



Heart 'n Hands Mission

An Outreach Ministry of
St. Timothy Evangelical Lutheran Church
June 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 provide clothing for Veterans and their families through Catholic Charities in Paterson, Passaic and Clifton. We are in our thirteenth year of service in Wayne, 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 New Monthly Collection Program

In January, we began our monthly collection. We sincerely thank all who donated warm gloves, socks, travel shaving cream, toothbrushes, toothpaste and deodorant to the Mission. Our homeless friends were grateful for your gifts. In June, we are asking for donations of travel size sunscreen. Please keep our monthly collections in mind when you are shopping. Every donation makes a difference to those who are struggling.

- June – travel size sunscreen
- July – travel or full-size shampoo
- August – dental floss or flossers
- September – travel size lotion
- October – travel size body wash or boxed soap
- November – protein bars
- December – travel size talc free powder



Blessings and Challenges

April began with Lenten and Easter Blessings. We received dozens of Blessing Bags from all of the students at **Our Lady of Mount Carmel School in Boonton** who collected personal care items, socks and snacks, and assembled the Blessing Bags for their Lenten Offering. We thank the students and Assistant Headmaster of Academics, **Heather Golinski** for their ongoing support of the Mission. They have been donating Blessing Bags for their Lenten Offering for five years! These gifts were distributed to our homeless friends at **St. Matthew's Lunchtime Ministry** in Hoboken and **Christ House** in Paterson who were thrilled with their bags of blessings.

We were blessed again with a call from another one of our Angels and a longtime supporter of the Mission, **Amy Mikelis**. Not only did Amy deliver a donation from the patrons at her **Montville Diner**, but she also delivered Easter baskets for our young friends in need. Amy assembled 31 Easter Baskets with candy, toys, stuffed animals and more. Amy has been a champion of the Mission since 2016! These fun-filled baskets were delivered a few days later to an extremely grateful group of parents at **Christ House**.

We are so fortunate to have supporters who are dedicated to helping others in need and who continue to bless us with gifts to share with the special people we reach each month. Thank you Heather and Amy!

Easter Blessings



Our April challenge came when we realized that our delivery van needed new tires. Last year was a new battery and new brakes and rotors. This year new tires – UGH!! Well, it is a 2007 after all and it continues to serve us well. We thank **Don Testa** of **D & T Auto** in **Lincoln Park** for servicing our van. We hope that with a little extra TLC it will make our deliveries for a good long time. Fingers crossed!

Christ House in Paterson

We'd like to introduce you to another of our partner organizations that benefit from your continuing support of Heart 'n Hands Mission – Christ House, part of the St. Luke Community Development Corporation of Paterson. Heart 'n Hands Mission connected with Christ House in February 2022 through a friend whose grandmother is a member of St. Luke Baptist Church in Paterson. In late April, Bob Davidson sat down with Christ House Director Danny Webster to talk about their mission and our work together serving the Paterson community.

St. Luke Community Development Corporation was established by St. Luke Baptist Church in 1997 under the direction of the Rev. Kenneth D.R. Clayton. The mission of SLCDC is to serve as an agent of hope, help and healing in the City of Paterson. *"We exist to improve the quality of life of city residents, create a better community and to empower individuals to live self-sufficient lifestyles with the proper skills and tools to live."*

Christ House opened in 1998 as a Food and Clothing Distribution Center. The center provides fresh food and quality pre-owned clothes to community residents in need. Food is provided by community donations and local partnerships including the North Jersey Food Bank. Clothing is provided by private donations, Heart 'n Hands Mission and other local partnerships. They serve more than 300 local families each month, providing support to 1500 people. Currently, 75% of their clients are refugees resettling in the community.



Director Danny leads a team of twenty volunteers at Christ House to prepare clothing, stock the pantry shelves, and guide clients in selecting food and clothing. He began volunteering in 2016 and became director in September 2021. A lifelong member of St. Luke's Baptist Church, Danny grew up in Paterson, and with his father had a neighborhood barber shop for many years. He has always been a central part of the local community.

Danny feels blessed to be chosen for this work and is passionate about their mission. He energetically encourages the team to provide cheerful service in a friendly and compassionate setting, and wants everyone to enjoy coming to Christ House. As Danny says, his "dedication and joy come from providing light as an example of God's grace."



This spring, Danny is leading the team in creating a community vegetable garden in the yard adjacent to their building. With help from community members, they will grow fresh produce to supplement their weekly food distributions. Children attending St. Luke's summer camp program will also help, learning first-hand about gardening and farming. If you are interested in volunteering to help with the garden, please contact Danny at dannywebster385@gmail.com.



The Food Pantry



Food Distribution



Selecting Clothes

In addition to Christ House, St. Luke CDC operates several other programs serving the Paterson community. They run Kamp Kreative Kidz, a no-cost summer camp for 100 youth, the After School Assistance Program during the school year, the Reading Assistance Program, and the Summer Youth Employment Program to provide meaningful employment opportunities for the youth of Paterson. They also operate The House of Mercy, a transitional house for women who are coming out of incarceration.

We are inspired by the tireless efforts of Danny Webster and the volunteers at Christ House, and are grateful for your contributions that assist them and so many other partner organizations.

An Update from our Visit to Christ House

When we visited Christ House in early May with our monthly delivery, everyone there was quite appreciative of this article (first published in the St. Timothy monthly newsletter and sent to them) and asked that we again convey their heartfelt thanks for the support that we provide to them throughout the year with your help.

Love. Care. Serve.

6,587 AND COUNTING!!

You may recall that in our December 2022 newsletter, we highlighted one of our crafty supporters. **Carrol Norton** of McVeytown, Pennsylvania is a longtime supporter of Heart 'n Hands Mission. She is also a prolific crafter! As of her 90th birthday back in October, Sis had crocheted and donated **6,327 caps** for children with a new goal of 7,000 caps! Carrol, affectionally known as Sis to friends and family, is still crocheting. Her current total is 6,587! In May, she donated another 65 Caps for Kids and 13 baby car seat blankets to Heart 'n Hands Mission. We are so grateful to Sis for naming the Mission just one recipient of her beautiful caps.



Sis even has a table to display her “milestone caps”!

- 3,000 – dark colors, bottom left
- 4,000 – light colors, far right
- 4,900 – on the lamp
- 5,000 – dark blue in the middle
- 5,900 – orange & pink in the front
- 6,000 – light blue on the right
- 6,500 – top left with the pink flower



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 distribute these necessities to men’s homeless shelters, food pantries and community resource centers that serve homeless individuals and impoverished families.

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 and socks bring such comfort to our homeless friends.

Laura Dec

Anonymous

Marion Flotard

Dyan Zinzi

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 April Newsletter, we have received donations from the following supporters:

Anonymous

Patrons of the Montville Diner

Deborah and Christopher Houlihan

Lois Clapp

Claire Choi

The Prudential Benevity Program

Hudson Lutheran Charities, Inc.

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 need 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.

And so, with our faith to guide and strengthen us, the work of the Mission continues.



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

