



Heart 'n Hands Mission

An Outreach Ministry of
St. Timothy Evangelical Lutheran Church
FALL 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 **4,000** 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.

Our Monthly Collection Program

We sincerely thank all who have donated to our monthly collection program. Our homeless friends are always grateful for your gifts. Please keep our monthly collections in mind when you are shopping. Every donation makes a difference to those who are struggling.

September – travel size lotion

October – travel size body wash or boxed soap

November – protein bars

December – travel size medicated powder



St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Secaucus

St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Secaucus has become a wonderful support system for Heart 'n Hands Mission. Encouraged by the relationship between our own **Barbara and Pat Kaplan** and **Angela Beharry and Glenn Schmidt** of St. Matthew's, we have received countless donations over the past year. During a recent visit, they arrived with a vanload of donations from the church and several other connections which included everything from diapers to clothing to personal care items and snacks. We are grateful to Angela and Glenn and the St. Matthew community for assisting in our mission to extend help to those in need.

Cedar Hill Character Education Committee

We thank the members of the **Cedar Hill Character Education Committee**, the faculty, the entire student body and their families for their very kind and generous gifts to Heart 'n Hands Mission. For the last nine years, the CEC, under the direction of teachers **Trudy Coppola and Maureen Moran**, and initially spear-headed by former teacher **Dr. Cathy Lundquist**, has organized, collected and assembled personal care donations from each class at Cedar Hill Elementary School in Towaco. This year the committee assembled 57 complete Care Kits (shave, dental and shower) and an additional 84 partial Care Kits, as well as collecting family size donations and extra supplies. What a tremendous effort! In addition to these Care Kits, the Cedar Hill Character Education Committee has assembled 228 Blessing Bags and collected nearly \$400 to purchase full size toiletries for 156 families since 2015. We are grateful to all who have participated in these projects.



St. Matthew's Lunchtime Ministry in Hoboken

Bob Davidson and Cliff Konnerth deliver to St. Matthew's in Hoboken each month. This picture and blurb were posted on their Facebook page after Bob and Cliff delivered to them in May.

“Multiply the boxes in this picture by ten, and you'll get an idea of how many clothes and hygiene items (seasonal, sensible, and packed with love) Heart 'n Hands Mission brings us every month. We are so thankful for them and can't wait to see them tomorrow!”

Hudson Lutheran Charities Donation

We were sincerely grateful to receive a sizable donation from **Hudson Lutheran Charities, Inc.** in Secaucus last spring. During the summer we were thrilled to be able to purchase these new items to fulfill special requests for our partner organizations:

St. Matthew's Lunchtime Ministry – men's & women's jeans, underwear and socks, performance t-shirts, Care Kits

Christ House – 120 School backpacks with supplies, men's & women's jeans, kids T's and adult performance t-shirts, diapers and baby wipes

Supportive Services for Veterans and their Families (SSVF) – protein bars, men's & women's underwear, socks, Care Kits

Helping Hands Food Pantry – shampoo, bar soap, men's & women's deodorant, school supplies

St. Paul's Community Corp. Men's Shelter – jeans, shaving cream, shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, toilet paper, bar soap

Community Outreach Services – shampoo, men's & women's deodorant, bar soap

Wayne Interfaith Network – Shop Rite gift cards

Additional monies will be used to fulfill seasonal needs for our partner organizations during the fall and winter. We humbly thank Hudson Lutheran Charities, Inc. for this wonderful and generous gift.

Love. Care. Serve.

WE NEED FOOD DELIVERY BAGS!

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



AND CASUAL SHOES!

Our homeless friends are always in need of good supportive shoes – **sneakers, hiking boots and hiking shoes** in good, wearable condition.

Our sites that serve homeless populations also regularly request socks, new underwear, and t-shirts. Please consider donating these necessities – especially for men!

Let Us Introduce our Partner Organizations

St. Matthew's Lunchtime Ministry

Heart 'n Hands Mission has been supporting this Hoboken ministry since we began. Each month we deliver men's and women's clothing, outerwear, shoes, socks, personal care kits and more to 80 or more guests. We typically lay things out on tables on their stage and assist the guests in finding what they need. During the pandemic, we maintained our monthly deliveries so that LTM could give their guests what they needed as part of their meal-to-go program.

