



# Heart 'n Hands Mission

An Outreach Ministry of  
St. Timothy Evangelical Lutheran Church  
2024 SPRING 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, 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.

## Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day



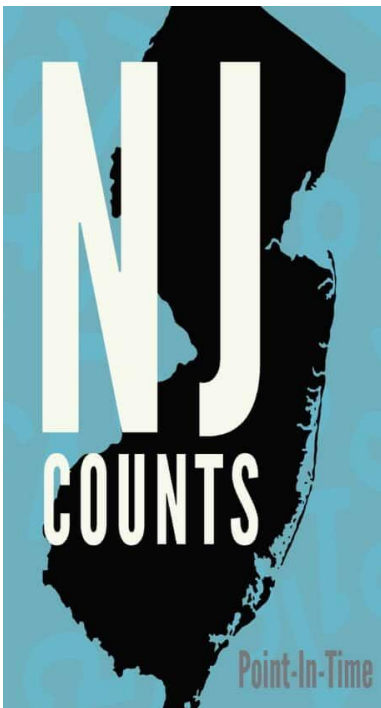
Heart 'n Hands Mission was busy on January 15, 2024. Donations were coming in, clothing was sorted, folded and boxed for delivery, out of season clothing was stored, care kits were made, a van full of clothing, coats, shoes, hand warmers and toiletries were delivered to 65 homeless friends at **St. Matthew's Lunchtime Ministry** in Hoboken, then the van was loaded for a delivery to **Helping Hands Food Pantry** in Passaic, and donations were staged for a pick up by **Community Outreach Services** in Paterson the following day. With all of that activity, it was wonderful to have a few more volunteers! We thank **Vicki Coyle, Tara Shannon and NHS student Rob Shannon** for helping us on their day off from school.

Love. Care. Serve.

## The Cedar Hill Community Helps Those In Need

The Fifth Grade Character Education Committee of Cedar Hill Elementary School in Towaco, New Jersey has been collecting toiletries and donations, and assembling blessing bags and care kits since 2015. Under the direction of **Trudy Coppola** and **Maureen Moran** the fifth graders organized a collection among all the classes, gathered and sorted the donations, and assembled care kits for the homeless. This year they assembled **148 Care Kits** and sorted dozens of full-size toiletries including toothpaste, toothbrushes, body wash, shampoo and soap for the Mission. Donations also included 59 dental packs, 9 full travel kits, protein bars, extra razors and Band-Aids, cotton balls and sandwich bags. We send our sincerest thanks to Trudy, Maureen, the Character Ed Committee, the faculty, students and parents for their very generous donations!

### The POINT IN TIME Count



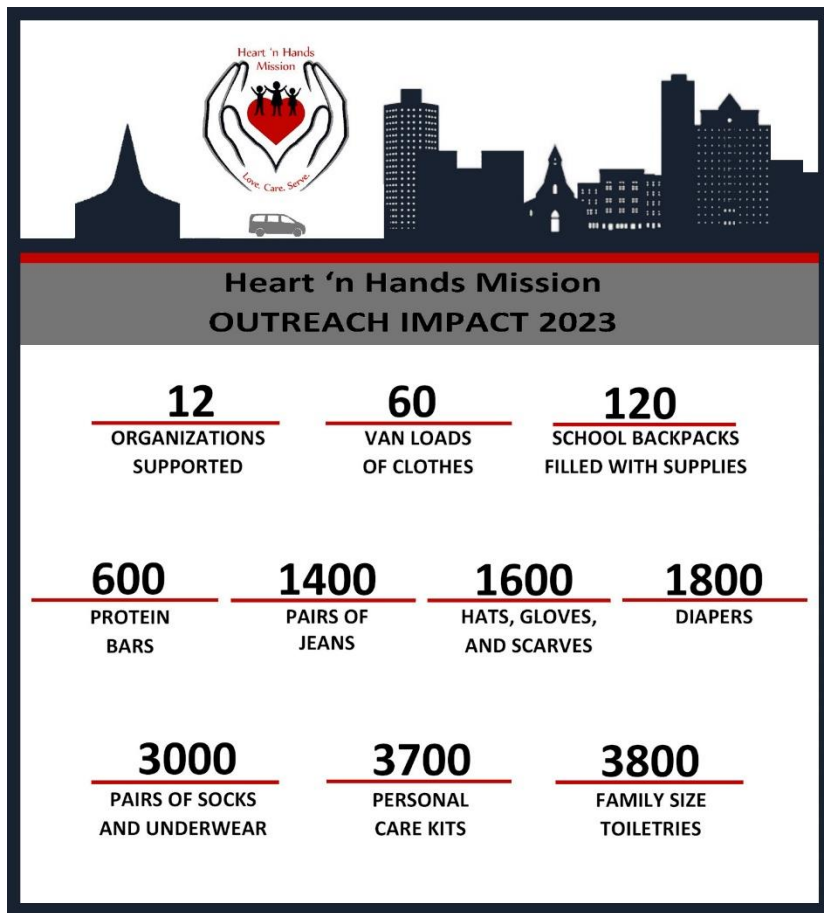
“The Point-in-Time (PIT) count is a count of sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness on a single night in January. HUD requires that Continuum of Care Programs conduct an annual count of people experiencing homelessness who are sheltered in emergency shelter, transitional housing, 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 25, 2022**, there were **8,754** persons experiencing homelessness on a single night in the State of New Jersey.” Of that number, 1,750 were chronically homeless, 471 were homeless veterans, 1,072 were victims of domestic violence and 1,824 were children under 18 years old.

