



Heart 'n Hands Mission

An Outreach Ministry of
St. Timothy Evangelical Lutheran Church
September 2021 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, a refugee assistance program in Paterson, and provide clothing for Veterans and their families also in Paterson. 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.

Summertime at Heart 'n Hands Mission



The summer months at Heart 'n Hands Mission were busy as we continued our social distancing and masking requirements. Fellowship Hall remained our base of operations utilizing the stage for organizing donations providing each volunteer with an individual work space throughout the room, while the Care Program organized all Amazon purchases, personal care items, and Blessing Bags in a separate Sunday School classroom. Pick-ups and deliveries were scheduled with our sites who continued to operate. We thank everyone who brought donations to the church, Bob Davidson and Kathy Knittel for making the deliveries, and all of the volunteers who gave their time on Monday mornings to prepare items for distribution.

We Need You!



Heart 'n Hands Mission is looking for volunteers! Are you looking for volunteer opportunities? Do you have an hour or two to spare? All are welcome to join our Monday Morning Sorting Team. There are many jobs to do each Monday morning from pre-sorting seasonal clothing, to sorting and folding clothing for distribution, to preparing Care Kits and toiletries, to moving filled boxes to our storage spaces, to loading and unloading the van. Bagging and staging donations for the three organizations that pick up at the Mission is another important part of our Monday morning routine. There are so many ways to help!

Several of our volunteers come every Monday from 9:00 – 11:30 am. Others come as they are able. Weekly sorting is crucial to our Mission so that we have enough clothing and toiletries prepared for each of our sites every month.

Please consider joining us on a Monday morning!

Delivery Drivers are Needed

We are grateful to our gathering sites that have been able to pick up donations on a regular basis. A few of our sites are not yet accepting clothing donations but we hope that with our vaccination progress in New Jersey that will change very soon. In the meantime, we have been spoiled by the efforts of Bob Davidson for taking on the task of delivering donations to Paterson, Passaic, Hoboken and WIN during the last year. As our sites open up and as we continue to accept donations and see our valuable sorting team members returning “to work,” we will need more willing supporters to deliver donations. Please speak with Bob or any Mission Board Member to learn how you can help this vital ministry.

Back to School

Our deliveries to Helping Hands Food Pantry in Passaic have suffered some setbacks during the spring and summer. Since the pandemic began, this food pantry has been providing nourishment outside. Once a month, the Mission brings clothing and other necessities to dozens of families who come for their weekly food box. Squelching heat, rain storms and food truck cancellations have at times prevented those most in need from receiving clothing, personal care items and most importantly, food. Fortunately, the Mission has been able to set up with tables and a canopy to provide some shelter for those that can come and has been able to provide lots of summer clothing, family size toiletries, diapers and wipes, and shoes. When asked what more we could do to help, Paula White, Director of the Food Pantry, said that the children could really use new backpacks for school. We were more than happy to fulfill that special request!



So, on Wednesday, August 11th – most fittingly during a lightening and thunderous rain storm, the Mission Board gathered at St. Timothy to fill 72 backpacks with folders, notebooks, pencils, erasers, glue sticks, markers, crayons, hand sanitizer and more. The backpacks were delivered the following week to Helping Hands to many grateful families. Additional school supplies were also delivered to Wayne Interfaith Network (WIN) courtesy of Board Member and bargain shopper (!) Lori VanDerStad and two generous angels who donated supplies anonymously.

On Saturday, August 28th, 24 backpacks, school supplies, masks and children’s clothing were also delivered to a Back To School event at the Union Baptist Church benefiting the United Passaic Organization (UPO) formerly the known as the First Presbyterian Church Food Pantry.

Refugee Assistance

In late August, we were contacted by Cliff Konnerth on behalf of Global Emergency Response and Assistance (GERA). Global Emergency Response and Assistance “has been supporting newly resettled refugees in New Jersey since 2015.” GERA was preparing to support the Afghan Refugees and were looking for clothing, family-size toiletries, diapers and wipes. We were happy to offer our assistance with supplies on hand and are waiting for more information from GERA about how we can provide further assistance. The following is more detailed information from Cliff:



GERA is closely monitoring the Afghan refugee situation and St. Timothy is looking for ways to best help. As you may know, they are currently housed and processed at several military bases throughout the country. Here is a link to a recent article explaining the situation:

<https://www.archynetys.com/the-united-states-adapted-eight-military-bases-as-temporary-shelter-for-afghans/>

Donations are being tightly controlled by the military for both COVID and domestic terrorism concerns. On August 28th I received an email for a collection date of specific items needed by August 29th. The military was sending a truck for the donations to the Islamic Center in Paterson. Despite the short notice, Heart 'n Hands was able to provide a car full of clothing and toiletries which I delivered. Much thanks goes to Cathe Davidson and Barbara Kaplan for responding so quickly.

