Grill, Wayne
The Village Inn, Wayne
Visual Impact, Wayne

Heart 'n Hands Mission welcomes Nancy Tammi to our Board!

We officially welcomed Nancy to our board at our October meeting. Nancy lives in Verona and works as in-house counsel at Covanta Energy in Morristown. A member of St. Timothy Lutheran Church, Nancy will be developing corporate support.

Columbus Day of Service

Monday, October 10th was our annual Columbus Day of Service. Thirty-five volunteers gave their time and energy to sort, fold and fill 240 boxes with fall and winter clothing, crates of shoes and hanging racks of suits and outerwear that was prepared for distribution. Boxes were staged and prepared for delivery that week to St. Paul's Community Development Corp. and Calvary Baptist Community Center in Paterson, and First Presbyterian Church Food Pantry in Passaic. The rest were delivered in late October and during the month of November.

We thank **Cliff and Andrew Konnerth** for bringing our winter storage tubs in from the trailer and **Barbara and Nathaniel Kaplan** for setting everything up in Fellowship Hall so that things could run so smoothly during the Day of Service. We are grateful to **Tiffany Kellstrom**, a Girl Scout from **Troop #70587** in **Wayne** who collected blankets for her Silver Award project. Tiffany, along with her sister and brother, came to deliver the blankets and stayed to help as well. We wish to thank everyone who came to help including members of **St. Timothy, Prekness Baptist Church, Our Lady of Consolation, Mission volunteers**, family and friends. It was a very successful day!



A Mission Moment



Hoboken has changed since I visited my grandmother there every Sunday, eons ago. I was happy to ride along one July morning with the Heart 'n Hands Mission team to St. Matthew's Soup Kitchen - in the old neighborhood - tho', different times and different needs.

I shared a heart-warming Mission Moment seeing so many who were able to find garments, shoes, socks & toiletries needed, to hear the genuine "thank you's" from each one ~ many before they even began their search.

Kudos to the St. Timothy Heart 'n Hands Monday Morning team's system of sorting and screening and labeling, enabling others with ease and dignity to find items they needed. Kudos, too, to the delivery team for providing a welcoming presence and assistance for those who might find it difficult to be in their circumstance.

It was very good to be there, to see the comfort of the people, to see the "Hearts" and the "Hands" up front, and personal and caring.

My thanks, Dolores

PS: I'm certain that my grandmother, Mary Agnes, must be thanking you, too.

A Special Thank You from St. Matthew's

Excerpt from letter dated October 26, 2016

"Thank you so much for your monthly donation to St. Matthew Trinity Lunchtime Ministry. Our guests look forward to your visit and the opportunity to pick out clothes and toiletries. The day you come is always the highest-attended day of the month!

Our program serves homeless and food-insecure members of Hoboken's community. We provide breakfast and lunch for an average of 65 people daily. We also offer clothes, toiletries, and access to social services. It is only through the support of generous organizations like yours that we can fulfill our mission to provide our Hoboken neighbors with a warm meal, a compassionate community, and a peaceful place to spend the morning...Thank you for being one of the organizations that sustains this ministry!"

Sincerely,
Spike Enzweiler, LTM Program Manager
The Rev. Rose Beeson



Comments from our friends in Hoboken:

"You provide us with compassion, dignity and respect."

"We are not stressed but blessed because of you."

Sorting Night

On November 7th, we held an evening of sorting to give Board Members and others who work an opportunity to help the Mission and see the whole process that usually takes place on a Monday morning. Sixteen volunteers including six Board members, family and friends of the Mission sorted clothing and prepared 63 boxes and tubs for distribution. Hotel toiletries were also checked and sorted into Care Kits to be distributed after the holidays.



Blessing Bag Program

We give thanks for our abundant blessings, for family and friends, for food on our table, clothes on our backs and the roof over our heads. We also remember our friends in need who may be struggling, hoping and praying for some of these things we so often take for granted.

Heart 'n Hands Mission volunteers do our best to help others in their time of need. By bringing clean good quality clothing we give people dignity, by bringing blankets and sleeping bags we provide warmth and shelter to those living on the streets, by bringing new socks we help the homeless in their daily struggle to keep their feet dry and protected, and by bringing toiletries we help them maintain good health and hygiene.

