

## **Trinity in Mission Annual Report 2017**

What is the impact of the ministry and mission of Trinity in the community and in the world? Throughout Scripture we read that a nation shall not be judged by its mighty armies or its economic prosperity, but rather God will judge a nation by how it treats the widows and the orphans, the most needy and the most helpless in society. How does this congregation seek to make a difference in the lives of the most needy and the most helpless? The following is a summary of how Trinity has acted in 2017 to be responsive to God's purpose and will – it reflects the work of the congregation as a whole, but there are many individuals who, very quietly and generously, have reached out in many ways to respond to those who are struggling. This is also a financial report and does not reflect the countless volunteer hours that people have contributed to making the efforts of the congregation effective.

At the beginning of 2017 Trinity established a special **Mission Fund** separate from the ongoing budget of the church. The seed money for the Mission Fund was the profit from the T-shirts and sweatshirts that were sold at the end of 2016. During the year funds were added from the Thrivent Dollar Choice designation of those who participate in the Thrivent Fund; members are given an opportunity to make a donation through Thrivent toward a nonprofit institution or program of their choosing. This does not come from their personal investments but is an outreach of Thrivent. Profit from the Cook Once and Eat for a Month program was also designated for this fund.

The Mission Fund is used to cover expenses for special programs and projects of the church in order to encourage the committees to seek new ways to reach out. Expenses for the Spaghetti Dinner for Diapers in February were paid from the Mission Fund so that the entire effort was directed toward receiving diapers rather than covering any food costs. The Mission Fund also funded the luncheon for Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity following Undie Sunday Services in April, again so that our focus could be on collecting new underwear and socks. We continue to look for new ways to use the Mission Fund effectively to support Trinity's work in the community.

Here are some of the ways in which you have made a difference in the local Gettysburg area:

**Gettysburg CARES** -- Trinity hosted the overnight homeless shelter for two weeks in January in cooperation with many of the churches in the Gettysburg community. Those who cannot be accommodated at the SCCAP shelter, at the Adams County Rescue Mission, the Agape House, or Survivors, are provided a warm and safe shelter. Fourteen members volunteered to serve as welcoming hosts for those who came to spend the night; we have several other members who volunteer to spend the night at whatever church happens to be hosting the shelter throughout the winter months. Members also volunteered to help set up for the shelter and pack up the mattresses and other items to send on to the next church, as well as wash the blankets for the next church that was serving as host.

Trinity also participates in the voucher program of Gettysburg CARES. Those who need food vouchers, gas vouchers, overnight motel stay vouchers, or prescription vouchers are provided with help from the local churches. They must be residents of Gettysburg and only one voucher per person/family is given every six months.

**TenderCare Pregnancy Center** -- Trinity has made a commitment to provide at least **10,000 diapers** to TenderCare Pregnancy Center and has successfully reached that goal each year. We began a Spaghetti Dinner for Diapers event in 2017, working with Boy Scout Troop 1863 which meets at Trinity. This year's dinner raised 2,750 diapers, and we are planning another dinner in January, 2018. Volunteers made a huge difference in preparing, serving, and cleaning up, as well as providing the desserts. The leftovers from the dinner were delivered to Survivors.

In addition, Trinity delivered **children's underwear and men's socks** to TenderCare from items received on Undie Sunday.

**South Central Community Action Program** -- February is **Food Pantry Month** at Trinity, when you are asked to bring canned goods and nonperishable food items, which are delivered to the Food Pantry at SCCAP. 589 food items as well as \$1,806.00 were received during February.

Also in 2017 **more than 650 pairs of shoes** were delivered to SCCAP. They are able to sell the shoes for \$1.00 per pair; these shoes are then refurbished and sent overseas to be resold at an affordable price in Third World nations.

Trinity's "**Keep It Clean**" table in November provided SCCAP with many personal care items and cleaning supplies for individuals and families; these types of items are not covered by the food stamp program so this was an important and meaningful outreach. Approximately \$600.00 in items and financial support were received.

We were also able to deliver underwear and socks from Undie Sunday this spring.

We also provided **\$734.13 in financial support** (including \$334.13 from the show of Charles Dicken's A Christmas Carol) as well as **\$150 in gift cards for Christmas** gifts for the children of the homeless shelter.

**Cookies for our Neighbors** -- In January, 2017, we began a program of delivering four dozen cookies to our neighbors, the Gettysburg Borough Police Department. Your enthusiastic response has been met by an equally enthusiastic response from the police department. The members of the police department appreciate and anticipate the arrival of cookies on the Monday after the third Sunday of the month. We plan to continue this program in 2018.

Also at the beginning of 2017, we delivered **31 pieces of used luggage** to various locations in the area. Some were given to those who came to the CARES homeless shelter, while others were delivered to Gettysburg Presbyterian Church for their mission trip to South Dakota, to First Baptist Church for their mission trip to Haiti, and to the folks at Survivors.

