



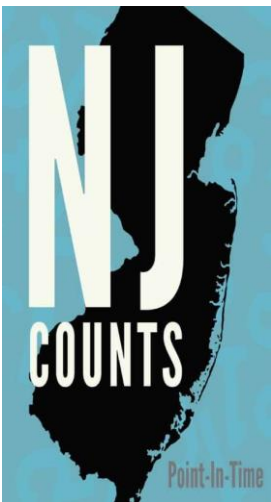
Heart 'n Hands Mission

An Outreach Ministry of
St. Timothy Evangelical Lutheran Church
Spring 2025 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 food pantries, soup kitchens and community outreach programs in Paterson, Passaic, Prospect Park, Haledon and Hoboken. We also assist the Broad Street Benches program in Elizabeth, the Light Up Project in Palisades Park, the Church Women United Food Pantry in Irvington, GERA – a refugee assistance program in Paterson, and Catholic Charities Supportive Services for Veterans and their families (SSVF). Located in Wayne, Heart 'n Hands Mission has been assisting people in need since 2010, now reaching more than **5,000** 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.

The POINT IN TIME Count



“The Point-in-Time (PIT) count is a count of sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness on a single night in January. HUD requires that Continuum of Care Programs conduct an annual count of people experiencing homelessness who are sheltered in emergency shelter, transitional housing, and Safe Havens on a single night. Each count is planned, coordinated, and carried out locally.”

“On the local level, point-in-time counts help communities plan services and programs to appropriately address local needs, measure progress in decreasing homelessness, and identify strengths and gaps in a community’s current homelessness assistance system.”

On January 23, 2024, the PIT Count identified 12,680 people experiencing homelessness in New Jersey. This was a 24% increase over 2023 and included 2,787 children under the age of 18 years old on the night of the count. **These statistics are tragic.**

This year, the count was taken on the very cold night of January 29th, 2025 when temperatures dipped down into the 20’s and although that data for New Jersey has not yet been published we know that

help is not coming fast enough to make a significant impact for the thousands experiencing homelessness across our country.

Among the services offered on the day of the PIT Count at Eva's Village in Passaic County were COVID-19 vaccines and flu shots, as well as information on housing, legal services, mental healthcare and job readiness. Approximately 150 homeless or at-risk individuals attended this event. Heart 'n Hands Mission was happy to support this effort once again through Catholic Charities – Supportive Services for Veteran Families in Paterson. Through several very generous donations we were able to provide 72 fleece jackets, 288 fleece-lined hats, 240 pairs of socks, 378 protein bars, 597 Care Kits (dental, shower, shave and feminine hygiene), 200 handwarmers and 144 toe warmers for the PIT count. Our only hope is that these items brought some level of comfort to our neighbors who are struggling.



