



laundrylove

So far this year, Laundry Love has been incredibly helpful to our New Brunswick area neighbors. We started 2026 with 42 cards left over from 2025. January 2025 only 21 out of a possible 32 families came to the Handy St. Laundromat because of weather. In February, we stopped in-person Laundry Love sessions because of the presence of I.C.E. on Handy Street. Our numbers did not return to the available 42 cards a month until the fall.

Starting in January 2026, we have used the 2025 surplus to distribute more than 42 cards a month, every month, except March when we did distribute only 42 cards. Word of mouth spreads at the Choice Food and Resource Center, and people will ask if they can get Laundry Love. Sometimes I see a person, usually a single parent with many children or a family who has had a breadwinner taken by I.C.E., and add them to the distribution. In May as Unity Square approached the end of their fiscal year, the Director, Michelle Gil, indicated there was money in the budget available for community outreach. That gave us a total of \$2,000, which purchased an additional 100 Handy St. Laundromat cards. As a result, we are now distributing 55 or more cards a month.

One way I am trying to spread the Laundry Love funds a little farther is to give households with just one person a Laundry Love "packet" every other month. People understand. The need is great, but it is only growing as Federal governmental supports like SNAP benefits are being cut.

We have been blessed by generous contributions from our congregation, but we also need to expand fundraising if this mission can continue to meet the current and expanding need for Laundry Love. I need people to help with fundraising and with decision making. How will we continue our commitment to our New Brunswick neighbors? Call me at 732-718-2029 or email msambos@gmail.com

Faithfully,

Catherine Ambros, Coordinator
New Brunswick Laundry Love @ Handy St. Laundromat