Dear Friends,

What a fabulous year for the work of Helping Hands! Your continued friendship and loyalty, encouragement and financial support really moved our work forward. In 2013, we had some wonderful successes. First, at our annual Backpack event, not only were we able to provide a record 2030 backpacks filled with brand new school supplies for children with home insecurity, but we did so while providing an upgraded scientific calculator for half of those backpacks for children in Middle and High School. We thought thankfully of your impact as September rolled around and the first days of school arrived.

We welcomed the Port Chester/Rye Brook Rotary to the Dinner @ Noon team. They have brought a team of enthusiastic and energetic members to their Saturday’s at the Carver Center. As part of Dinner @ Noon we also established a partnership with the new Whole Foods for Saturday bread donations.

Our Undie Fundie program provided over 230 adults living in shelters with clean undergarments. The November distribution included gloves and hats, greatly appreciated during this biting winter season!

And to close the year, at our holiday party in December, many of you came and brought diapers. These diapers were delivered to Caritas in Port Chester. Your 35 boxes of diapers were greatly appreciated by families in need.

On a melancholy note, our long time member and innovator, Elizabeth Brunson moved to Tennessee with her husband. We miss Elizabeth greatly, but are pleased to introduce Marianne Egan to our board. Marianne has jumped right in and has been amazing.

These are but the highlights. Please read through our newsletter and see the good work made possible by your continued donations and volunteerism. We hope you feel the energy and excitement of each activity as you look through the pictures and stories.

Gratefully,

Brigitte Sarnoff & Susan Salice
Co-Presidents

"Thank you on behalf of all the children from our agency and our staff, thank you for putting a smile in all our faces (again)"

Ronaldo,
Community Housing Innovations

Save the date for our 2014 Backpack event: Monday, August 18th and Tuesday, August 19th!
Dinner @ Noon

The Rotary Club of Port Chester-Rye Brook is delighted to be one of the agencies supporting the Dinner @ Noon Program at the Carver Center.

Every time we serve dinner, the old saying, It is better to give than it is to receive, becomes more evident. All our Rotary members are truly touched by this call to service, and by the appreciation that is given to us by the patrons.

The food that we serve has been supplied by several outside agencies. We are tremendously grateful to the Hilton and Renaissance hotels, Panera Bread, Whole Foods, and Kelly’s of Rye, for supplying these wonderful meals.

And of course, kudos to Helping Hands of Rye and Ann Goldsmith for seeing a need in the community and taking action to provide these wonderful people with a delicious and nourishing meal each week.

Food Pantries & Soup kitchens Need these items:

- Rice
- Meals in a can or box
- Spaghetti sauce
- Canned stews and soups
- Infant formula
- Diapers
- Fruit juices
- Canned tuna
- Peanut butter
- Pasta
- Toiletries
- Breakfast cereal

UNDIE FUNDIE 2013

Through the Undie Fundie Program, Helping Hands purchases and distributes new underwear, socks, and toiletries to the men, women and children living in Westchester Shelters. 2013 was an exceptionally good year for this program due to the generous support of a Rye Presbyterian Church grant and private donors.

In the spring we delivered new socks, underwear, t-shirts or bras and sanitary products to the men and women in two of Westchester’s smaller shelters. The county’s largest shelter, Volunteers of America, benefited from our program in the fall, when each individual was given three new t-shirts or two new bras, three new pairs of underwear, and three new pairs of socks. In addition we were able to provide the VOA residents with new winter hats and gloves. These items were greatly appreciated; and the heartwarming thank you notes we received from the shelters express just how much the residents loved our donations.

The cost for providing these much needed items was approximately $10 per person. We purchased 120 hats and gloves for an additional $300. Our very own board members Betty Jo Hannigan, Donna Koval and Marianne Egan drove into NYC to the garment district and haggled with local business merchants to obtain the best prices!

Thank you for your support with this project.
What a wonderful success - a record 2030 brand new Backpacks filled with over 17 school supply items were provided to children in need – thanks to YOU!

Monday, August 12th was our delivery day. Two delivery trips were required to bring all the items to the Resurrection Church Basement. Over 100 wonder-ful (and strong) volunteers turned out at 7:30 am and 10:00 am to unload thousands of school supply items, and set up the basement assembly lines.

On Tuesday, the Backpack magic began at 10:00 am. Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino stopped by and saw over 200 volunteers of all ages, including Rye neighbor NY State Senator George Latimer, moving methodically through the assembly line. By noon, 2030 backpacks chock-full of school supplies peppered the corners and niches of the basement floor. Volunteers from 19 non-profit organizations in mid/lower Westchester were on site to help pack the bags, and then gather and transport them for distribution to children living in shelters or alternative, often temporary, living arrangements.

New in 2013, Helping Hands provided a scientific calculator for junior high and high school students. This critical upgrade provides students the necessary tool to be able to complete their math and science homework and prepare for state tests and Regents exams which require advanced math functions.

