

Helping Hands Rye

Blue skies, nothing but blue skies!

We were blessed not only to be able to use the gloriously air conditioned Rye High School gym for our event, but with blue skies. A great turnout of volunteers unpacked the multitude of school supplies to fill 2,025 backpacks for students served by 18 agencies. Over 2 mornings approximately 200 volunteers worked with both efficiency and good cheer to fill the backpacks with all the items students need to begin the school year with confidence. Filled, those backpacks festooned the RHS lawn on their way to children who would otherwise do without. Imagine 2,025 school children on that first day of school eagerly smiling rather than sadly facing the day afraid of being mocked for “lack of.”

One of our agencies writes, *“What does it mean to return to school in September without a new backpack? ‘Teasing, even bullying at times,’ said a student. A new backpack would be a luxury they cannot afford.”*



“You helped more than 250 students begin their school year with a great start. Not only did you provide [them] with backpacks and school supplies, you also reminded them that they are cared for and supported.”

—Mount Vernon City School District





Spotlight on a Helping Hands Hero

Helping Hands’ programs support the work of Shepherd’s Flock, founded by Sister Alice Conrad, age 92! In 2011, Sister Alice sought ways to serve the working poor. She founded Shepherd’s Flock whose mission is to help low-income individuals by providing food, clothing, and basic necessities. Sister Alice’s rationale is that an investment in the future—by helping low-income families advance to financial self-sufficiency—has long term benefits which will be transferred to the younger generation. Sister Alice continues to find inventive ways to help with affordable housing, partial education scholarships, and teaching life skills to her clients. Helping Hands supplies her with backpacks and Undie Fundie bags for her clients. Our Undie Fundie hats off to Sister Alice!

Spring and Fall, We’ve Got You Covered

In the spring we focus our Undie Fundie efforts on refreshing wardrobes with new underwear, socks and toiletries. Feminine hygiene products are also included as we assemble 755 bags for our friends. Six different sizes, ten different agencies, 12 products and you get the picture—it’s a challenge. But we are always up for the challenge to help our neighbors. Fall is a simpler affair with hats, gloves, and socks. This year we were treated to scarves from our vendor and we were able to warm the lives of 1000 people. Thank you to our friends at Community Synagogue of Rye for hosting us twice a year.



Volunteers and donors breathe life and hope to each of our recipients



Without donors we couldn't pay the \$35 for each filled backpack, the \$27 for each spring tote or the \$10 for each fall tote. And, unfortunately, our costs keep going up. Our deepest thanks to our individual donors, for grants from Rye Presbyterian Church Women's Association and Mission and Outreach Committee, Resurrection Church, Christ's Church, The Woman's Club of Rye, and to the in-kind donation from Community Synagogue of Rye.

And then there are the "hands" of Helping Hands - the hundreds of students, parents, grandparents, Daisies, Boy



Share our Mission!

You can assist Helping Hands in supporting our neighbors in need by using the enclosed envelope to make a contribution.

HelpingHandsRye.org/
donate

Scouts, EMS and EMS interns, Rye Rotarians and other friends of Helping Hands. Members of the agencies we serve also come to lend their hands to help. These events are indeed community events spanning the generations in Rye from the little ones to the teens to the parents to the grands and the over 90's. Each group and individual who supports these service events brings a unique dimension to our community spirit. We, the agencies and the recipients, are most grateful.

2,025
Backpacks in 2023

755
Bras, t-shirts, underwear,
Toiletries

1,000
Hat, gloves & socks

37
Years of Helping Hands

Helping Hands
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Non-profit Org.
US Postage
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White Plains, NY

Newsletter of Helping Hands for the Homeless and Hungry, Inc.
We are an ALL-VOLUNTEER organization!

Helping Hands assists the homeless and hungry in Westchester by providing items of necessity for the dignity of each person.



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HelpingHandsRye.org

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