



Heart 'n Hands Mission

An Outreach Ministry of
St. Timothy Evangelical Lutheran Church
DECEMBER 2023 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, we have begun our fourteenth year of service, 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.

Sad News

It is with deep sadness that we acknowledge the passing of one of our faithful volunteers, Carol Cook, last September. Carol, an active member of St. Timothy Lutheran Church, served on the gardening committee, helping beautify the property with her green thumb, for many years. She volunteered with Heart 'n Hands Mission for the past nine years, helping to sort clothing and prepare it for delivery. Carol was also a long-time volunteer with Wayne Interfaith Network where she served as President. Her commitment to help those less fortunate spanned decades and we are forever grateful for her support and her friendship.



Let Us Introduce our Partner Organizations

In the spring, we began highlighting our Partner Organizations so our supporters could learn a bit about the organizations and people we are able to help each month through their generous donations. Our first highlight was **Community Outreach Services, Inc.** in Paterson. The second was Christ House, also in Paterson. Both of those organizations are relatively new to our Heart 'n Hands Mission family. Then we introduced you to St. Matthew's Lunchtime Ministry in Hoboken. We have been working with the homeless in Hoboken for over 13 years. And now, we would like you to learn about another partner with whom we have been working for over 13 years...

Helping Hands Food Pantry



Helping Hands Food Pantry has been operating for many years at Williams Chapel AME Zion Church of Passaic. Under the direction of Paula White and her husband Willie Pickett, the pantry serves over 50 families in the local community. In addition to food distribution, they host Heart 'n Hands Mission once each month, and

we distribute clothing, outerwear, shoes, bedding, personal care items and more.

During the pandemic the church suffered flood damage to their basement hall. Since that time, our year-round deliveries are in the parking lot, with items set out on many tables. In November, we also delivered toys and books collected throughout the year, with a full crew of helpers.



Pictured left to right in the front row are Pat Kaplan, Paula White, Lou Warner and Barbara Kaplan, with Art DeRose and Cliff Konnerth behind them

Hudson Lutheran Charities Donation

We were truly grateful to receive a sizable donation from **Hudson Lutheran Charities, Inc.** in the spring. Since our Fall Newsletter, we were thrilled to purchase these additional items for our partner organizations:

St. Matthew's Luchtime Ministry – winter hats & gloves, men's & women's underwear, Care Kits

Christ House – kids hoodies and sweatshirts, Care Kits

Supportive Services for Veterans and their Families (SSVF) – protein bars, winter hats & gloves, men's & women's underwear, body wash and other full size personal care items, Care Kits

Helping Hands Food Pantry – toothpaste, shampoo

St. Paul's Community Corp. Men's Shelter – body wash, shampoo, toothpaste, winter hats & gloves

Community Outreach Services – Care Kits, bar soap, toothpaste

Wayne Interfaith Network – Shop Rite Gift Cards in memory of our faithful volunteer, Carol Cook

Broad Street Benches – Care Kits, winter hats & gloves

Light Up Project - Care Kits, winter hats & gloves

We humbly thank Hudson Lutheran Charities, Inc. for this wonderful gift that has provided so many individuals and families with clothing, school supplies, winter gear, grocery necessities and personal care items to help ease their burden, give comfort and assistance throughout this past year.

A Mission Moment

A special thank you to Compton Cooper who volunteered his service hours to accompany Bob Davidson on a delivery to St. Matthew's Luchtime Ministry in Hoboken.

A Morning with Heart 'n Hands Mission

By: Compton Cooper

On Monday, October 30, I had an opportunity to spend the morning working with Bob Davidson and Heart 'n Hands Mission. On the agenda for that day was a trip to St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Hoboken. St. Matthew's has a thriving lunchtime ministry, where they serve meals to the homeless and food insecure in the local community every Monday through Thursday.

