



Heart 'n Hands Mission

An Outreach Ministry of
St. Timothy Evangelical Lutheran Church
January 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 ninth 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.

Happy New Year!



Welcome to the year 2020! Happy New Year to all of our volunteers and supporters. Heart 'n Hands Mission has been blessed with an abundance of donations since our last newsletter and we are distributing all of the winter weather items as quickly as is humanly possible. Sometimes our van is so full that the Delivery Team member in the passenger seat must share the space with some rather large stuffed animals!

We are excited to announce the unveiling of our new website courtesy of **Mike Pontidis** of **Elevate Perception**. Thank you, Mike, for donating your services and creating a new online experience for our supporters.

In 2020, we celebrate our fifth anniversary as Heart 'n Hands Mission, and ten years of serving the homeless and working poor of Northeastern New Jersey. You may remember that we began our ministry in 2010 under the direction of Clark Paradise, founder of Your Grandmother's Cupboard, to bring clothing donations to the sites in Paterson, Passaic and Hoboken that we continue to serve each month. We recently learned of Clark's passing, and we honor his memory by continuing the work he inspired us to do ten years ago.

What a Blessing!



So often we think that the little things cannot make a difference. Yet, to think that God cannot only use us to help another in need but our clothes, toiletries, and even an hour a week or month to sort clothing can and does change a life. Preakness Faith Community is happy to share in the ministry to help the homeless through Heart n' Hands.

Looking forward to making a difference in 2020! How about you?

Pastor Jane Harlan

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.

To date, the funds have been used for the following purchases:

Food for Wayne Interfaith Network's pantry
Cases of coffee and bulk sugar for food pantries and shelters in Passaic, Paterson and Hoboken
Birthday Bundles for families in Paterson
Men's and Women's underwear for the homeless in Hoboken and Passaic
Shave Kits, deodorant and medicated powder for the homeless in Hoboken and Passaic
Jeans, thermal tops and bottoms for the homeless in Hoboken and Passaic
Socks and sweatpants for the homeless in Hoboken and Passaic
Family size toiletries for food pantries in Passaic and Paterson
Travel size toiletries for the Veterans in Paterson

We are extremely grateful to Kathy and Jeff and to the Airbus Group for their generosity.

Angels Among Us

Heart 'n Hands Mission has been blessed by two faithful supporters. For the last eight months, they arrive at the Mission every Monday with donations of clothing, accessories, bedding and toys. They do not stay to sort because they have done that before they even arrive!

Stacey Braden and her "brother," **Paul Bloomfield** of Kinnelon, have a life of service donating to those in need. They began by asking friends and neighbors for clothing they no longer needed and delivering the donations to food pantries and shelters. Last year, they discovered Heart 'n Hands. Now they reach out to people through various Facebook pages, gathering up car loads of donations, checking them, sorting them, folding them and labeling them. Many weeks they make more than one delivery to the Mission. The preparation they do at home allows the donations to go out for delivery immediately since every bag is labeled by gender and size. The amount of time they so generously give each week makes a world of difference to our efficiency in getting the clothing out quickly to where they are needed most.



Stacey and Paul do have an assistant named Gus. Gus is Stacey's golden retriever! He does his best to help by gathering (stealing!) the stuffed animals into piles ready to be bagged and labeled. We are incredibly grateful to Stacey, Paul and Gus for all of the time and effort they give to Heart 'n Hands Mission. They truly are angels among us!

Do you subscribe to a food delivery service?

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

A Songbird Trio Benefit Concert



The Songbird Trio, comprised of Kathy Knittel on lead vocals, Joanie Bujacich on piano, and Joe Bilotti on guitar performed a benefit concert for the mission on Sunday, November 24. They performed songs from Kathy's 2017 CD, *A Songbird's Christmas*, along with other popular selections. The arrangements ranged from Kathy's vocals being accompanied by hypnotic acoustic guitar to full festive ensemble instrumentation with piano, strings, percussion and harmonies.

Kathy Knittel, lead vocalist, has performed on cable tv and national television and is past winner and judge of the PNC Bank Arts Center Talent Expo. Recent recital programs feature her versatile style of coupling art songs with the classics and ballads. Her latest projects include touring with The Songbird Trio and performing at music festivals with the Heart of Gold Band. Her vocals are also featured on The Kathy Knittel Radio Station on Jango Radio.

