



Heart 'n Hands Mission

An Outreach Ministry of
St. Timothy Evangelical Lutheran Church
October 2019 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.

Summer Sorting



Heart 'n Hands Mission was blessed with a mountain of donations at the beginning of the season. Sunday School classrooms at St. Timothy became sorting stations and staging locations for the summer. We thank **Hannah and Christian Wantula** and **Rich Wantula** for allowing us to use their classrooms. This saved us up to two hours of prep and cleanup every Monday morning. That gave us nearly 30 extra hours of sorting time during the summer! We finished up in record time and had the classrooms back in order two weeks before the start of Sunday School!! We thank **Debbie Andersen, Danette Andersen,**

Collette McNally, Vicki Coyle, Barbara Zoppo, Pat Kaplan, Pastor Jane Harlan and members of her congregation - Carol Munch, Linda Barth, Lori Vazquez, Nancy McDonnell, our Monday Morning Sorting Team and members of the **Mission Board** for all of their hard work this summer.

Preakness Faith Community Church



Pastor Jane Harlan of Preakness Faith Community Church has been a tremendous supporter of the Mission for years. Many members of her congregation have been collecting and delivering clothing, as well as participating in our annual Blessing Bag Project. More recently, Pastor Jane has called upon her congregation to help bring comfort to the homeless in Hoboken. In addition to her role as a new board member, Pastor Jane has joined our delivery team to Hoboken each month, her

congregation has generously donated dozens of men's underwear which was delivered to Hoboken during the summer months. They have also donated men's and women's deodorant and new sneakers which were purchased through their Deacon's Fund.

In addition, Pastor Jane has created a new sorting team of individuals from her congregation who will come the first Monday of each month to assist Barbara Kaplan in preparing items for distribution. We are so grateful to Pastor Jane and to her entire congregation for all of their support of Heart 'n Hands Mission.

Mission Moment

A successful summer. The Mission received enough clothing donations during the summer months to supply additional donation days to some of our distribution sites. Also during the summer months we had three new volunteers help at the First Presbyterian Church in Passaic. Thank you Anthony, Carly and Molly!

- Submitted by Craig Beyer

Change is Good!

What a privilege to be part of Heart n' Hands ministry and to see God work through so many volunteers to make a difference. Many years ago Kathy Jones-Smith asked me if I would consider being part of Grandmothers Cupboard now Heart n' Hands, and for many different reasons, mainly my busy schedule, I said it was not the right time. Little did I know that years later being part of this outreach would change me and God would use me to encourage our congregation to be more active in a greater need in our world. Kathy, you planted a seed which I will be forever grateful.

When I arrived with Rich to the Hoboken church last January, I had no idea what to expect. There I met many men and women who because of unforeseen circumstances were living on the street and trying to survive one hour at a time. I immediately thought about the time my family was unemployed and how we could have easily been doing the same; however, by the grace of God and amazing family and friends, we were spared. What touched my heart that first day was that at least half of them said "thank you" or "God Bless You", even if all they took that day was a pair of socks or underwear. The director Spike that runs the center also touched my heart for although I do not know his journey, even with his own physical limitations, has a heart for those in need. They say in an expression, "you cannot teach an old dog new tricks", I disagree. From that day on, I was changed.

How? By spending a few volunteer hours, purchasing a few pair of underwear, buying a few travel size powders, I have been given the greater privilege of living out the words of Jesus! For our Lord said these words: **"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me." Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?" The King will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."**

Friends, we are all very busy but I guarantee you, if you are given the privilege to go just one time to one of the homeless centers and meet those in need face to face, you too will be changed forever! And if that is not possible, then join us on Mondays from 9 to 11:30 sorting clothing; buy a package of underwear or socks when you are shopping; prepare a blessing bag or two; donate your clothing you no longer need; or pick up a few deodorants or foot powders (travel size).

I close by sharing that it has been almost a year now since I began going to Hoboken. In that time, I have now been able to put names with faces and what a joy to enter and be greeted with "Hi Pastor Jane" or even get an occasional hug. In return, it is my joy to greet them back by saying their name and friends, you should see the smile on their face because they know we care! Come join us! You too, will be changed!

Pastor Jane



Young People Give Their Time to the Mission

Rosh Hashanah began on Sunday, September 29th which meant a day off on Monday for many of our local schools. We had five youth, four of whom are St. Timothy Sunday School students, come to help sort, load, count Blessing Bag supplies and assist in other areas. It was wonderful to have these young people support the work of Heart 'n Hands.



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 season changes 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!



Mark your calendars for two special events coming in November!

Blessing Bag Assembly Day

Tuesday Evening, November 12th ~ 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Heart 'n Hands Mission reaches 2,000 people each month with your clothing donations. It is our goal to provide a Blessing Bag to as many of these individuals and families as possible. We welcome your donations of completed bags, individual items on our list or your monetary donations to help fulfill this promise.

Each year HHM volunteers prepare a Blessing Bag for each of the homeless people at our sites. This year we promise to fill 300 Blessing Bags to ensure that the most needy receive a blessing of much needed supplies and a message of hope. A list of items is on page 5. Please bring your donations to the donation station crates located near the elevators on the street level at St. Timothy by **Monday, November 4th**.