In Memoriam

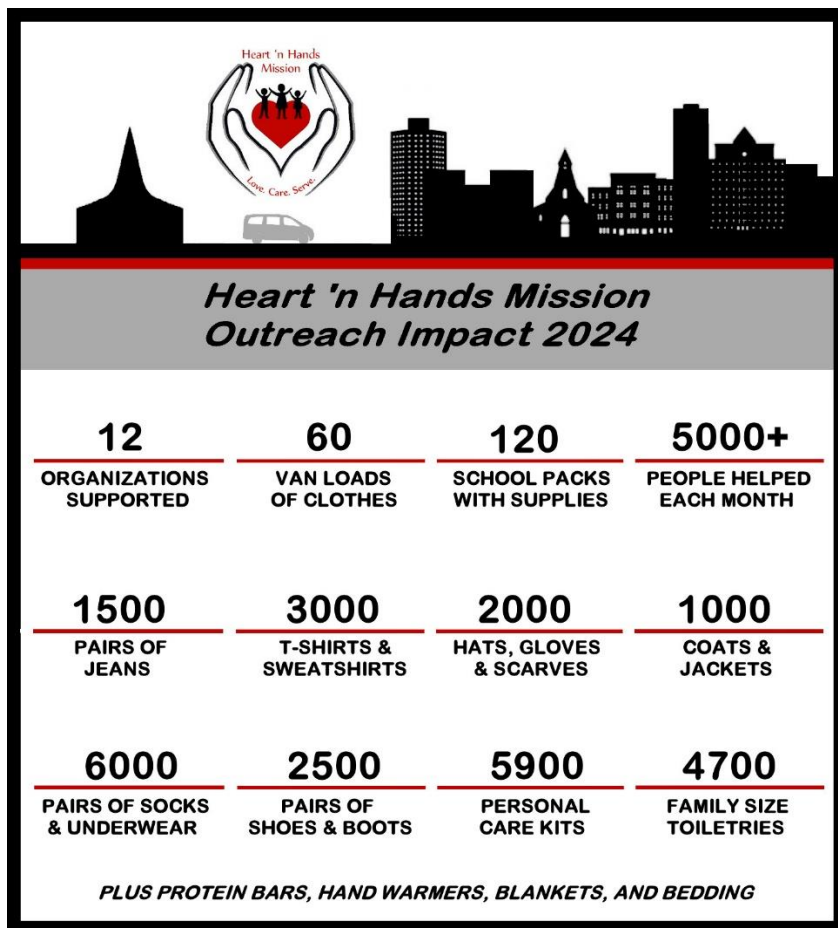


We often quote Helen Keller in our communications. "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." Even as a small group of volunteers, with the support of our St. Timothy community and supporters throughout our local area, we are able to provide relief and comfort to thousands of neighbors throughout the year. We enjoy fellowship in common purpose, we rejoice in sharing good news with one another, and grief in times of trial and loss. This is a time of loss as we mourn the death of Lou Warner.

At the age of 96, Lou was known as the "Shoe Man," a champion of serving others, coming to the mission each Monday to sort shoes and accessories, and taking home cases of socks to repack for distribution each month. He was truly a stalwart; loyal, reliable, and hardworking. He did all this with a smile and keen interest in everyone around him, contributing greatly to our fellowship and fun. He enjoyed spending time each week chatting with "his ladies," catching up on everyone's family during our weekly coffee break. They remember him fondly as "sweet, lovable Lou" and they will always cherish the handcrafted wood flowers and butterflies he gifted them.

We all miss Lou, but we can hold his memory as an example of how to serve others while serving with others. May God hold Lou in His gentle hands, and provide comfort to Barbara Kaplan and her family.

Heart 'n Hands Mission Outreach Impact 2024



Our dedicated team of volunteers made a huge impact in 2024 providing more necessities for the homeless and impoverished families than ever before.

We are truly grateful to every person who donated clothing, toiletries or gave a monetary donation to the Mission.

This graphic shows just a portion of what we were able to accomplish with your help and does not even specify the hundreds of shoes, boots, coats, jackets, suits, prom dresses, children's toys and books, hand and toe warmers, and more that have been purchased or donated and distributed.

We want to thank all of our 2024 volunteers: Barbara Kaplan, Lori VanDerStad, Bob and Cathe Davidson, Danette Andersen, Jane Carlson, Harry Jung, Cliff and Nancy Konnerth, Mary

Laverack, Donna Morano, Mona Mosser, Carol Munch, Linda Nassisi, Dale Paglinco and Maureen Sciolaro. We also thank Bob, Cliff, Nancy and Debbie Andersen for making deliveries throughout the year.

We have lost a big part of our Mission family in the last 6 months. Pat Kaplan and Lou Warner were an important part of our team who gave so much of themselves to the Mission. They played a huge role in our Outreach Impact last year and are truly missed by each one of us.

We are incredibly grateful to Barbara, Pat, Lou and all of you for your dedication and service to Heart 'n Hands Mission.

Our New Partner Organizations

Heart 'n Hands Mission continues to reach out to those in need in Northeast New Jersey. Several of our Mission volunteers are finding new organizations to assist as the numbers of those who are homeless, food insecure or have difficulty making ends meet continues to grow. Read about them on the next two pages!

Nourish NJ

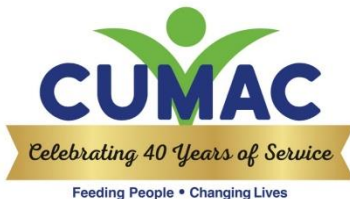
We received a lovely thank you from Heidi Griffie, Director of Volunteer Services of Nourish NJ, in Morristown. Nourish NJ has been serving the homeless community for four decades. They began serving soup and sandwiches and now offer healthy meals, as well as assistance with housing, medical needs and employment free of charge, 365 days a year. Nourish NJ is committed to creating “lasting solutions to the problems of hunger, homelessness and poverty.”



The message of thanks for a donation of handmade hats and scarves and toiletry kits came through our connection with **Mary Gannon** from **Broad Street Benches**. She shared some of the items the Mission provided to Broad Street Benches with Nourish NJ. We thank our volunteer, **Debbie Andersen**, who maintains our connection with Broad Street Benches delivering clothing and toiletry care kits throughout the year. We also thank Mary Gannon for sharing the donations furthering our reach and commitment to helping the homeless in New Jersey.