Thank you donors, family foundations, grant makers & volunteers from the Rye and Sound Shore Communities who responded so generously with your treasure, time and talent to enable the upgraded calculators and 2030 complete backpacks! We are so grateful for your amazing generosity and volunteerism!

Backpack 2014 - Save the date! Monday, August 18 & Tuesday, August 19, 2014

Thank You Milton School!
Milton School’s students, teachers and parents donated gently used school supplies to Helping Hands at the end of the 2013 school year. Helping Hands delivered the supplies to Holy Rosary Port Chester After School Programs, Steppin’ Up Yonkers, and The After School Program at the Edward Williams Elementary School in Mount Vernon. All were thrilled to receive these generous donations!
Community Support

Agencies We Serve
Westhab, Inc., Westhab EHU; Peak House, Mt. Vernon; EHI, Yonkers • Community Housing Innovations • Caritas at Holy Rosary Church • Don Bosco Community Center • Grace Church Community Center - Open Arms, Samaritan House & Soup Kitchen • Hope's Door • Human Development Services of Westchester • Hope House • IFCA • Good Counsel Campus - Shepard's Flock • SWBOCES Homeless Student Program • St. Peter's Learning Center at Episcopal Church of Port Chester • The Sharing Community - Locust Hill • Urban League of Westchester • Catholic Charities Community Services of Westchester • WestHELP Mt. Vernon • Volunteers of America Valhalla • Carver Center • The Children’s Village

Helping Hands purchased a new freezer for Caritas PC. Bill Vaccaro, Executive Director & Maria Vega, Soup Kitchen Cook

“Helping Hands' donations over the years have allowed us to purchase meat so that we can provide nutritionally sound lunches every weekday in our Soup Kitchen. HH’s donations have been invaluable to us.”
Pat Hart, President, Caritas PC
Holy Rosary Soup Kitchen, Food Pantry, Open Closet, and Emergency Services

Grants
Contributing to the success of the 2013 fund raising efforts, Helping Hands received support from local Houses of Worship and Community Organizations including: Christ’s Church, Church of the Resurrection, Rye Presbyterian Mission and Outreach, WRJ/Sisterhood of Community Synagogue & Men’s Club of Community Synagogue. Local Club support came caringly from Parents Organization of Rye High School, Rye Lions Club, Women’s Club of Rye, Junior League of Westchester and Children’s Philanthropy and Convent of the Sacred Heart’s Barat Foundation. Thank you!

Helping Hands provided a new roof for the storage shed at Volunteers of America Valhalla, which is used to keep business clothes for clients going on job interviews.

Thank You
Elizabeth Brunson
For many years, Elizabeth Brunson was a tireless member of the Helping Hands Board. Serving as President and Treasurer, Elizabeth was a gifted multi-tasker who spent endless hours on our database, coordinating mailings and helping us think forward. Elizabeth has moved to Tennessee with her husband and family. Thank you Elizabeth, for your friendship and all you have done for Helping Hands. We miss you!
On the third Wednesday of each month, we go to Costco to buy provisions to make sandwiches on the following day. The list is always the same: 12 cartons of juice boxes, 30 bags of bananas, 24 loaves of whole wheat bread, a large jar of mustard and another of mayonnaise. Two full carts require two cars for all the food and drinks we deliver to the Rye Presbyterian kitchen at 11 am the following morning. Within an hour, 150 hearty ham and cheese sandwiches are prepared and wrapped, ready to be delivered by Helping Hands for the Homeless and Hungry to the Grace Church Soup Kitchen in White Plains.

Helping Hands celebrated our annual Holiday Party on Sunday, December 8th, at the home of Board Member Jane and Brendan O'Sullivan of Rye. Over 80 friends and supporters joined us to celebrate the holiday and meet new friends. Susan of Watson's Catering in Greenwich, provided wonderful hors d'oeuvres Susan's mother, Sue Scully, was a founding member of Helping Hands over 25 years ago and her family remain loyal HH supporters.

Guests brought 35 boxes of diaper donations which were placed under the Christmas tree and later gratefully received by Maria Massa (pictured), Community Outreach coordinator of Holy Rosary Church in Port Chester. Maria assists the neediest area families and expressed sincere gratitude to Helping Hands supporters for their generosity.

"This is such a great service to the less fortunate of our area," Maria said.
Marianne Egan - New Board Member

Marianne Egan and her husband Jim moved to our area in 1994 and raised three children: Jim, Dan and Rebecca. Marianne is a Eucharistic Minister at the Church of the Resurrection, a member of the Rye Women’s Interfaith Committee and a volunteer at Greenwich Hospital visiting patients on their Medical Oncology floor. Prior to joining the Board, Marianne enjoyed coordinating Resurrection Church’s participation in our Dinner @ Noon program and is now looking forward to expanding her involvement with the Helping Hands Board and their many good works.