Hotel size toiletries are donated throughout the year. Packaged in small bags, these Care Kits contain 4-5 personal care items and are distributed to our homeless friends as often as possible. Large size toiletries are distributed to those sites with families and those who are working but cannot always afford these necessary items.

Each fall we request travel size toiletries to distribute to all those served by Heart 'n Hands Mission as a special holiday gift. Over the last three years, we have been able to bless 1,326 individuals and families with a Blessing Bag – a gallon size Ziploc filled with 22 essential toiletries and snacks. Included in each bag is a holiday greeting, a note created by a child, or a message of hope.

This year, Heart 'n Hands Mission received many Blessing Bag donations from individuals, Scout groups, schools, Congregations, clubs and businesses. On November 13th, the Mission also hosted a Blessing Bag Assembly Day at St. Timothy after Sunday worship services. Monetary donations, as well as donations of individual items, and revenue from our BBQ and Jazz fundraiser enabled the Mission to purchase enough supplies to fill 200 Blessing Bags, bringing our grand total to **626** for 2016. The Blessing Bags were distributed during our regular December deliveries including Supportive Services for Veteran Families and also to The River Homeless Shelter in Hackensack.

We want to thank all of the individuals and groups who so generously supported our Blessing Bag Project this year:

Cathy Lundquist
Marjorie Davidson
Pat and Harold Winters
Lou Warner
Janet Marotta
Helen and Jack Crowley
Carolyn Russo
Karen Taylor & Family

John and Eleanor Liljegren
Bill and Dolores Monsees
Dawn and Conrad Brassel
Marie and Craig Beyer
Margot Weinert
Terri Loftus
Lois Clapp
Samantha Moore

Dennis Kohl
Carrol Norton
Paula McKowen
Mary Laverack
Carol Labadie
Vicki Coyle
Laura Dec
Christine Singer
Anonymous Friends

Dr. Cory Wanatick, D.M.D of Fort Lee
Dr. Zachary Spitzer, D.D.S. of Wayne Dental Associates
The Congregation and Sunday School of St. Timothy Lutheran Church
Pastor Doug Cummings and the Congregation of Wayne Presbyterian Church
Pastor Jane Bishop and the Congregation of Preakness Baptist Church, Wayne
Louise Reeves and the Ladies Guild of King of Kings Lutheran Church, Mountain Lakes
Joanne Sallo and the Congregation of Christ Lutheran Church, Woodcliff Lake
Debbie Dericks and the students of the CCD and Confirmation programs of Our Lady of Consolation, Wayne
Dr. Cathy Lundquist, the Cedar Hill School Character Education Committee and Student Body, Towaco
NJ Dare Devils Hockey Team
Chrissy Deary and Cub Scout Pack 68, Towaco
Prudential & their Employees

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Craig, Carol Nielson and I had the pleasure of handing out over 90 blessing bags when we went to First Presbyterian on December 10th. What a gift it was for us to be a blessing to others! I can't describe how happy and grateful all the people were to receive these items! I can't even begin to count how many "Thank You's" and "God Bless You's" we received.... and even some hugs from familiar faces!

Submitted by Marie Beyer

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Patriots' Path Council



Scout Executive Dennis Kohl and the Patriots' Path Council, Boy Scouts of America, located in Cedar Knolls, have been great supporters of the Mission. Not only do they collect hotel toiletries on all of their Council and National Youth Leadership Training trips, but the council office has collected dozens of bags of clothing, Scouters have participated in our Days of Service and many have attended our fundraisers. During their December Holiday Party, council staff assembled Care Kits that will be distributed in the coming months. We thank **Amy Schwartz**, Team Leader of Council Operations, for coordinating this service project.

First Presbyterian Church Food Pantry

Submitted by Craig Beyer

The Mission is happy for the congregation of First Presbyterian Church of Passaic and their new Pastor, Abbie Huff. Abbie was working as an Aids Patient Counselor in the Nyack, NY area and accepted the call to First Presbyterian in November. She is young, energetic and fun.

First Presbyterian has been without a Pastor since Pastor Ray VandeGiessen moved out to Oklahoma after his last service on May 1st. Pastor Ray has been a good friend of the Mission since July 2014.

