



Heart 'n Hands Mission

An Outreach Ministry of
St. Timothy Evangelical Lutheran Church
January 2022 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 an impoverished congregation in Newark, the Broad Street Benches program in Elizabeth, the Light Up Project in Palisades Park, GERA – a refugee assistance program in Paterson, and provide clothing for Veterans and their families through Catholic Charities in Paterson, Passaic and Clifton. We are in our twelfth year of service in Wayne, reaching more than **3,000** people with our monthly distributions. In addition, we 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.

Gifts Aplenty

Heart 'n Hands Mission has many angels who “work behind the scenes” quietly making donations. One of those angels is **Debbie Houlihan**. For several years, Debbie has donated gifts of Bibles, Mother’s Day bags, children’s bags, and more. Each gift bag has included a small Bible, devotional or inspirational message in either English or Spanish. In September, Debbie contacted us with another car load of donations including 40 English or Spanish Bibles, 30 Inspirational Adult Coloring Books with colored pencils and 72 Travel Cups with a special pen, devotional and an inspirational bookmark. Debbie also donated 24 Baby Baskets which included a Children’s Bible, blanket, shower cap, towel and an ornament. These donations were distributed to our friends in Passaic, Newark and Hoboken who were so grateful and humbled by such thoughtful gifts. We thank Debbie for always thinking of others and truly living a life of service.



Your Donations Help Our Neighbors in Need

Heart 'n Hands Mission was blessed with significant donations from the **C. Jeffrey and Katherine Knittel Foundation**, **Airbus Americas** and the **St. Timothy Endowment Fund** last year. These gifts have allowed us to provide warm clothing, toiletries, masks, back packs, school supplies and food pantry necessities throughout the year as reported in our previous 2021 newsletters. Most recently, we have been able to provide toiletries and personal hygiene items for **Afghan refugees** through GERA and to **flood victims** in Newark; 80 pairs of new jeans for the homeless at **St. Matthew's Lunchtime Ministry** in Hoboken; Thanksgiving gift cards for 50 families who are supported by **Wayne Interfaith Network (WIN)** and Thanksgiving gift cards for 50 families who are supported by the **Helping Hands Food Pantry** in Passaic.

Every donation makes a difference in the lives of those who are homeless or living in poverty. Your kindness and generosity have enabled the Mission to provide much needed comfort to so many in need. In addition to the major purchases listed above, your donations have helped service our van and provide the gas to make these deliveries, they have helped us fill Blessing Bags for the holidays, and have provided sunscreen, new socks, new t-shirts, new underwear, cleaning supplies, toilet paper and more!

We are able to continue to spread joy and hope to our friends in need through your benevolence. Your donations of seasonal clothing, shoes, and accessories, diapers, toiletries and personal care items filled our van countless times in 2021. Our Monday Morning Team also deserves our gratitude for all of the time and effort they give to prepare your donations for delivery. And we thank our sites who pick up donations and those individuals who deliver your gifts to those in need. It truly takes a village to reach 3,000 people each month and we are humbled by all who are called to serve through Heart 'n Hands Mission.

"Share the Warmth"

Once again, we thank Blue Nail Roofing & Siding in Montville for conducting a fabulous Winter Clothing collection for Heart 'n Hands Mission. Marketing Manager, Rachel Grant, contacted us in November saying, "we were honored to be a part of your Winter Clothing Drive and would LOVE to do the same this year!"

We are grateful to all of the Blue Nail customers who donated so generously and to Blue Nail Roofing for delivering all of the donations to the Mission.



In December, we received an anonymous donation of feminine hygiene products from the Aunt Flow organization. This non-profit was "founded by an 18-year-old girl from Ohio, on a mission to ensure everyone has access to 100% organic cotton menstrual products." The women we reach will be truly grateful for this gift! Thank you!

Our Ninth Annual Blessing Bag Program

A Heart 'n Hands Mission Blessing Bag is a gallon size food storage bag filled with 22 essential personal care items and snacks. Included in each bag is a holiday greeting, a note created by a child, or a message of hope.

Over the past eight years, we have distributed **4,154** Blessing Bags with the support and generosity of many individuals, congregations, youth groups, clubs, scout troops, schools and businesses.



