

## **HOC at YPPC - THE DETAILS...**

For those of you who are new to the annual event, here's a brief history of HOC and an overview of what to expect on at our Distribution on Monday, August 5, 2024:

Hands of Christ, Inc. SM is a validated ministry of [Charleston Atlantic Presbytery](#) (CAP) and is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization incorporated in the state of South Carolina. During the first three weeks of each August since 2003, volunteers of Charleston area Presbyterian churches have distributed school uniforms and school supplies to school children in need in grades K4-8.

The program, founded by the Rev. Dr. Tammy Gregory Brown, is modeled after [Manos de Cristo](#) of Austin, Texas. The partnership was started in 2002 by the Zion-Olivet and Westminster Presbyterian Churches, when travelers to Austin spent three days observing and working with their Back-To-School Program. With the help of a [Thank Offering](#) grant from the Presbyterian Women, the first distributions were held in Charleston in the Summer of 2003 hosted by congregations at Zion-Olivet and Westminster Presbyterian.

Starting in 2004, the list of distribution sites expanded to include First (Scots) Presbyterian, sites on Johns and Edisto Islands, Moncks Corner/Berkeley County (First Presbyterian Church) and East Cooper (Mt. Pleasant Presbyterian Church), North Charleston (Park Circle Presbyterian Church), Williamsburg Presbyterian Church, Bethel (Walterboro), Summerville, New Wappetaw Church, Yeamans Park Presbyterian Church, Second Presbyterian downtown Charleston, First Presbyterian and St. Luke in Orangeburg. (For various reasons, not all of the above congregations continue to be distribution sites in 2024.)

### **What to expect on August 5, 2024:**

- Our site will open for "shopping" by students and parents at 5:00 pm. The line starts forming several hours before this. We will have resources (socks, underwear, pants, shirts, and school supplies) to serve 300 students. Doors close at 6:00 pm or when all children are served.
- Children must be present and accompanied by an adult. We serve K-3 students through eighth grade.
- Each child will have a personal shopper who helps them select two sets of brand-new school clothing (two shirts and two pairs of pants), plus socks and underwear.
- Each child will receive a bag of grade-appropriate school supplies. Our site also offers tooth brushes and toothpaste.
- The children may visit the Bookroom and choose a book. Bibles will be available for each family.
- Overall HOC serves about 5,000 students each year so we ask that each child be served only once.