



Heart 'n Hands Mission

An Outreach Ministry of St. Timothy Evangelical Lutheran Church 2024 YEAR END 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 the homeless in Newark, 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.

Stand Down Update

On Saturday, October 12, 2024, the JFK Recreation Center in Newark, New Jersey hosted the Northern NJ Veterans Stand Down event for Essex County. More than 300 Veterans: homeless, at risk and veterans in need of services, attended the Stand Down. Veterans were treated to lunch and had an opportunity to gather information on VA Healthcare, public benefits and housing. Medical screenings, mental health services and legal assistance were also available, as well as the Catholic Charities SSVF (Supportive Services for Veterans and Families) program.

Heart 'n Hands Mission was happy to support our Partner Organization, Catholic Charities SSVF, for their second Stand Down event this year. The Mission provided 300 full size toiletries (shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes with caps, body lotion and soap), 360 t-shirts, 200 pairs of men's and women's underwear, 624 pairs of socks, feminine hygiene products, over 450 dental, shower and shave care kits, and more than 330 protein bars for the Veterans who attended the Stand Down. We thank all of our generous supporters for their donations that helped contribute to the success of this event.

Pictures from the Stand Down Event



In Memoriam

We are deeply saddened to share that we have lost one of our own. Pat Kaplan passed away on October 8, 2024. Pat and his wife Barbara have been key volunteers of the Mission for many years. Pat was always willing to do whatever needed to be done for the Mission on any day of the week. On Monday mornings, he was the guy helping everyone carry in their heavy bags of donations. He was Barbara's right-hand man at the Mission, helping to organize the shed and the mountains of donations. Pat's generous spirit was a gift to us all and he is truly missed by all of our volunteers and those supporters we regularly see on Mondays. May Pat Rest in Peace from his labors.



Hilldale
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

We send a huge thank you to Tammy Minsky, Faculty Advisor of The Hilldale Kind Kids Club, and the students and faculty of Hilldale Elementary School in Pine Brook for their Socktober collection of warm socks. The Kind Kids Club collected a tremendous variety of socks for adults and kids. The socks were delivered to Christ House, an outreach ministry of St. Luke's Baptist Church in Paterson. Christ House provides clothing suitable for impoverished families as well as for adults seeking employment. Heart 'n Hands Mission is grateful to the Hilldale community for their generous donations.

Helping Those In Need



Blessed with an abundance of donations, Heart 'n Hands Mission was able to assist Christ the King Lutheran Church in Ringwood with three carloads of clothing to aid victims of Hurricane Helene. A tractor trailer was loaded up with donations of clothes, bedding and cleaning supplies and departed on November 10, 2024.

We thank Cliff and Nancy Konnerth for making this connection and for delivering the clothing to the church in Ringwood.

Generous Gifts

We have recently been blessed with numerous generous gifts. We were incredibly grateful to have the ability to purchase winter gloves and hats, fleece blankets, fleece jackets, youth hoodies, hand and toe warmers, men's and women's underwear, and sweatpants last month. Our homeless friends and impoverished families in need are grateful for the warmth and comfort that these gifts are bringing them during these frigid winter days and nights. We have also purchased personal care items for our Partner Organizations that will be delivered next month. In addition, we have provided assistance to those in our Wayne community and we are preparing supplies for the annual Point In Time event on January 29th. We sincerely thank these generous supporters and we will continue to use their gifts to provide specific needs for those we reach throughout the coming months.



A Mission Moment

By Bob Davidson

A few days ago, Cathe and I were out purchasing care kit supplies for the Mission. As we walked from the car to a small store entrance, we noticed a man standing in a corner off to the side, tucked out of the way, but didn't really give him much attention. Upon exiting the store with several bags, we saw his handwritten cardboard sign.



We loaded our bags into the car, and Cathe said, "I wish we had some care kits to give him. What if we ask him what he needs that we can get right now in this store, and just buy it for him?" So that's what we did. Mike said he needed some food. Not much, just something to get him through a day or two. While Cathe watched his possessions outside, I waited at the register. Mike arrived in a few minutes with a few items in his basket, saying, "This is enough for now." He thanked us wholeheartedly, and we left to deliver our purchases to the church.

While at the church we gathered a fleece jacket, a pair of insulated boots, heavy winter socks, protein bars and hand-warmers to take back to Mike. Again, he was grateful, noting that these things would help keep him warm.