Hopefully future collection dates will come with more notice. In the meantime, GERA always welcomes financial help for refugees and other needy populations in the area. If you feel called to help their website address is:

<https://www.gera-ngo.org/>

Thank for your past support of our new neighbors, I trust you join me in praying for peace and justice for all.

Remember it's, God's Work Our Hands

Cliff

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Masks Required



Heart 'n Hands Mission volunteers have been adhering to the indoor mask requirement for over a year. However, the St. Timothy Church Council has reinstated the mask requirement policy for everyone entering the building and for all church activities.

Heart 'n Hands Mission is collecting in-season, clean, wearable clothing and accessories. Your donations can be brought to Heart 'n Hands at St. Timothy Lutheran Church, 395 Valley Road, Wayne on **Monday mornings from 9 am to 11:30 am** when Mission volunteers are sorting. **Please wear a mask and ring the bell at the single glass door in the parking lot behind the church.** A Mission volunteer will come out to accept your donations.

Blessing Bag Program Update

Our ninth and final annual Blessing Bag Program is underway and there are several ways that you can support the program in 2021.

- 1 – You may make a monetary donation with “Blessing Bag Program” in the memo line.
- 2 – You may purchase individual items from the list on the next page and bring them to the HHM donation crate in the *Donation Station* on the street level of St. Timothy near the elevators.
- 3 – You may fill a Blessing Bag using the list on the next page.
- 4 – You may purchase bulk items through our Amazon Wish List link below and save yourself the trouble of shopping!



Any way you choose to participate will brighten the day of more than **350** homeless individuals we reach with our monthly distributions.

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

In addition, we hope to continue spreading cheer to our impoverished families as well with **family size toiletries**: shampoo, toothpaste, body wash and body lotion.

Donations of family size toiletries may also be placed in the HHM donation crate in the *Donation Station* on the street level of St. Timothy near the elevators.

The Blessing Bags and family size toiletries will be distributed during the month of December to all of our Gathering Sites.

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



Our Amazon Wish List is updated regularly to reflect the needs of the sites we deliver to each month and includes items that we do not typically receive through donations. We distribute these necessities to men’s homeless shelters, food pantries and community resources that serve homeless individuals and impoverished families. Our recent update includes items for our Blessing Bag Program.

Please take a look at our Wish List at [Heart ‘n Hands Mission Amazon Wish List](#) and see how you can help others in need. If you would prefer to make a monetary donation, you may send your donation to:

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

We thank all of our supporters who have donated items through our Amazon Wish List.



Heart 'n Hands Mission ~ Blessing Bag Program

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 \$1 or less 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 2022!**
- We welcome **individual items** to help fill a Blessing Bag.
- Monetary donations are always welcome.
- We will gladly accept your donations from ***July 1st through October 24th, 2021.***
- **Thank you for your continued support of the Blessing Bag Program!**

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

Travel size Toothpaste	Toothbrush - one individually wrapped
Travel size Deodorant	Toothbrush Cap* (new item on the list)
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

Adult Black Crew Length Socks

Warm Gloves

Blessing Bags, toiletries, hats, socks and gloves can be placed in the donation crate 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 donation crate 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 send our sincere thanks to our faithful **Monday Sorting Team Members** under the wonderful direction of **Barbara Kaplan**. We are so happy to have you back!

Our Monday Morning Sorting Team:

Lois Clapp, Carol Cook, Vicki Coyle, Cathe Davidson, Ellen Grexa, Pat Kaplan, Sarah Riotto, Ann Rocko and Lou Warner

Our Delivery Team members:

Bob Davidson and Kathy Knittel, Craig and Marie Beyer

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. We are incredibly grateful to all of you for your continued support.

Thank You

We send a huge thank you to everyone who has given so generously to Heart 'n Hands Mission. Every donation makes a difference to those who have so little.

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 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 Blessing Bag Program. A complete list will appear in our next newsletter.

And so, the work of the Mission continues.