Heart 'n Hands Mission distributes clothing to First Presbyterian Church on the corner of Passaic Ave and Grove Street once a month on the second or third Saturday. We schedule each delivery with site coordinator Debra Hanson. Our van is packed with toys and books for children, toiletries, diapers and clothes for all sizes of men, women, children and infants. Some Saturdays we service over 100 people. It is a nice way to spend a Saturday morning from 10:00 to 1:00 PM.



Winter Coat and Shoe Drive

“Good socks are important for a good work out. Imagine how important good socks are for the homeless. Come to Spa 23 to donate gently worn shoes and new socks. Accepting donations until December 24th.”

Spa 23 once again collected new socks and gently worn shoes and sneakers during the Christmas season. We have received many great donations from the members of Spa 23 in support of our charity. Thank you to the owners, **Carey Adler and Joe Pedatella** for their continued support of our mission.

Divine Cleaners at 615 Route 23 South in Pompton Plains, also collected gently used coats, sweaters and sweatshirts during the Christmas season. **Jason Sedran**, the owner, is an enthusiastic supporter of our mission, and understands the need for warm outerwear for the homeless and working poor, especially at this time of year. He has collected many bags of outerwear for us. Thank you, Jason.

Intek, the manager of the **Packanack Lake Dry Cleaners**, collects donations throughout the year. **Tobin Osusky**, owner of **Temple Qinesis** in Pompton Lakes also collects coats and clothing year round. These men and their customers have donated hundreds of coats and clothing items to the Mission in the last four years. Thank you, Intek and Tobin.

We also thank the volunteers who picked up these donations each week: Craig Beyer, Bob Davidson, Bob Gray, Cliff Konnerth, Kathy Knittel, Irene McNamara and Rich Wantula.



Heart 'n Hands Mission has been blessed with a dedicated group of volunteers without whom we would not be able to do what we do. There are many steps involved in the process of collecting, sorting and preparing, loading and delivering donated clothing, bedding, shoes, outerwear and toiletries. Each one serves an important role in this process and we are so very grateful to each of them for their time and their talents.

We wish to send our sincere thanks to our faithful **Monday Morning Sorting Team members** under the wonderful direction of Barbara Kaplan:

Lois Clapp, Carol Cook, Cathe Davidson, Roberta Jankiewicz, Judy Lupichuk, Nora Pecci, Lou Warner and Margot Weinert;

to our regular **Driving Team members:**

Craig and Marie Beyer, Bob Davidson, Kathy Knittel, Cliff Konnerth, and Rich Wantula;

to our **Staging and Loading Team members:**

Bob and Cathe Davidson, Barbara, Pat and Nathaniel Kaplan, Cliff Konnerth, Kathy Knittel, Rich Wantula, and Lou Warner:



and a very special thank you to **Pastor Moutenay and St. Timothy** for allowing us to utilize the "Orange Room" and storage space downstairs in order to continue to serve the needs of others in our community.

Thank you to the **St. Timothy Monday Morning Crew** for being so supportive and helpful especially in setting up tables for our Days of Service; and to the individuals who help us on Monday mornings and help with deliveries whenever they are able.

Your dedication and service to Heart 'n Hands Mission breathes new life and purpose into our ministry each week. We are incredibly grateful for your continued support.

Love. Care. Serve.

We are always looking for new volunteers. We welcome you to join us for sorting, staging and loading, or as a driving team member. Please speak to Barbara Kaplan, Cathe Davidson, or any Board Member or volunteer listed above if you would like to get involved in Heart 'n Hands Mission. Just a few hours of your time, once a week, once a month or whenever you are able, will help us in our mission to serve those in need.

Thank You

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

Carrol Norton – socks, coloring books, hand knitted hats

Dolores Monsees – socks

Marci Schloesser – socks and feminine products

Trudy Coppola – feminine products

Amy Mikelis – hats, gloves, socks and feminine products

Nora Pecci – coloring books and crayons

Le Eckert and Friends – children's story books & tote bags

Rainbow Nursery School - children's story books and puzzles

Cliff and Nancy Konnerth – men's underwear for Hoboken

Darlene Irwin – clothing from The Upper Room in Towaco

Marie Eggers – toiletries

Kim Stiller – dozens of stuffed animals

Patricia Buchanan - collected 80 coats from family and friends

Dr. Herbert Maier of Wayne – cases of soaps and body lotions

Joann and Jean, St. Timothy Knitters and Crocheters & friends - Knitted hats and scarves

We have given out over 120 hand knit hat and scarf sets!