The annual point-in-time count last year took place on **January 24, 2023** when New Jersey reached a heartbreaking milestone for the first time in nearly a decade, a total of **10,267 people identified as homeless**. Of that number, **2,479 children** under the age of 18 years old were experiencing homelessness. These statistics are tragic.

This year, the count was taken on the cold and rainy night of January 31<sup>st</sup> and although that data has not yet been published we know that help is not coming fast enough to make a significant impact in those numbers. Heart ‘n Hands Mission was happy to support this effort once again through Catholic Charities – Supportive Services for Veteran Families in Paterson. Through very generous donations we were able to provide 381 care kits, 258 protein bars, 120 pairs of socks, 242 pairs of underwear and t-shirts, 296 full size personal hygiene items, 157 handwarmers and 200 face masks for the PIT count. Our only hope is that these items brought some level of comfort to our neighbors who are struggling.



## Heart 'n Hands Mission Outreach Impact 2023

Our dedicated team of sorters, shoppers, assemblers and deliverers were able to make a huge impact in 2023 providing necessities for the homeless and impoverished people we reach each month.

We are truly grateful to every person who donated clothing and toiletries, gave a monetary donation or donated through our Amazon Wish List.

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

We want to thank the **St. Timothy Youth Group** and the **5th Grade Character Education Committee of Cedar Hill School in Towaco** for their assistance in assembling personal care kits last year and, of course **our 2023 sorters**: Barbara and Pat Kaplan, Lou Warner, Lori VanDerStad, Bob and Cathe Davidson, Jane Carlson, Lois Clapp, Carol Cook, Ellen Grexa, Mary Laverack, Donna Morano, Mona Mosser, Carol Munch, Linda Nassisi and Maureen Sciolaro. We also thank Bob Davidson, Debbie Andersen, Cliff Konnerth, Compton Cooper and Henry McGrath for helping with our deliveries throughout the year.

We are incredibly grateful to all of you for your dedication and service to Heart 'n Hands Mission. We could not accomplish this much without each one of you!

## Update on Hanger Donations and Insulated Food Delivery Bags!

We are grateful for all of the past donations of hangers. Please do not send more at this time. Thank you.



We continue to collect clean silver food delivery bags. Please save them for us. How we use them is a secret but we are so grateful for them!





## Easter Blessings

We were blessed with a donation of 48 Easter bags and baskets filled with all kinds of treats from candy and snacks to toys to stuffed animals. We want to thank **Amy Mikelis**, one of our Mission Angels, for this truly thoughtful donation. These fun-filled baskets were delivered a few days later to a grateful group of parents at **Christ House** in Paterson. We are sure that these gifts brought smiles to many children in need on Easter morning! We also want to thank Amy for once again cleaning and organizing all of our donated eyeglasses. Everything looks brighter and clearer for the future!!



## Let Us Introduce our Partner Organizations

**The St. Paul's Community Development Corporation (SPCDC) Emergency Men's Shelter** in Paterson provides emergency housing, clothing and food to as many as 40 homeless men per night. The shelter relies on volunteer support from nearly 30 area churches and civic organizations who supply prepared food, hot meals and personal necessities.