Bob and I arrived with a van-load of donated clothing items, including winter coats, sweatshirts, socks, underwear, knit caps, and gloves. We had our distribution tables setup by the time everyone was finishing their lunch. There was a large, diverse crowd in attendance, and they came up in small groups to receive the donations. I immediately fell in love with everyone there. I could tell most were regular attendees to the lunch program because they all interacted as one big family. They were delightful to talk to, grateful for the donations, and sometimes had a great sense of humor. One woman was trying to convince me to roll her home on the equipment dolly so she wouldn't have to take the bus. I thought she was serious at first, but then she burst out with a deep laughter that had me laughing in turn.

I'm grateful for the morning off work to help out with Heart 'n Hands Mission. It was a wonderful experience, and I was glad to see God's love put into action. Thanks to Bob for allowing me to tag along, and to the hard work of the entire Heart 'n Hands team who organize the donations and make this ministry possible!

St. Timothy Youth Group in Action

On Sunday, November 5, three St. Timothy youth assembled 253 dental care kits in 45 minutes. Gloria Cooper, Caroline Corbett, and Maggie Cooper were a great team, organizing an efficient assembly line that would have impressed Henry Ford himself! And as you see, they had more than a little fun doing it. Thank you Gloria, Caroline, and Maggie for your support.



Love. Care. Serve.

A Songbird Trio Benefit Concert

The Songbird Trio, comprised of Kathy Knittel, Joan Bujacich and Joe Bilotti, performed a benefit concert for us on Saturday, November 18 at St. Timothy. Their set featured selections from Kathy's CD *A Songbird's Christmas* and familiar singer/songwriter tunes from the 60's and 70's. It was an afternoon of wonderful music and fellowship. We are extremely grateful for everyone's support of the concert, and send a big holiday thank you to Kathy, Joan, and Joe.



**SOCKS ARE
THE #1 MOST
REQUESTED ITEM
IN HOMELESS
SHELTERS**



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**. As of this publication, we have assembled and distributed **3,085 Care Kits** (men's & women's shower, men's & women's shave, dental and feminine hygiene kits) to our homeless friends this year and

December is not over yet! 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 the following people who have donated through the Amazon Wish List since our last newsletter. These donations of personal care items bring such comfort to our homeless friends. Since our Fall newsletter, we have received body wash, lotion and protein bars!

Marion Flotard

Karen & Tom Sajban

Anonymous



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.

Since our Fall Newsletter, we have received monetary donations from the following supporters:

Anonymous

Carl and Margaretha Johnson

Patrons of the Montville Diner

Lois Clapp In Memory Of Carol Cook

Lois Clapp & Don Syme In Memory Of Jesse Saifman

WELCA - Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America

Carol & William Lindsay

We also thank the following people for their special donations:

We wish to thank **Claire Choi** for all of her donations during our Monthly Collection program this year.

Thank you to **Grace Marchisin, Lois Clapp, Carol Jung, Lauren Castelli** and **Marsha Perry** for their generous donation of socks.

Thank you to **Carrol Norton** for her donation of 50 handmade kids' caps and three car blankets.

Once again, we thank **Margo** and the **Pines Lake Women's Club** for collecting and delivering vanloads of clothing, 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 want to thank **Mike Pontidis** of **Elevate Perception** for his expertise in updating our website.

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.

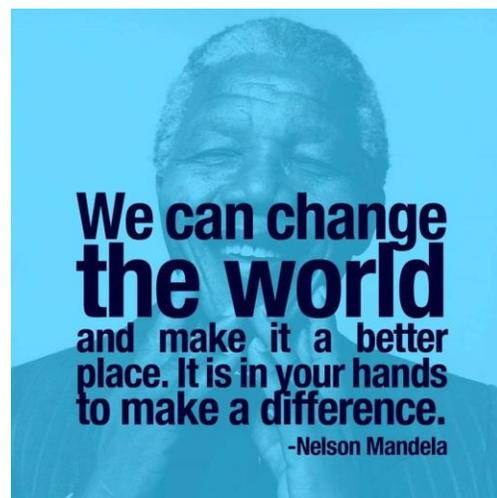
And of course, we are truly thankful for our faithful Monday Morning sorters under the wonderful direction of **Barbara Kaplan**. We are so grateful for your time!

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.



From All of Us at Heart 'n Hands Mission...



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