

WELFARE/OUTREACH COMMITTEE: Annual Report - January 2022

Phyllis Edwards, Committee Chairman

Members of the Welfare and Outreach Committee include Betty Baker and Don Hudgins , (St. Vincent de Paul); Phyllis Edwards and Father Carlos (Samaritan Ministry); Diane Fisher (Christmas Wish Tree); Chris Moriak (Knights of Columbus); Jane Alfaro (Youth Outreach); Bess McAneny (Social Justice); Lois Jackson (Prison Ministry). The committee members meet monthly to discuss how they can help support one another in their various welfare and outreach activities. Here are some of the things accomplished through the various groups represented by members of the Welfare and Outreach Committee:

Knight of Columbus Council - Holy Angels #12104

- Total new members: 0 - Current total active membership: 92

Faith Activities

- Rosary Program: Hosted virtual bi-weekly rosary prayer program for first half of year; transitioned to every 5th Tuesday of the month for second half of year.
- Rosaries for Students: Collected over 135 gently used rosaries for the students of Parish's Religious Education program.

RSVP

- . Supported a seminarian for the year (\$500).
- Good Friday Promotion: Promoted attendance at the Triduum masses.
- Keep Christ in Christmas: Helped Parish with its Live Nativity.

Family Activities

- Holiday Support: Donated sixty \$25 Walmart Cards to Parish's Samaritan Ministries.
- Parish International Food Festival: Donated hamburgers and hotdogs to Parish Youth Group to sell at the event.
- Souper Bowl Sunday: Promoted to the parish our annual Souper Bowl Sunday food drive.
- Christmas Wish Tree: Promoted the Parish's annual Christmas Wish Tree.
- Reverse Advent Calendar: Promoted a "reverse Advent calendar" to collect food for the Parish's Samaritan Food Pantry
- Walking Club: Initiated a walking club to provide social exercise opportunity twice a month.

Life Activities

- Silver Rose: Hosted the Silver Rose on Oct 16.
- Novena For Life: Promoted to the parish and participated in the Knight's Novena for Life in January.
- Roses for Mother's Day: Helped with annual sale of roses on Mother's Day to raise money for Birthright.

Community Activities

Coats for Kids: Collected money (\$1750) to donate 14 boxes of coats (168 coats) to the Parish's Samaritan Ministries.

Monetary Donations

- Promoted a "Charity of the Month": Large cash donations to Little Sisters of the Poor, Water Is Life Kenya, Wreaths Across America, and to the parish.

Fraternal Activities

- Shepherds Program: Sent birthday and Christmas cards to all members,
- Faith Formation: Promoted weekly videos on Catholicism basics in first half of year.
- Deceased Members Memorial: Held a memorial for the deceased members of the council.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul - St. John-Holy Angels Conference.

During 2021, SJHA was able to help 121 people have their gas, electric or water turned back on, receive oil deliveries, pay their rent thereby allowing them to remain in their apartments/homes, and assisting other Conferences as requested with donations to their friends in need as they received requests for help with large bill payments. In turn, other Conferences have helped SJHA when we had large monetary requests but a less than sufficient treasury balance.

Assistance for 2021 included:

Gas - \$380

Electric - \$9,316

Water - \$686

Oil Delivery - \$915

Rent - \$8,827

Various Needs for SJHA/other SVdP Conference's friends in need - \$10,877

Special Thanks: Father Chris raised awareness of St. Vincent de Paul Society and the poor boxes at both churches, which allowed our Conference to realize an increase in contributions.

Christmas Wish Tree

-We are very grateful to the many donors who so generously provided Christmas gifts for our children.

-Donors were not only from our parish but also the surrounding community responded with donors from Delaware, Pennsylvania and Maryland.

-This year, over 170 children from 65 needy families were blessed with gifts to open on Christmas morning

Samaritan Ministry

-Spanish and English Welcome Tables were set up with literature in the gathering space. \$1,000 in donated funds allowed the purchase of literature and booklets are provided by the Knights.

-A storage room with an outside entrance was cleared, shelves were installed, and totes were purchased to establish a Samaritan Food Pantry. Volunteers open the pantry to those in need on Sundays after 7:00, 11:00 and 1:00 masses.