Thank you for your continued support of our Blessing Bag Project.

Songbird Trio Benefit Concert

Featuring St. Timothy's own Kathy Knittel

Sunday, November 24, 2019

3:00 pm

(Doors will open at 2:30 pm)



We are pleased to present The Songbird Trio, comprised of **Kathy Knittel** on lead vocals, **Joanie Bujacich** on piano, and **Joe Bilotti** on guitar. They will be performing songs from Kathy's 2017 CD, *A Songbird's Christmas*, along with songs by artists ranging from Joni Mitchell to Rodgers and Hammerstein.

Kathy collaborated with longtime friend and artist/arranger Joan Bujacich, and the CD also includes melodious tones by acclaimed guitarist Joe Bilotti. The arrangements range from Kathy's vocals being accompanied by hypnotic acoustic guitar to full festive ensemble instrumentation with piano, strings, percussion and harmonies. It is a magical collaboration.

The tracks include the songs: *Mary Did You Know*, *Do You Hear What I Hear*, *Toyland*, *Joy To The World*, *White Christmas*, *Aspenglow*, *'Til The Season Comes 'Round Again*, *Night Of Silence/Silent Night*, *It Came Upon A Midnight Clear*, and *That's What God Looks Like*.

A Songbird's Christmas is available to purchase and download through all the major digital distribution companies including iTunes, Rhapsody, Spotify, Amazon, CDBaby.com and Joanbujacich.com. CD's will also be available at the concert. We hope these songs bring peace and joy to your Christmas season.

Tickets are \$15.00 and can be purchased by calling the Mission at 973-694-8316 and selecting Mailbox #6. Please leave your name, phone number and number of tickets you would like to purchase and a Mission volunteer will get back to you. Children 12 and under are free.

Checks made payable to Heart 'n Hands Mission should be sent to the address below. Your tickets will be at the door.

Heart 'n Hands Mission
St. Timothy Lutheran Church
395 Valley Road
Wayne, NJ 07470



Heart 'n Hands Mission ~ Blessing Bag Project

The 2019 Blessing Bag Project has begun!

In an effort to keep the Blessing Bags consistent, please note the following:

- **TRAVEL SIZE** toiletries are the key to fitting everything comfortably in a gallon size Ziploc bag.
- **TRAVEL SIZE** toiletries can be purchased for less than \$1 in stores like Target, Harmon, Dollar Stores and Big Lots. Some items are sold in multiples – this reduces the overall cost per bag.
- It is also important to stick to the list – Please use **TRAVEL SIZE** not Hotel size toiletries and 1 of each item unless stated otherwise.
- **Please do not** substitute or add additional items especially loose cotton balls.
- **Q-Tips, Band-Aids and Flossers** purchased in bulk should be divided into separate snack size bags to preserve cleanliness.
- **Please pack all food items** together in a smaller Ziploc bag.
- **Please** check expiration dates! Items should not expire before **March 2020!**
- We welcome **individual items** to help fill a Blessing Bag.
- Monetary donations are always welcome.
- We will gladly accept your donations from September 1st through November 4th, 2019.
- **Thank you for your continued support of the Blessing Bag Project!**

Each GALLON SIZE Ziploc Blessing Bag for an Adult should include:

| | |
|---|--|
| Travel size Toothpaste | Toothbrush |
| Travel size Mouthwash | Small Deodorant – generic scent please |
| Travel size Shampoo | Small Bar of Soap (not Family size, not hotel size) |
| Travel size Shave Gel | Disposable Razors – 2 generic |
| Travel size Lotion | Band-Aids – 8 |
| Travel Size Gold Bond Medicated Powder | Chapstick – non-flavored |
| Travel size Body Wash | Q-Tips – 1 travel pack or 30 Q-Tips in a snack size bag |
| Pocket Pack of Tissues | Small Dental Floss or 30 flossers in a snack size bag |
| Generic Comb or small brush | Travel Size Hand Sanitizer or Pocket Antibacterial wipes |
| Pack of Hand warmers - 1 | CHEWY Granola or Protein Bar - 1 |
| 2 small Slim Jims or 1 pack of Snack Crackers | Gum or Lifesavers – 1 pack |

Please add a note of encouragement or holiday cheer! Notes neatly decorated by children are a welcome addition.

DURING OUR BLESSING BAG PROJECT WE WILL ALSO COLLECT:

Warm Hats

Adults White Crew Length Socks

Warm Gloves

Blessing Bags, toiletries, hats, socks and gloves can be placed in the collection basket on the Street Level near the elevator or in The Orange Room across from the elevator.

FYI: we do collect **unused Hotel toiletries** for distribution throughout the year.

Please remember the homeless while you are traveling!

Hotel toiletries can be placed in our collection basket at any time.

Please bring your donations to Heart 'n Hands Mission at St. Timothy Lutheran Church
395 Valley Road, Wayne 973-694-8316 Mailbox #6



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.

And so the work of the Mission continues.



Love. Care. Serve.



Heart 'n Hands Mission

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