CUMAC

“CUMAC began its mission in the late 1970s when **Hugh Dunlop**, a Paterson teacher, noticed that his students could not focus in school due to a lack of adequate nutrition. With the helping hands of his church congregation, he began to collect food donations and started to chip away at the problem of hunger with his students and meet their needs. Hugh soon realized that the problem he saw among his students extended far beyond his classroom, but was **and still is** embedded in the community. A small pantry was created in Paterson to start alleviating this burden on individuals and families in his community.



In 1985, the Center of United Methodist Aid to the Community Ecumenically Concerned with Helping Others, **CUMAC/ECHO**, was incorporated.

Over the last 37 years, the small pantry that was started to provide emergency food has shifted to an anti-hunger organization that transforms lives through food justice...”

CUMAC/ECHO has a small clothing distribution area in addition to the large food pantry. Heart ‘n Hands Mission is happy to assist them with your good quality clothing donations.

Good Shepherd Mission

Mission volunteers **Cliff and Nancy Konnerth** made a connection with the **Good Shepherd Mission** in Paterson through Scout Troop 107. Good Shepherd is a men’s shelter that serves 30 clients. Although they are not in need of clothing at this time, they have requested toiletries and bedding. Heart ‘n Hands Mission was happy to provide deodorant, shampoo, body wash, soap, toothpaste and toothbrushes and bedding; and we thank Cliff and Nancy for making the delivery.



New Hope Community Ministries



NEW HOPE
COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

We would like to introduce another new partner organization – **New Hope Community Ministries** in Prospect Park. *“Through Christ’s love, New Hope empowers families to break through cycles of poverty and create a flourishing community. New Hope envisions a transformed community where individuals and families are safe, strong, self-sufficient, and experiencing God’s grace; where neighbors are reconciled racially, socially, and economically; and where people put aside their differences to work together to meet needs, affirm strengths, and develop leaders.”*

New Hope offers a food pantry to families in Prospect Park, North Haledon and Haledon 15% of whom experience food insecurity. According to our contact, **Morgan Herman**, New Hope opens the pantry twice each month providing food and necessities to 100 families. The clients have the opportunity to “shop for themselves,” selecting grocery items that fit their needs. Morgan tells us that personal hygiene items are not always readily available at the pantry and that’s where the Mission is able to help. With the help of our generous donors, we were able to provide toothbrushes and toothpaste, soap, shampoo, men’s and women’s deodorant and feminine hygiene products in March. We are grateful to Mission Volunteer **Lori VanDerStad** for making this connection and we look forward to developing this new partnership with New Hope Community Ministries.

MetroChurch



Cliff and Nancy Konnerth have also connected with **Pastor James Johansen**, Outreach Coordinator of **MetroChurch** in North Haledon. The Mission was happy to provide Pastor James with suits and other work-related clothing for their outreach ministry program. In April, Pastor James picked up a full load of clothing and then, Cliff and Nancy delivered full size personal care items for their Hygiene Outreach event at Turning Point, Inc. – an addiction treatment center. Pastor James reaches hundreds of people all over New Jersey. He serves without question to whomever is in need.

Love. Care. Serve.



Wayne Interfaith Network

“At Wayne Interfaith Food Network, we are dedicated to nourishing our community through the power of food. We are a nonprofit organization founded with the thought of our neighbors in mind. Through the support of multiple organizations and faiths, we are able to provide food for about one-hundred and seventy families every month. We strive to provide families with access to fresh, healthy food while also offering a safe and welcoming environment.” “The WIN Food Pantry provides assistance to those in need including working families, the disabled, seniors and others in our community who may be struggling with hunger, job loss, illness, accidents, the death of a loved one, or a reduction in their living standard because of a changing economy.”

Heart ‘n Hands Mission is happy to assist the Wayne Interfaith Network again this year with Shop Rite Gift Cards to distribute to local families in need in time for Passover and Easter.

Easter Baskets

Since 2019, **Amy and Demitri Mikelis**, owners of the **Montville Diner**, have been assembling Easter Baskets for our families in need. With the help of their daughters **Hannah and Georgina**, they have filled hundreds of **Easter Baskets** over the years with candy, snacks, stuffed animals and small toys - each lovingly prepared to brighten the day of the small children we serve. In addition, Amy cleans and sorts all of the **reading glasses** that are donated to the Mission, carefully labeling each one for distribution and has helped prepare **feminine hygiene kits** for the homeless. And if all that wasn't enough, Amy and Dimitri collect **monetary donations** from their patrons throughout the year to help the Mission continue to help those in need. We are truly grateful for all that they do to support Heart ‘n Hands Mission and to bring joy and comfort to those we see each month.