This year, monetary donations from individuals as well as **84** completed Blessing Bags, enabled us to distribute **458** bags of blessings to our homeless friends to help them maintain good health and hygiene. In addition, **1,042** large-size personal care items such as: shampoo, lotion, body wash, bars of soap, men's and women's deodorant, hand sanitizer and toothpaste were delivered to families in need. We thank our heavy lifters **Bob and Cathe Davidson** and **Lori VanDerStad** for doing all of the shopping. And, we sincerely thank the sites that pick up, and **Bob Davidson** and **Debbie Andersen** for making the other deliveries.

These blessings were distributed to the following sites:

Broad Street Benches, Elizabeth

Catholic Charities – Supportive Services for Veteran Families, Paterson, Passaic & Clifton

Community Outreach Services, Inc. Food Pantry and Clothing Ministry, Paterson

Helping Hands Food Pantry, Passaic & their neighboring Men's Shelter

Iglesia Vision Celestial Church, Newark

Light Up Project, Palisades Park

St. Matthew Trinity Lutheran Church Lunchtime Ministry, Hoboken

St. Paul's Community Development Corp., Paterson & their Men's Shelter

United Passaic Organization, Passaic

A Blessing Bag Mission Moment

Since the Covid shutdown in March 2020, our deliveries to the St. Matthew Trinity Lutheran Church Lunchtime Ministry in Hoboken have been simple drop-offs. No more Mission teams connecting with the clients or helping them find the clothing and toiletries they need among the donations. However, this past December, **Bob Davidson** was asked to stay a bit and hand out the Blessing Bags – this is his Mission Moment:

On Monday, December 20th we delivered Blessing Bags and clothing to The Lunchtime Ministry in Hoboken. With the colder weather, they've opened their space for inside meals, and about 65 people were eating. We handed a Blessing Bag to each person, and all expressed their gratitude. One man, with tears in his eyes, said "There are no words to tell you how thankful I am for this."

Angels Among Us



We send our sincerest thanks to **Lou Warner** for dividing and packaging all of the band aids, flossers, Q-tips and peppermints that went into each of our Blessing Bags. Having all of those small items prepped and ready helped our assembly line move quickly. We are blessed to have Lou at the Mission each Monday morning and are grateful for his time and his willingness to prepare more than 1,496 individual snack-size bags at home. Lou loves his “homework” and we love his enthusiasm to serve!

We also send a huge thank you to **Ann Rocko** for counting all of our purchases, boxing each item and helping us keep track of our Blessing Bag inventory – **374 Blessing Bags** prepared by Heart ‘n Hands Mission with 22 items in each – that’s **8,228** items!! Ann is another invaluable member of our team and our Blessing Bag Program would not survive without her! We are so grateful to Ann for helping us assemble and prepare all of the Blessing Bags for delivery as well. We are truly blessed to have these wonderful volunteers!

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We sincerely thank everyone who has so generously supported our 9th Annual Blessing Bag Program with monetary donations, completed bags, items from our Amazon Wish List and individual purchases. You have brought a bit of comfort and cheer to so many who are struggling.



Carol Neilson
Ann Rocko
The Mikelis Family
Carl & Margaretha Johnson
The Schloesser Family
Anonymous
The Loftus Family
Carolyn Russo
Dr. Lori Bleeker, D.D.S.
Carol & Harry Jung
Lori VanDerStad

Carrol Norton
Judy Lupichuk
Fran Biroc
Maureen Sciolaro
Lois, Heather & Lindsay Clapp
Carol Labadie
Pat Winters
Susan & Robert Fiordalisi
Joanne & David Ober
Stu Anderson

Mary Laverack
Alice Huizinga
Karen & Tom Sajban
Nora Pecci
Marjorie Davidson
Frances Orchart
Bill & Dolores Monsees
Terry Becker
Donna Cory
Marie & Craig Beyer

Patrons of the Montville Diner
An Anonymous Gift in Memory of Harold Winters
The C. Jeffrey and Katherine Knittel Foundation and the Airbus Group
The St. Timothy Benevolence Fund
The Prudential Benevity Program
Debbie Derricks & Our Lady of Consolation Religious Education students
Trudy Coppola, Maureen Moran and the Cedar Hill Elementary School Character Education Committee, Students, Parents and Faculty, Towaco

Second Home

Cliff Konnerth works with **Second Home**, a day care center for disabled adults, ages 21 and over, located in Wayne. They had expressed interest in doing some meaningful activities for others. We provided supplies for 15 Shaving Care Kits for men that included two razors, shave cream, powder and a pack of tissues, and 20 Dental Care Kits that included a toothbrush, toothpaste, floss, Chapstick and toothbrush caps. We thank Cliff and the clients at the center for assembling these Care Kits for us!