We support **Habitat for Humanity in Adams County** through an annual **\$500.00 donation** as well as volunteers who help throughout the year, both in **volunteer labor** to build homes and providing meals and snacks for those who provide volunteer labor. Trinity is a covenant partner in Habitat for Humanity.

**Gettysburg Soup Kitchen**, which provides meals throughout the year to those who stop by their location on High Street, as well as providing some canned food and other help, received **\$500.00** from Trinity during 2017.

**Survivors Inc.** provides safe housing to abused women and children as well as a safe location for those who are caught up in the sex trafficking trade. Trinity provided **\$625.00** to Survivors, as well as sharing **underwear and socks** from Undie Sunday, much food from Trinity dinners, **\$250.00 in gift cards** from WalMart for Christmas, and personal care items and cleaning supplies from the "**Keep It Clean**" table in November. Four of the parking spaces on Trinity's Stratton Street parking lot are provided to clients and staff at Survivors free of charge, beginning at the end of 2017 and for 2018.

Trinity provided **\$350.00** as well as lots of **individual portion food and a volunteer crew** to **Ruth's Harvest** in 2018. Ruth's Harvest provides weekend backpacks of food for students at Gettysburg Area School District; those who are eligible for free or reduced lunches at the school are also eligible to receive a backpack with food to provide them with weekend meals. The items received in the designated basket in the Gathering Area are delivered each Monday morning to Lincoln Elementary School. They are then sorted in time for packing the backpacks on a Thursday afternoon. A group of volunteers has been organized to help with preparing the backpacks for distribution.

Over **\$2,500 worth of new underwear and socks** were received on **Undie Sunday** in April. Working together with Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity of Gettysburg College, we were able to respond to a real need in the community. Plus it was an enjoyable Sunday morning of worship and luncheon fellowship with members of the fraternity. Children's underwear and socks were delivered to TenderCare Pregnancy Center; men's underwear and socks to Adams Rescue Mission; underwear and socks to The Agape House and to Survivors; children's underwear and socks to the nurses' offices of the elementary schools of Gettysburg Area School District; and socks and underwear to South Central Community Action Program. We look forward to working with the fraternity to make Undie Sunday another success in 2018.

There is a basket in the Gathering to receive **Bingo items for SpiriTrust Lutheran Home** in Gettysburg and several filled baskets, along with two boxes of small stuffed animals, were delivered throughout the year.

**Summer Outreach** this year raised **\$1,039.71 for the Independent Living Program of Adams County Children and Youth Services**. This program supports young people who have aged out of the foster care program and are seeking to live independently and support themselves in transition to adulthood.

You helped to provide candy for the annual **Trunk and Treat** event held on Halloween on the parking lot next to the church. This year we passed out candy to **142 children** who stopped by to visit.

The **Gettysburg Fire Department** and **Regional Ambulance Responders** each received **\$300.00** from Trinity this year in appreciation of their work in the community.

We continue to receive used stamps for **The Brethren Home in New Oxford**, as well as soda tabs for the **Ronald McDonald House in Hershey**.

The **Helping Hand Fund** has been established to respond to those members who need financial assistance in difficult times. Fund envelopes are available on the table in the Gathering Area or simply writing a check with the notation "Helping Hand" and place it in the offering plate on a Sunday morning.

We continue to provide **meeting space** for many community groups, including the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts, MDANA, Compassionate Friends, Gettysburg Choral Society, Interfaith Council for Justice and Peace, Meals and More (now disbanded), and Sign Language classes.

And here are some of the ways in which you have made a difference beyond the local area:

Trinity has made a commitment of support for **Our Church's Wider Mission of \$7,000.00 for 2017**. OCWM is the financial support we send to Penn Central Conference for the work of the Conference and the work of our national church and its headquarters in Cleveland. Because of the generosity of the congregation, we were able to support the Conference with an **additional \$5,000.00, raising our support to \$12,000.00 for 2017**.

We also support the United Church of Christ One Great Hour of Sharing, by which we reach out in ministry throughout the world. **\$1,399.00** was sent to OGHS, with another **\$2,310.00** sent specifically for disaster relief following the hurricane in Puerto Rico (this includes \$1,350.00 profit from the Fall Rummage Sale).

The **United Church of Christ Christmas Fund** was established to support retired clergy and spouses who have inadequate pensions from their years of service to the church and also to respond to emergency situations in the lives of clergy families. **\$55.00** was received at Trinity.

In total, financial contributions and in kind donations to the **local community totaled \$28,583.31** in 2017, while **contributions beyond the local area totaled \$15,159.00**, or a grand total of **\$43,542.31**. This does not include all the volunteer hours given. Thank you for your generosity of time, financial support, and talent throughout the year. Of the total amount, \$ 10,250.00 was included in the 2017 budget, with the balance never reflected in the support of the 2017 budget.