I'm relating this as a way to thank all of you for the vital role you play in our ministry. Your donations of used clothing and boots, your monetary donations, many in memory of loved ones, all allowed us to help a person in his time of need in our own community. We often say the Lord works in mysterious ways, but His ways aren't really mysterious after all. Thank you again for helping us provide comfort and care where it is needed.



Our Amazon Wish List is updated regularly to reflect the needs of the sites we deliver to each month and includes items for our **Care Kit Program**. We thank everyone who has donated personal care items to this vital ministry through our Amazon Wish List and through their weekly donations.

Please 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 are grateful to Karen & Tom Sajban who have made a donation through the [Amazon Wish List](#) since our last newsletter. This donation of winter gloves and hats will bring much comfort to our homeless friends.



We send a special 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 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: Pat Kaplan, William Frank, Bob Carter and Bill Monsees.

Amy & Demetri Mikelis and the Patrons of the Montville Diner
Carol & William Lindsay
Carl & Margaretha Johnson
Carrol Norton
Anonymous
Marie Beyer & the Prudential Benevity Program
Mary Laverack
Carol Neilson
Barbara & Peter Johanson
The St. Timothy Endowment Fund
Paul Monsees & Cathy Ventrell-Monsees
Kevin & Terri Loftus
Marcia & Eddy Schloesser
Hudson Lutheran Charities, Inc.

Gifts in Memory of Pat Kaplan:

Valerie & Mark McGrath	Renee & Ron Gilbert	Nellie Matjucha
Carl & Margaretha Johnson	Karen & Jim Dombrowski	Ellen Grexa
Barbara & Walter Lichtenberger	Dale & John Brigandi	Vicki Coyle
Barbara & Peter Johanson	Joanne & Thomas Crosby	Carol Neilson
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Kortenhaus	Lois Clapp & Don Syme	Stu Anderson
Mr. & Mrs. David Webb	St. Timothy WELCA	Betty Pisani
William & Bette Jane Wosilius		

Lois Clapp & Don Syme – In Memory of William Frank, Bob Carter and Bill Monsees

We also thank the following people for their specific donations:

Marian Flotard – feminine hygiene products and dental supplies
Tita Lioni- dental supplies
Claire Choi – socks and personal care items
Marjorie Davidson - feminine hygiene products and dental supplies
Susan, owner of Together Nails in Wayne – dozens of new hair brushes
Lois Clapp, Carol Jung, Grace Marchisin and Lauren Castelli – 96 pairs of children’s socks
Carrol Norton – 50 hand-crocheted Caps for Kids
Camille Ludwig – hand-crocheted hats

We are so grateful to **Carol and William Lindsay** for their monthly donations of new t-shirts, 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 collecting and delivering vanloads of clothing.

Thank you to **Debbie Andersen** for delivering clothing and Care Kits to her connections with **Broad Street Benches** in Elizabeth, **the Light Up Project** in Palisades Park and to the **Church Women United Food Pantry** in Irvington. We are grateful to Debbie for these connections and for her willingness to deliver supplies where they are needed.

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. In fact, we had a few friends join us for just an hour or two – we thank **Angela BaHarry, Sandy DeRose** and **Alisa Corbett** for helping out. Any time you can give is always welcome!



Of course, we are truly thankful for our faithful Monday Morning sorters under the wonderful direction of **Barbara Kaplan**. We welcome our newest volunteers, **Danette Andersen** and **Nancy Konnerth**. Danette and Nancy have been wonderful additions to our team. We are incredibly grateful to our entire team for your dedication and for your time!

Our Monday Morning Sorting Team: Jane Carlson, Bob and Cathe Davidson, Ellen Grexa, Mary Laverack, Donna Morano, Mona Mosser, Carol Munch, Linda Nassisi, Dale Paglinco, Maureen Sciolaro, Lori Van Der Stad and Lou Warner!

Our Delivery Team: Bob Davidson, Cliff & Nancy Konnerth and Debbie Andersen

Our Staging and Loading Team members: Bob and Cathe, Barbara, Lori, Nancy and Cliff

Heart ‘n Hands Mission **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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www.heartnhandsmission.org
[Heart ‘n Hands Mission Amazon Wish List](#)