

The Outreach Committee at St. John's has been very busy! Our committee members are Kathi Bacchi and Sheelagh Schlegel, Committee Co-Chairs, Olive Grant, Danielle Sullivan Charlot, Nicky Mehan, Paula Thompson and Mark Lederman.

- St. John's supports Inspirica, providing help for the homeless through funding, use of property, and parishioners providing meals to its' shelter residents on a monthly basis (meals were not provided for part of the past year as residents were relocated to another facility during Covid).
- St. John's has financially supported the Bon Samaritan Clinic, and teachers and students at the School in L'Acul, Haiti for many years. St. John's parishioners and youth have also traveled to Haiti to support their mission.
- St. John's has worked with the staff from Pacific House, helping the homeless by providing food, and meeting with homeless in the community for conversation to get to know our homeless neighbors and to discern their needs.
- The Outreach Committee provides lunches on a monthly basis to struggling workers waiting for day labor jobs near I 95 in Stamford, also providing information to them on St. John's multicultural services. Lunches are also distributed to the homeless in local parks.
- St. John's is supporting a refugee family through the Stamford Interfaith Refugee Settlement.
- We have a yearly drive for school supplies and backpacks to support the children of Domus who are faced with childhood trauma, racism, behavior and mental health challenges, justice system involvement and housing instability.
- St. John's Community Thrift Shop, opening again on July 15th, Thursdays and Saturdays, 10:00 to 3:00 provides deeply discounted clothing and home goods to the underserved in our community. Profits from the Thrift Shop are donated to worthy nonprofits providing help to the underserved in our community and world.
- We have a Harvest Garden on St. John's property which is tended to by St. John's parishioners and other local parishes. All fresh vegetables are given to the Food Bank of Lower Fairfield. Two to three food drives are held a year for the Food Bank, and New Covenant Center.

- A yearly Interfaith Community Thanksgiving Dinner is held for the homeless and underserved in our community, along with anyone in the community who wants to join this gathering. Hundreds are served and close to 100 meals are delivered to the homebound by volunteers.
- Meal boxes are provided by parishioners to seniors and low income families at Thanksgiving and Christmas through The Family Center and Person to Person.
- Parishioners provide support for underwear and basic needs for the homeless through The Undies Project, provide gift bags with self care items to the patients at the Bennett Cancer Center and residents of the Domestic Violence Crisis Center shelters, and many other programs including helping struggling veterans at Homes for the Brave.
- We are currently working to build a relationship with the Bedford Correctional Center, helping with their Family Children's Center.

Other outreach at St. John's that you may not be aware of:

- In addition to caring for parishioners, St. John's Parish Nurses provide medical care and support to the homeless and low income families in the Bridgeport CT area through the annual St. Vincents Hospital Medical Mission. The homeless participants are seen by doctors and nurses and also have their feet washed by nurses as an intimate sacred connection while providing follow-up care. Parish Nurses also go to soup kitchens and pantries to provide blood pressure, blood sugar, and cholesterol checks, along with providing education and support through the Parish Nurse Program.
- St. John's Community Foundation supports at least 45 local nonprofits through grants that address basic needs, educational enrichment, crisis services, and economic opportunity in our community. Please visit the Foundation's website to learn more.

A big thank you to our very generous St. John's family who throughout the year support this outreach. Together we make a huge impact that ripples out into our world to spread God's love.

Blessings
Kathi Bacchi

