

Outreach November 2018

Local:

St Mary's outreach to the homeless is in partnership with Helping Hands [The Interfaith Coalition for the Homeless of Rockland County] whose office, breakfast program, clothing store, laundry facilities and showers are based in rented premises in the United Church of Spring Valley. Two weeks ago, there was an **electrical fault in one of the dryers and a fire devastated the whole of the laundry and shower area**. Luckily, the fire was contained by the quick response of the Spring Valley Fire Department and although it did not spread into the church or the kitchens, smoke and water damage was considerable. We were covered by insurance.

However, at this time there is an increased need by many homeless people for warm coats, socks and underwear, both men's and women's. **St Mary's is collecting used coats and new socks and underwear on behalf of Helping Hands**. Checks in lieu of the clothing will also be welcomed, as, buying from Kohl's in bulk is both efficient and cheap. If you would like to help, checks should be made payable to St Mary's Outreach with Helping Hands in the memo. Clothing can be left at St Mary's during office hours or by arrangement at other times. Thank you!

Thanksgiving Baskets

Thanks to everyone who donated food or funds, 18 Thanksgiving Baskets with all the ingredients[fresh fruit and vegetables, traditional non- perishables and seasonal treats] for a Thanksgiving Family Dinner, were delivered on Tuesday with the help of a Tuxedo School bus and driver. The frozen turkeys were donated by ShopRite to the Sloatsburg Food Pantry and then given to St Mary's. The baskets were organized and assembled on Monday morning with the help of Wendy Favia, Janet Galuska, Jane Garofano, Sue Heywood, Lili Neuhauser, and Dana Roccasecca. A lot can be accomplished when different local groups work together! Thank you all!

National:

St Mary's is sending a donation to Episcopal Relief and Development in response to their appeal for the work being done in California for victims of the devastating wildfires. Episcopal Relief & Development is partnering with the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California to provide emergency support for those impacted by deadly wildfires in that state. The assistance includes food, gasoline, masks and other critical supplies, as well as emergency housing and the storage of belongings.

International:

On my recent annual visit to Carryou Ministries in Randfontein, South Africa, to meet again with the 36 families for whom we provide monthly food parcels, plus the students and children being sponsored on a regular basis by us, I also visited a new project on the Randfontein garbage tip. There Carryou has established a creche [play group/preschool] to take care of some of the youngest inhabitants. All Randfontein's trash ends up on this dump and **families live in makeshift shacks eking out a living from sorting out recyclables and selling them.** I had to fight back my tears as it was unimaginably awful to see children where this environment was their only experience of life.

As we trekked through the garbage, we eventually came to a small brick building where, inside, 25 of the youngest were sitting at child sized tables. There's nowhere outside for them to play, but this little group was getting a daily few hours where play was possible and some sort of introduction to life beyond the garbage tip was being introduced. St Mary's is getting some childhood early learning books and toys to them and is providing funds for food, blankets and clothing. I have identified a South African online company **and placed the first order!** When I am sure the goods have got there safely then I shall increase the quantity for the next order. **This will truly be 'happiness' for those little kids.** The first order is scheduled to be delivered Nov 21st! Just in time for our Thanksgiving!

Sue Heywood St Mary's Outreach Chair