-A relationship was established with Mike, the owner of Zingo's. About once a month he donates several boxes of food items to the pantry.

-A separate large room in the church basement was cleared and now is our Samaritan Ministry Welfare and Outreach Room. It currently holds cases of diapers and wet wipes, baby cloths and items, coats, boots, shoes, etc. Eventually all of the donated furniture for sale will be moved here.

-A bilingual "Request for Assistance" form was created and put on the Welcome Tables and posted on the parish website

-As needed we support Hope Dining group in an effort to supplement their needs with items from our Samaritan food pantry for to-go lunches served the 4th Monday of every month at Kingswood Methodist Church. Hats off to the dedicated group of Hope Dining volunteers who make this service possible.

-A relationship was established with St. John the Beloved Outreach to help support one another

-A relationship was also developed with Babita of Phoenix Used Clothing, which also handles additional items to support local non-profits in their outreach to those in need. They are available to pick up yard sale left overs or anything that we do not want to store and they distribute to other ministries.

-A partnership was developed with the Newark Area Welfare Committee as an additional resource to provide shoes and also perishables such as milk, meat, cheese, etc. to those living in the Newark area.

-New shoes were distributed to 61 children and adults

-New coats that were donated were given to 92 children so far. Request forms are on the welcome tables.

- We now have new baby clothes/blankets, 12 cases of diapers and 6 cases of wipes to give out. These were donated by a member of the Hispanic community who cooked and sold tacos after masses and used the money to purchase the baby items.
- Thirty turkeys along with dinners were given to families in need for the holiday
- ACME gift cards were given to 68 families in the Newark area
- Sixty Walmart gift cards were given to families not in the Newark area.
- New toys and gifts were collected via the Wish Tree and given to over 170 children at Christmas.
- Several families, including one relocating here from Sudan, received beds and furniture through our efforts and working with the First Presbyterian Church in Newark and other non-profit groups in the area.
- Free flu shots and COVID 19 shots were given and a blood drive provided much needed blood.
- Periodic visits from St. Francis Mobile Unit provided medical check-ups to parishioners
- There is ongoing activity assisting some parishioners struggling with immigration issues.
- We worked with Anita Muir to organize a drive-thru Baby Shower which provided clothing and items for parish families with babies and also some donated items went to a local center for mothers in need.
- The Live Nativity on the 3rd, 4th, and 5th of December was excellent community and parish outreach activity.
- Our outreach for the spiritual welfare of our parishioners includes two Lenten small group studies. “The Seven Deadly Sins” in English will be offered both morning led by Father Jim and Phyllis Edwards and evening led by Father Jim and Chris Moriak. “The Misa” in Spanish will be offered in the evening and led by Father Carlos, assisted by Felipe Ruiz and Phyllis Edwards.
- Family Fun Night – Is scheduled for Saturday, June 25, 6:00-9:00 in Fremont Hall. It will be much like a Mardi Gras in June as an outreach to parish members and their friends and families from both communities.

Social Concerns

- A well-attended Victorian Tea provided \$810.00 in funds for Delaware Right-to-Life
- The Baby Bottle fundraising event in October generated \$1,939.79 for Delaware Right to Life. A special thanks to Father Carlos and Father Chris for promoting this event which raised more than twice that of the previous year of \$871.00.
- We were greatly involved in many events, rallies, appeals to legislatures, petitions, and advertising promoting our support of everyone’s Right to Life in an effort to forward our Catholic and godly values regarding abortion, assisted suicide, etc.

Youth Ministry

- The Youth Group car wash and bake sale at the April 28 parish Flea Market produced over \$700
- The group sold hot dogs, hamburgers, French fries provided by Knights at the International Food Festival
- Over 20 young people attended a fun-filled Field Day
- 38 Youth participated in an all-day Youth Retreat in Fremont Hall -
- Additional activities included a Movie Night Friday, a Beach Trip, and a Scavenger Hunt
- Plans are being discussed to change the age of the SJHA Youth Group to Middle School age instead of High School Age to promote a greater attendance to meetings. The High School youth have schedules that are full of school, sports, and work activities which prevent them from participating. We are currently praying for leaders.

Prison Ministry

- The collection of calendars and cards continues with Lois Jackson coordinating their distribution
- In person visits to the Women’s Prison are not allowed at this time.