We send our biggest thanks to our faithful Monday Sorting Team Members under the wonderful direction of **Barbara Kaplan**. We are so happy to have you back and are grateful for the time you are able to spend with us preparing all of the donations for delivery!

Our Monday Morning Sorting Team:

Lois Clapp, Carol Cook, Bob Davidson, Cathe Davidson, Ellen Grexa, Pat Kaplan, Ann Rocko, and Lou Warner.

Our Delivery Team members:

Bob Davidson, Kathy Knittel and Debbie Andersen

Our Staging and Loading Team members:

Bob and Cathe Davidson, Barbara and Pat Kaplan, and Lou Warner.

Your dedication and service to Heart 'n Hands Mission breathes new life and purpose into our ministry each week.

Thank You

We thank the Montville, Wayne and surrounding communities for their support and all of their donations.

We thank all of you who quietly leave donations in Fellowship Hall each week and those we see each Monday. Your support is invaluable to our mission and your donations bring joy and comfort to so many each month.

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.

We send a very special thank you to **Pastor Kimberly Schmidt Cooper** and **St. Timothy** for allowing us to utilize Fellowship Hall, the "Orange Room" and storage space downstairs to continue to serve the needs of others in our community.

Special thanks to **Amy** and **Dimitri Mikelis**, of **The Montville Diner**, for placing a donation can on their checkout counter and to all of the patrons who contribute throughout the year.

Once again, **Carrol Norton**, has gifted Heart 'n Hands Mission with **50** crocheted Caps for Kids. Over the years, Carrol has made and donated nearly **6,000** caps to worthy causes. We thank Carrol for her talents and for bringing warmth and cheer to the children we reach each month.

We also send a heartfelt thank you to **Laurie Crowley**, our St. Timothy Office Manager Extraordinaire for all of her help on Monday mornings and throughout the week when our supporters arrive with donations. Laurie has recently moved on to full-time employment and we shall truly miss her warm smile and her commitment to St. Timothy and the Mission.

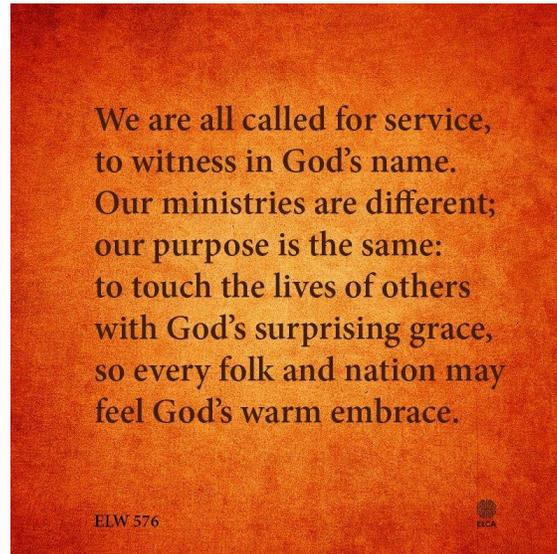
We sincerely appreciate and humbly thank those who have blessed us with very generous financial gifts to our general fund since our last newsletter. Your donations make it possible for us to continue our mobile ministry.

Mr. and Mrs. William Lindsay
Paul Monsees and Cathy Ventrell-Monsees

Airbus Americas, Inc.

Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Loftus
The St. Timothy Endowment Fund

And so the work of the Mission continues.



Heart 'n Hands Mission wishes everyone a safe and healthy new year. May 2022 be the year that inspires us all to do simple acts of kindness that bring warmth and comfort to our neighbors in need, to give when we can, to volunteer our time, and to bless the world with love.

Love. Care. Serve.