Dan & Monica Herasimtschuk, Lori VanDerStad, Pat Kaplan, Cathy Lundquist, Kevin & Terri Loftus and anonymous friends – boxes for sorting & deliveries

Paul and Carol Munch and Pastor Jane Bishop of **Preakness Baptist Church** for delivering their congregations' donations on a regular basis.

Jeff Van Valkenburgh of **Stop and Shop of Emerson**, NJ & Lisa Fabian - Toy Donations

Weekly donation of Diapers, wipes and toiletries from "Mr. and Mrs. Elf " – a real need for many families

Mike Lamberti from the **Wayne Today** and Melissa Benno from **TAPinto Montville** for always making space for us in their publications.

The Montville and Wayne Communities for their support and all of their donations.

We send our gratitude to Anna Landgrebe, Roberta Ginsberg and **The Homeless Bus** for their constant support in spreading the word about the Mission and in sharing their blessings with us.

Thank you to volunteer Judy Lupichuk for the "special care" she takes in preparing clothes for distribution and for blessing other groups in our community with items and supplies we are unable to use.

And a sincere thank you to **Mike Pontidis** of **Elevate Perception**, our Webmaster extraordinaire, for his enthusiasm, his patience, his time and his expertise in creating, donating and updating a fabulous website for the Mission.

We also thank all of our supporters who have donated clothing, shoes, sneakers, socks, coats, hats, gloves, scarves, toiletries, crayons, sleeping bags, bedding and blankets. We are also grateful to our friends who continue to spread the word about the Mission and regularly collect and deliver donations from their friends and relatives.

Once again, our thanks go to **Jeff and Kathy Knittel** and their foundation for their donation which allowed us to purchase our new van. It allows us to continue our work with no worries.

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 individuals and groups who have blessed us with financial gifts since our last newsletter. Your donations make it possible for us to continue our mobile ministry by helping to provide necessities to those we serve.

Carrol Norton
Prudential Benevity Program
St. Timothy Lutheran Church Benevolence Fund
Stuart Anderson
Paul Monsees and Cathy Ventrell-Monsees
Bill and Dolores Monsees

These donations have enabled us to purchase 264 pairs of men's white crew socks over the last several months. New socks are the most requested item each month for our homeless friends who spend much of their day walking. Exposure to the elements like heat, rain and snow make it difficult to keep their feet dry. The Mission also purchased 117 pairs of underwear, 54 pairs of sweatpants and 15 pairs of thermal pants to fulfill a request during our December delivery to St. Matthew's in Hoboken. Layering clothing is essential during the bitter cold winter months. These gifts have made a significant impact this year and will continue to help those in need in 2017.

And so the work of the Mission continues. As we begin a new year, may we all remember ...

Everything begins with one. And You are the One. You are the one who can make a difference.

Heart 'n Hands Mission Board Members

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

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Please mark your calendars for 2017

We have a busy year ahead!!

Annual Meeting of the Volunteer Membership

Sunday, January 29th – in St. Timothy Fellowship Hall at noon

All volunteer members are encouraged to attend to review the events of 2016 and make plans for 2017. New volunteer members are welcome.

Day of Service Events

Monday, January 16th ~ Martin Luther King Day of Service – 10 am – 3 pm
Clothing Collection Day

Monday, February 20th ~ President's Day of Service – 10 am – 3 pm
Wayne Clothing Collection Day

Sunday, April 23rd ~ National Volunteer Week – Day of Service – noon – 4 pm
We will begin immediately following worship

St. Timothy Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall ~ 395 Valley Road, Wayne
Please join us as we sort and prepare clothing for our monthly distributions.
Light refreshments will be available. Please bring a bag lunch if you prefer.

Dine and Donate - Thursday, April 6th

Please join us and support Heart 'n Hands Mission with a meal at Positano's
245 Berdan Ave., Wayne, NJ.

Montville Clothing Collection Day

Saturday, April 22nd ~ Mission volunteers will be collecting **gently used, clean spring and summer clothing and shoes** – time and place to be confirmed

Please look for more information to follow for each of these events on our website, Facebook page and through our email list. If you would like to be added to our email list please send a note to:

info@heartnhandsmission.org.