Girl Scout Gold Award

Once again, Heart ‘n Hands Mission was happy to assist a New Jersey Girl Scout in her pursuit of the highest award in Girl Scouts – the Gold Award. **Isabella** from **Troop 40590** in Scotch Plains is preparing a pop-up prom dress event for April 26th. Girls who live in the Scotch Plains area will be able to “shop” for a prom dress and accessories for their big event. The Mission was pleased to offer dresses, shoes and handbags and we wish Isabella much success in achieving her goal.





We send a special thank you to everyone who supports Heart 'n Hands Mission. Every donation makes a difference to those who have so little. We thank all of you who quietly leave donations at St. Timothy each week and those we see each

Monday who wish to be anonymous. Your support is invaluable to our mission and your donations bring joy and comfort to so many each month.

We also thank everyone who has given so generously to the Mission through monetary donations since our last newsletter. We especially thank those who have made donations in memory of dear friends:

Amy & Demetri Mikelis and the Patrons of the Montville Diner

Anonymous

John Steible in Memory of Pat Kaplan

Kathy Jones-Smith and Lenny Smith in Memory of Lou Warner

Carol Neilson in Memory of Lou Warner

Ellen Grexa in Memory of Lou Warner

Lois Clapp in Memory of Lou Warner

Janice Gardner of the Pines Lake Women's Club

We also thank the following people for their specific donations:

Karen & Tom Sajban – men's and women's new socks and travel toothpaste

Alice Huizinga – new socks

We thank **Carol and William Lindsay** for their very generous monthly donations of new t-shirts, underwear, socks, clothing, feminine products, new full-size personal care items, shopping bags & so much more! We also thank the **Pines Lake Women's Club** for all of their support and donations, and **Angela BeHarry** and **Glenn Schmidt** for delivering donations from **St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Secaucus**.

We thank Mission volunteer **Carol Munch** for delivering donations from her friends at the **Wayne Presbyterian Church** and **Scout Troop 107** for organizing and labeling all of our storage tubs and lids! That is such a time saver!

We send a huge thank you to **Jennifer Martinez** and **the employees of DSV** on Totowa Road in Totowa. For the second year, DSV conducted an employee collection and Jennifer arrived with 11 large boxes of clothing and new toiletries for the Mission. We are grateful to everyone at DSV for supporting us!

We also thank **Sandy DeRose** for her assistance in preparing Care Kits for distribution to St. Matthew's Lunchtime Ministry and full-size toiletries for New Hope Community Ministries, as well as **Henry McGrath** for volunteering his time on Monday mornings, and **Kayla and Jayden Fagan** for helping us prepare clothing on their day off from school!

We sincerely thank **Pastor Kimberly Schmidt Cooper, Office Manager Deb Califf** and the **St. Timothy Church Council** for their support and for allowing us to use a variety of spaces within the church buildings. The Mission is a big operation that requires a lot of space for sorting, staging for deliveries and storage. We can always use more help to quickly sort and prepare donations for delivery.

Please join us for an hour or two on Monday mornings. Our time together is fun and rewarding. We are always looking for volunteers to help sort clothing, assemble Care Kits, load the van or be a delivery partner.

Do you have an hour or two to spare on a Monday morning? Are you available for a few hours on a Monday or Tuesday to help with a delivery? Are you a member of a social group that would like to organize a collection or assemble and donate Care Kits for our homeless friends?

The Mission is open for sorting on Monday mornings from 9 am – 11:30 am. Deliveries are on Mondays and Tuesdays. Please speak to Barbara Kaplan or Bob Davidson to say, **“YES, I would love to help!”**



All are welcome to join the group for some fellowship, sharing, laughter, coffee and...
– all for a good cause! Any time you can give is truly appreciated and is always welcome!

Important Information about donations

Heart ‘n Hands Mission is **accepting spring and summer clothing only**. In addition, we **can no longer accept donations of toys or books or household goods**. We need to focus on the most urgent needs of those we serve - clothing and personal essentials. **Thank you for your understanding.**



Heart ‘n Hands Mission

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[Heart ‘n Hands Mission Amazon Wish List](#)