The shelter provides referrals for housing, employment, mental health, rehabilitation services, personal finances, medical needs, and legal assistance. The shelter's ultimate goal is to work with clients to identify the root causes of their homeless condition and give them a sense of control over their own futures and help them take responsibility for their own goals.

The SPCDC Emergency Men's Shelter serves between 60 and 80 homeless men each year, providing more than 22,000 meals, and over 3,000 hours of counseling.

With your support, we continue to provide jeans, socks, underwear, detergent, blankets, and personal care items to the shelter on a regular basis.

## Hudson Lutheran Charities Donation

We are truly grateful to **Hudson Lutheran Charities, Inc.** for their continuing support. Since our December Newsletter, we have been able to purchase these additional items for our partner organizations: protein bars, Care Kit supplies and full-size toiletries for the April Stand Down Day, hand warmers, t-shirts for adults and children, men's and women's socks and underwear.

**The Stand Down** is an event run by the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. Our Partner Organization, **Catholic Charities Supportive Services for Veterans and their Families (SSVF)** is a proud participant. One of the goals of Stand Down Day is to provide clothing, supplies, access to healthcare, counseling and social services to enable homeless and at-risk veterans to re-enter mainstream society.

We thank Hudson Lutheran Charities, Inc. for enabling Heart 'n Hands Mission to support this worthy cause this year.



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**. In 2023, we assembled and distributed **3,700 Care Kits** (men's & women's shower, men's & women's shave, dental and feminine hygiene kits) to our homeless friends – **nearly 1,300 more than in 2022!**

We thank volunteer **Maureen Sciolaro** for helping to make this happen as well as 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 the following people who have donated through the [Amazon Wish List](#) since our last newsletter. These donations of moisture wicking socks, protein bars, shave cream, toothbrushes, toothpaste and personal hygiene products bring such comfort to our homeless friends.

The Schloesser Family  
Karen & Tom Sajban

Mary Stevens



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.

Monetary donations literally help keep the Mission moving by supporting our aging van and our desire to provide specific needs to those we reach each month. Since our December 2023 Newsletter, we have received monetary donations from the following supporters:

Terri & Kevin Loftus	Nan Guptill Crain in honor of Kathy Knittel
Carrol Norton	Paul Monsees & Cathy Ventrell-Monsees
Carol Nielson	Hudson Lutheran Charities, Inc.
Alice Huizinga	St. Timothy Benevolence Fund
Barbara & Peter Johanson	
Amy & Demetri Mikelis and the Patrons of the Montville Diner	

We also thank the following people for their specific donations:

Donald Spitzer, D.D.S. – toothpaste, toothbrushes and dental floss  
Claire Choi – Gold Bond lotion, powder and new socks  
Tita Lioni, Jennifer Carr & Sabrina Rosendahl – dental products  
Beth & David Johns – feminine hygiene products and medicated powder  
Alice Huizinga – new socks  
Shari Dziekan – new blankets  
RSV Logistics Co., Wayne – men’s socks, coats and clothing  
Dr. Cory Wanatick - Toothpaste, Polident and Fixodent Denture Packets

Once again, we thank **Margo** and the **Pines Lake Women’s Club** for collecting and delivering vanloads of clothing, **Marty** for his regular donations to the Mission and **Carol and William Lindsay** for their monthly donations of new t-shirts, socks, clothing, new full-size personal care items & so much more!

We 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 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.



Of course, we are truly thankful for our faithful Monday Morning sorters under the wonderful direction of **Barbara Kaplan** and we welcome our newest volunteer, **Dale Paglinco!** We are so grateful for your time!

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

Our Delivery Team: Bob Davidson and Cliff Konnerth

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

We are incredibly grateful to all of you for your dedication and service to Heart ‘n Hands Mission.

Seek opportunities to show you care. The smallest gestures often make the biggest difference.

*John Wooden*

meetville.com



### Heart ‘n Hands Mission

St. Timothy Lutheran Church  
395 Valley Road, Wayne, NJ 07470  
973-694-8316 Mailbox #6

[info@heartnhandsmission.org](mailto:info@heartnhandsmission.org)

[www.heartnhandsmission.org](http://www.heartnhandsmission.org)

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