Joan Bujacich is a career musician. She is a songwriter and has produced three CDs of her original music and has also produced CDs for other artists, including Kathy. Joan and her husband Joe Bilotti have been performing together for over 20 years, starting as a duo performing Joan's original songs and then forming The Heart of Gold Band, a classic rock band that continues to reach loyal audiences at festivals and concerts in the NJ/NY metropolitan area.

Joe Bilotti has performed around the US and the globe with the world-renowned Soft Parade: Tribute to the Doors and an occasional gig with the nationally acclaimed Fleetwood Mac Tribute Band, Tusk. You can hear music compositions written by Joe with his original band Eastern Potata on their CD release of progressive rock music, *Day Moon*. Off the stage, Joe is a full-time music professor at The County College of Morris in NJ where he teaches piano, guitar, music theory, and of course, a popular course on Rock History.



Annual Blessing Bag Project

Our annual Blessing Bag Program collects **travel size toiletries** to distribute to those served by Heart 'n Hands Mission as a special holiday gift. Travel size items fill a gallon size Ziploc bag 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.

Each year, Heart 'n Hands Mission accepts donations of toiletry items and monetary donations used to purchase and assemble Blessing Bags for the homeless people at each of our delivery sites during our Blessing Bag Assembly. On November 12, members of St. Timothy and the Church Council, Mission Board members and members of the community assembled 300 Blessing Bags for the homeless individuals we reach each month. We thank everyone who helped with our assembly. We also send a special thank you to **Ann Rocko** for helping to keep the inventory organized, as well as helping to set up the assembly in Fellowship Hall.

Donations of supplies and completed bags from individuals and various groups enabled us to distribute an additional 238 bags bringing our total to **538 Blessing Bags** this year. They were a welcomed gift during our regular December and January deliveries to:

Catholic Charities – Supportive Services for Veteran Families, Paterson
Community Outreach Services, Inc. Food Pantry and Clothing Ministry, Paterson
First Presbyterian Church Food Pantry, Passaic
Helping Hands Food Pantry, Passaic
Iglesia Vision Celestial Church, Newark
North Porch Women and Infants' Center, Paterson
St. Matthew Trinity Lutheran Church Lunchtime Ministry, Hoboken
St. Paul's Community Development Corp., Paterson

We want to thank everyone who so generously supported our Blessing Bag Program this past year:

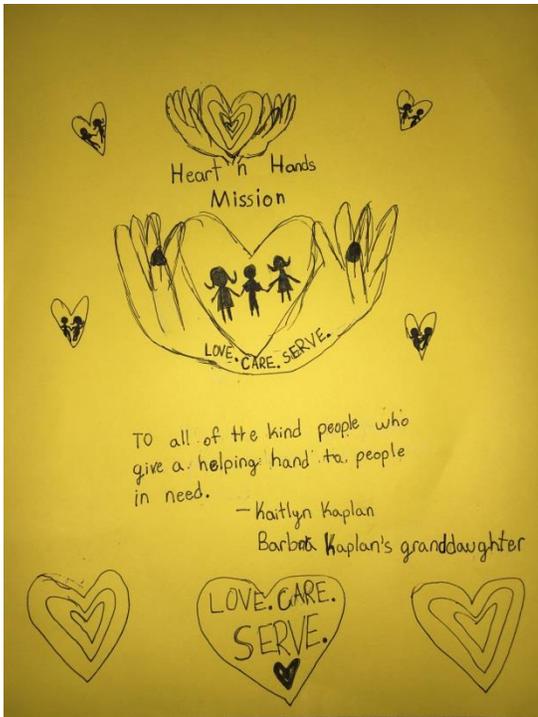
Joe and Eileen Smith	Fran Biroc	Len Smith & Kathy Jones-Smith
Carol Neilson	The Kellstrom Family	Marjorie Davidson
Vicki Coyle	Carol Labadie	The Loftus Family
Laura Dec	Margot Weinert	Jeannine & Megan Dineen
Dennis & Elsie Kohl	Ann Rocko	The Schloesser Family
Carolyn Russo	Pat & Harold Winters	Carrol Norton
Mary Laverack	Anonymous	

