

## Choice Food and Resource Center News



Christ Church is actively involved with the Choice Food and Resource Center at Unity Square (CFRC), although much of the involvement is “behind the scenes.” Our parishioners and friends help staff the Tuesday appointment-only distributions as well as providing the bulk of the diapers, wipes and sanitary pads for our guests.

### **May 2024 donations**

- 10 cases of diapers
- 10 cases of wipes
- 22 cases of sanitary pads

These necessary items, which are not covered by SNAP benefits, helped

- 85 babies
- 6 adults/older special needs children
- 220 women

Thanks to Meegan Adames, the students at P-TECH who have finished the college-level coursework already have been busy bagging diapers and pads, helping make sure the CFRC has enough to cover through the upcoming summer months.

If you want to join this effort, CFRC gladly accepts donations.

### **Foods**

- Peanut butter
- Pasta Sauce
- Rice
- Canned tuna or chicken
- Cooking oil

Diapers etc.

- Diaper sizes 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
- Pull-Ups Sz 5-6T
- Adult Diapers--all sizes from Women’s Small to Men’s X-Large

## Baby wipes

On Sunday, July 7, we will have a “packing party.” Stay after our 9:30 (and only) service to help pack items for the CFRC! You can be a great help, even if you are not available weekdays during the day.

### **On-Site volunteer opportunities**

If you are available during the day, volunteers can help on the following days. Please call Angel Fuentes-Pesquera at Unity Square to volunteer: 732-545-0324, X-4 (“Housing” extension on the menu). Leave a message if necessary.

### **Food distribution**

- by appointment on most Tuesdays (exception: Tuesday, July 9, because of long July 4 weekend) and the third Friday between the hours of 9:45 am and 1:30 pm
- second and fourth Fridays between 11:15 am and 1:15 pm for “open distributions” --no registration or appointment required

### **Truck unloading**

- Third Wednesday of each month
- Truck is scheduled for 9 a.m. delivery. Arrives when it does.
- Next delivery date: Wednesday, June 19



24.6.6

#### Laundry Love May Report (and first 5 months' summary)

In January 2024 New Brunswick Laundry Love @ Handy Street Laundromat changed the procedure for distributing laundry assistance. Figures showed that the average single person used around \$10 to \$12 to wash and dry their clothes. Anyone who was doing laundry just for one person would be assisted by one of our volunteers who would make sure the guest was using the appropriate size washer, provide the necessary Earth Breeze Liquidless Laundry Detergent for the size load and the amount of soil, then use a "high value" card to start the load. When the washer is finished, the volunteer helps the guest find a warm dryer of the correct size (so it will take less time to dry the clothes) and uses the Laundry Love card to start the dryer. This procedure allows us to best steward our resources and to increase interaction and connection with our guests. Since January, we have saved about \$260 over what it would have cost to give each person their own laundry card. In addition, we are creating relationships with these people, which is a main purpose of this ministry. In addition, we have noted a slight decrease in people asking for Laundry Love cards.

Since January, we have served 170 families and 35 single individuals. In all 1,458 loads of laundry provided clean clothes for 582 people. This includes Laundry Love distributed by our partners at University Behavioral Health, Elijah's Promise, Coming Home Middlesex County, and Rutgers' LEED program. Our parish is spreading hope and help through a vibrant social services network, reaching people we otherwise would not be able to assist.

Thanks to our volunteers! The program would not operate without them. Meegan Adames provides translation services for check-in with occasional help from Graciela and Nico. Paul Ambos and Deacon Daphne help with Laundry Love packet management and distribution, as well as assistant guests as necessary. Tony Scimone, a guest who has been using Laundry Love on and off since 2019, is in charge of helping guests doing laundry for just one person. In addition, Mary Lou Taylor has been packing our detergent and dryer sheet packets, taking a huge task off Catherine Ambos' shoulders.

Finally, the main cost of the program is the laundry cards. Parish support of this program allows us to provide this vital service to our New Brunswick area neighbors. Thank you.