Lunchtime Ministry (LTM) was started in the 1970's by the people of St. Matthew Trinity Church to provide a warm meal, a compassionate community, and a peaceful place to rest. Four mornings a week, Lunchtime Ministry shares breakfast and lunch in a safe place where everyone is treated with dignity and respect. The guests always express their gratitude for our assistance, which we are passing along to all of you, our faithful supporters. Your donations make a significant difference in their lives.



Halloween Costumes

We are always looking for Halloween Costumes in good condition for our impoverished families. Each year, Barbara Kaplan organizes and prepares the costumes for distribution in September and October. Please think about donating some of your children's costumes from previous years and help make this Halloween special for those in need. The deadline for Halloween costume donations is October 2nd. Thank you.



Children's Winter Coats

Help us bring warmth and comfort to children this winter. We will be collecting children's warm, clean, wearable coats for the young ones that are served by our partner organizations. The coats will be distributed in November and December. Please go through your closets and consider donating coats that your children have outgrown. Thank you! Adult coats are always welcome as well!

Care Kit Program

Heart 'n Hands Mission is focused on providing much-needed Care Kits on a regular basis throughout the year to our sites that provide services to the homeless. Our goal is to assemble a minimum of 250 Care Kits for distribution every month. Each Care Kit fits in either a sandwich or quart size food storage bag. Our homeless friends depend on these donations to help them maintain good health and hygiene.

Each Care Kit contains 1-to-2-ounce travel size items. See examples below:



We also assemble Care Kits of feminine hygiene products. These kits include a variety of pads, liners, tampons and feminine wipes. Our homeless women are so grateful for these monthly essentials.

Assembling Care Kits can be a wonderful service project for groups of any age! Please refer to the examples above and consider supporting this vital program. And please remember the homeless when you get back to traveling! New, unused hotel toiletries are always needed as well!



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 **1,944 Care Kits** (men's & women's shower, men's & women's shave, dental and feminine hygiene kits) to our homeless friends this year. 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 Spring newsletter, we have received sunscreen, flossers, Pert shampoo, deodorant, antibiotic ointment, and 500 razors!

Marion Flotard
Anonymous

Charles Joseph Bedi

Karen & Tom Sajban

Thank You

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 Spring Newsletter, we have received monetary donations from the following supporters:

Carrol Norton	Airbus Americas Inc.	Prudential Benevity Program
Patrons of the Montville Diner	Mary Laverack	St. Timothy Endowment Fund
Carol Munch		
Kathy Jones-Smith & Lenny Smith in honor of faithful HHM volunteer Lou Warner's 95 th birthday		

We have also received these special donations:

Trudy Coppola – new bags of cotton balls, bedding, sleeping bags, backpacks and duffle bags

Jan Demarino – new bras and underwear, jeans and other clothing

Claire Choi – socks, toothbrushes, flossers and sunscreen

Anonymous – 2 cases of Single Use Towelettes

Marion Flotard – new women's clothing, personal care items

St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Secaucus – 4 cases of Brookstone Foaming Hand Sanitizer Bottles

Anonymous – 1,050 Face Masks and personal care items

Dr. Spitzer – toothpaste, toothbrushes and flosser handles with refills

Camille Ludwig - handcrafted hats and scarves

Anonymous – full size personal care items, feminine hygiene products, hotel toiletries

Once again, we thank **Margo** and the **Pines Lake Women's Club** for collecting and delivering vanloads of clothing, and **Mr. and Mrs. William Lindsay** for their monthly donations of new t-shirts, socks, clothing, new full-size personal care items & so much more!

And we thank **Austin Murphy** and his lovely wife for their donations and the treats they bring for the Monday Morning volunteers!

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.

We were happy to have **Vicki Coyle** join us again on Mondays during her time off this summer as well as, our newest volunteer **Carol Munch!** Thank you Vicki and Carol for joining us!

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, Carol Cook, Bob and Cathe Davidson, Ellen Grexa, Pat Kaplan, Mary Laverack, Donna Morano, Mona Mosser, 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.

We all are called for service, to witness in God’s name. Our ministries are different; our purpose is the same: to touch the lives of others with God’s surprising grace, so every folk and nation may feel God’s warm embrace.

Rusty Edwards



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