Marie Beyer & the Prudential Benevity Program
Prudential Employees
Dr. Lori Bleeker, DMD
Pastor Mountenay, the Congregation and Sunday School of St. Timothy Lutheran Church
Pastor Jane Harlan and the Congregation of Preakness Faith Community Church, Wayne
The Mikelis Family and the Patrons of The Montville Diner
Girl Scout Leader Lauri Meyers and Packanack Girl Scout Troops 96008, 96907, 97111, 97696 and 97270
Daisy Leader Ally Kaplan and Fairfield Daisy Girl Scout Troop 21242
Trudy Coppola, Maureen Moran and the Cedar Hill Elementary School Character Education Committee,
Faculty, Students and their families, Towaco
The Congregation of King of Kings Lutheran Church, Mountain Lakes

A Mission Moment

In December, Cliff Konnerth and I were fortunate to deliver Blessing Bags, sweatpants, thermal underwear, shoes, and coats to the homeless clients of Lunchtime Ministry at St. Matthew Trinity Lutheran Church in Hoboken. More than 80 people greeted us. Every one of them sincerely thanked us with a warm, cheerful smile for their Blessing Bag and the warm clothing they received. We do not take photographs at Lunchtime Ministry, so I can only pass along their smiling gratitude, Happy New Year wishes, and blessings to you with simple words – “Thank you and God bless you.”

Submitted by Bob Davidson



This beautiful drawing of the Heart ‘n Hands Mission logo and motto was created by **Kaitlyn Kaplan**. This was a gift to the Mission and is hanging on the Orange Room door. It includes a special message – “To all of the kind people who give a helping hand to people in need.” We thank Kaitlyn for this heartfelt gift. Kaitlyn is the granddaughter of Barbara Kaplan, Site and Facilities Manager of Heart ‘n Hands Mission. Kaitlyn is also a Junior Girl Scout in Troop #20429.

Kaitlyn’s sister, Emma is a Daisy in Girl Scouts Heart of New Jersey Scout Troop #21242. She and her fellow Daisies collected toiletries for our annual Blessing Bag Project and assembled 13 completed bags for the Mission.

We are grateful to Daisy Leaders Allison Kaplan and Marissa Papamarkos, the scouts and their families for this wonderful donation. These young girls are already learning a valuable lesson about giving to those who are less fortunate and about spreading kindness.

To quote their Girl Scout Law, these girls are doing “their best to make the world a better place.”

We are grateful to the Infinite Motion Performing Arts Academy of Mahwah, New Jersey for selecting Heart ‘n Hands Mission as their charitable donation partner for 2019. We send our thanks to the directors of IMPAA, Colleen Cross and Rosanne Renda and to all of the staff and their clients for this tremendous donation. The collection of coats, clothing, toys, bedding and more filled our van. It is always a blessing to partner with great people who do great things for those in need.





If you have ever dropped off donations on a Monday morning, you have seen that the Mission is quite a busy place. Donations are coming in, pick-ups are staged, the van is getting loaded, deliveries are being made, clothing is sorted, shoes are paired, Care Kits are made and much, much more.

As the seasons change we need to presort all of the clothing donations that come in and that means ... **WE NEED YOU!** Can you spare an hour or two to help presort? The only experience required is the ability to distinguish between summer clothes and winter clothes. **IT'S THAT EASY!**

Please join us on a Monday morning anytime from 9:30 am through 11:30 am by the elevators on the street level at St. Timothy!



Our Monday Morning Sorting Team:

Rick Beyer, Lois Clapp, Carol Cook, Cathe Davidson, Ellen Grexa, Barbara Kaplan, Judy Lupichuk, Nora Pecci, Sarah Riotto, Ann Rocko, Lou Warner.

Our Monday Evening Sorting Team:

Debbie Andersen, Danette Andersen, Vicki Coyle, Barbara and Pat Kaplan, Collette McNally and Barbara Zoppo.

Our Delivery Team members:

Craig and Marie Beyer, Bob Davidson, Art DeRose, Pastor Jane Harlan, Cliff Konnerth, Amy Mikelis, Carol and Janice Neilson, Karen Shelly, Rich Wantula and Lou Warner.



Our Staging and Loading Team members:

Craig and Rick Beyer, Bob and Cathe Davidson, Art DeRose, Barbara, Pat and Nathaniel Kaplan, Cliff Konnerth, Rich Wantula and Lou Warner.



We wish to send our sincere thanks to all of our faithful Monday Team Members under the wonderful direction of **Barbara Kaplan**. Your dedication and service to Heart 'n Hands Mission breathes new life and purpose into our ministry each week. We are incredibly grateful to all of you for your time, talents and continued support.

We also send a huge thank you to everyone who has given so generously to Heart 'n Hands Mission with clothing, toiletries and monetary gifts. Every donation makes a difference to those who have so little.

Anonymous – toiletries, clothing and accessories

Katie Baron - toiletries

Clayton Davidson – hotel toiletries

Laura Gerard – hotel toiletries

Carl and Margaretha Johnson – diapers, baby wipes and toiletries

Thank you to volunteers **Nora Pecci** and **Judy Lupichuk** for the “special care” they take in preparing clothes for distribution and for blessing other groups in our community with items and supplies we are unable to use.

Thank you to **Ann Rocko** for all of her help each week in making Care Kits and in organizing all of the special request purchases throughout the year.

Thank you to **Irene McNamara** for collecting and delivering clothing donations from the girls at Weight Watchers throughout the past year.

Special thanks to **Lois Clapp**, **Bob Davidson**, **Pastor Jane Harlan**, **Bill Monsees** and **the Kaplans** for picking up donations at **Divine Cleaners** in Pompton Plains. And a special thank you to Divine Cleaners owner **Jason** for graciously storing all the donations between pick-ups!

We send a very special thank you to **Pastor Mountenay** and **St. Timothy** for allowing us to utilize the “Orange Room,” additional classroom space, 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 to those who help us on Monday mornings with donations whenever they are able.

We also send a heartfelt thank you to **Laurie Crowley**, our St. Timothy Secretary Extraordinaire for all of her help on Monday mornings and throughout the week when our supporters arrive with donations. Your patience, creativity and willingness to help at a moment’s notice makes our job so much easier. You are an angel.

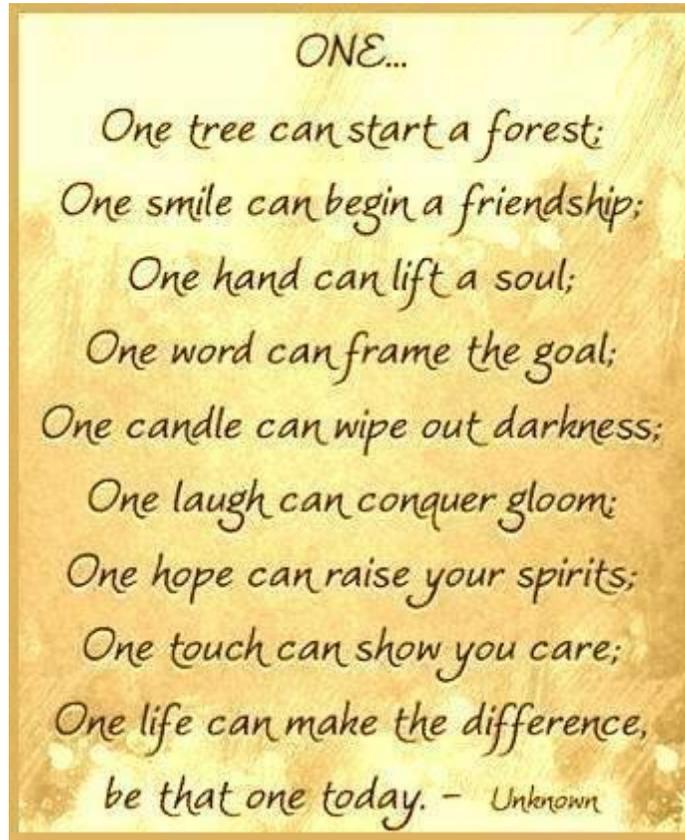
We are able to continue to spread joy and hope to our friends in need through your generous donations. We sincerely appreciate and humbly thank those who have blessed us with financial gifts to our general fund since our last newsletter. Your donations make it possible for us to continue our mobile ministry.

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

Stuart Anderson
Airbus Americas
St. Timothy Benevolence Fund

Paul Monsees and Cathy Ventrell-Monsees
The C. Jeffrey and Katherine J. Knittel Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Bontekoe

And so the work of the Mission continues.



Love. Care. Serve.



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