

DECEMBER OPPORTUNITIES TO LEND A HAND

“Warm Up Huntington!” Coat Drive- We will continue to give coats through winter!

Holiday Food Drive Continues in December -List on Website or Call HHRM

Annual Holiday Boutique Fundraiser December 6, 7 & 8 10-4pm

Annual Toy Drive December 1-24th- NEW, UNWRAPPED TOYS AGES 0-12 please

Christmas “Baby Blessings” December 19th 10:30am -3pm

Toy Wrapping Week December 10th-14th 10-4pm 6—9pm (filled with volunteers)

Mrs. Kim’s Annual Cookie Baking Party for Kids-Friday December 21st 6-9pm

54th Annual Christmas Party for Children- December 15th 2-4pm



Helping Hand Rescue Mission
225 Broadway
P.O. Box 325
Huntington Station, NY 11746

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Huntington Station, N.Y.
Permit #82

HHRM NEWS

Founded by Revs. Jim & Rose Marie Gaines & Mrs. Florence E. Meringola 1965

Christmas is truly my favorite holiday. Faith, family, joy and community surround me through the season. I remember when I was a child having many Christmases at the Mission. My parents and the mission volunteers always worked hard to make it special for the families that they served. When the party outgrew the Mission we rented the N.Y. State Armory on East 5th Street in Huntington Station. When the armory building closed we rented Jack Abrams STEM Magnet School. Next year will have to look for a bigger local venue so that we can share holiday joy with more children. Yes, our mission is growing. I love that!

My mom often reminded me of their first Christmas Party in 1965 when 14 children attended in the little store front mission on New York Avenue. They served refreshments, she told the Christmas story, sang a few carols and Christmas tunes and then the children were asked to make a selection from a table of gently used toys that had been donated and “spruced up” so that they could be given as gifts. Each child received a candy cane and some gumdrops. They were happy to receive their gifts and went away knowing that a Savior is born and that He loves and cares for the kids and their families. He came to save the world!

On December 15th we will have our 54th Annual Christmas Party for Children. 400 children will attend our party. Each will enjoy a 2 hour Christmas celebration will receive 2 awesome new toys, candy and will know that a Savior is born!

Because of your support we are able to rent the school, have adequate professional security from the district, hire Jester Jim, have a fun visit with Santa give beautiful new gifts, have a great sound system to fill the house with music and most importantly to tell the true story of Christmas. This year it will be shared by Smithtown Gospel Tabernacle’s First Grade as they share their special Christmas pageant in song and word.

Thank you for helping us to make Christmas so special for many families again this year. We are truly blessed and look forward to reporting the wonderful news of another successful party this year. Merry Christmas!

Christmastime is HERE!

**53rd Annual Christmas Party
Jack Abrams School 2017**



In the picture above, I am sharing some reflections of Christmas with the families. Parents are holding beautiful kids on their laps as I speak. Grandparents attend with grandchildren and there is so much love in the room. If you could see what I saw...you would smile.

“Hello? We just got placed in a shelter. We don’t have any coats, we don’t have warm clothing, we don’t have blankets. I don’t even want to think about Christmas. The shelter gave me your number to call. Can you help us?” a young woman asked on the phone.

“Yes, we can.” I answered. I told her more about our mission and asked if she could come. We took the family’s sizes and told them to register for our party. If they can’t find transportation that day their gifts will be delivered to them.

We can’t help every family that calls but we can help many and thank you for helping us meet the needs of many of those who call us for help, supplies, food and we always share God’s love with them as we serve them. The work of HHRM is so unique and special!

We were blessed to share over 500 food parcels during Thanksgiving.

Our pantry gave out an additional 100 monthly parcels during the month of November. You can imagine that would deplete a pantry supply rather quickly.

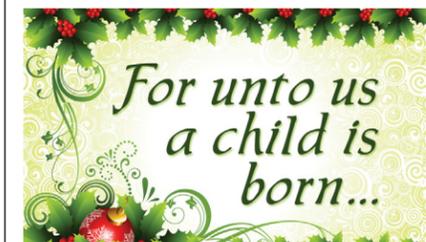
While we are in the midst of the holidays and a more bountiful supply, the winter months are coming. January, February and March are always slower months for donations of food.

Would you consider having a SOUPER BOWL drive at your work place or in your school or neighborhood? It doesn’t take a lot of effort. Just present the need and make a flyer. Put out a box. You’ll be amazed at how many people want to help. If you can’t have a drive maybe you can give a special donation to help with this need.

God bless you as you share what you have with other who are in need.

Please help us to **RESTOCK & RESTORE** so that we may feed more families than ever before.

We are always happy to share with those who come from the many blessings we receive.



I would like to thank Ernie at E.C. Copy of Farmingdale for making our newsletter affordable and beautiful!

We will be sending out more letters because of his consideration on the price. That’s so great!

His service has been excellent and we recommend his company for your printing needs! Thank you Ernie! God bless your work!

Dear Family, Friends & Mission Partners:

"It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas" at HHRM! Our wreaths are up, we're putting the lights and roping out on the white fence this weekend, the boutique is being set up and our Christmas party list is already at 400 children! Our registration is usually open until the week before the Christmas party 12/15/18 but this year before the 1st of December it is full! We have been very busy with registrations which began during the Thanksgiving distributions and today when we reviewed the list we couldn't believe that we are already at 400. Due to the capacity allowed at the school we will not be able to register more children to attend the party but we will still take their names and commit to providing gifts for 100 more children. Our toy drive is in full swing and we will wrap the week of December 11th. It's a great time of community spirit and coming together to help others. We are grateful to K-LOVE radio for the awesome radio spot they ran on the air for 2 weeks. We have received toy and diaper donations as a result of it. Did you get to hear it? What a blessing they have been to our mission. Positive and encouraging. We love K-LOVE!

We are blessed to report that we just had one of the most amazing Thanksgiving seasons ever thanks to God's faithfulness and the kindness and generosity of many of you and others who helped to provide to meet the immense need this year. We thank you sincerely. You have helped to make an incredible difference!

Long Island Baseball of Massapequa came and kicked off the packing nights by bringing thousands of pounds of food up from storage and packing the first 200 boxes. This is their 3rd year participating and they are always such a blessing. We got snowed out on packing night 2! What a surprise! We packed boxes for 2 more nights along with the help of Dalal Associates C.P.A. of Westbury. Dix Hills Evangelical Free Church youth came and finished the last 150 bags on Saturday and we were ready for our first of 4 distributions for Sunday afternoon.

Andre & Kim Sorrentino are a local couple that hosts a large turkey drive in our town. They were very generous in donating over 400 turkeys this year when their drive was completed! We were amazed, surprised and so very blessed. We are happy to report that we distributed 526 Thanksgiving food parcels and 483 turkeys and we have over 300 turkeys in our freezers to share for Christmas! This is a first for us. Isn't this such great news!

We would like to thank everyone that hosted food drives this year ensuring that our baskets were filled with quality items and that our pantry is not depleted. We were able to provide the monthly food pantry donation and Thanksgiving food to the families which is a true blessing. We would like to recognize the Huntington UFSD elementary schools, Cold Spring Harbor High School, West Side School, Goosehill Primary School and the preschool at the United Methodist Church. Each one participated by hosting a food drive and some even baked fresh pies to share. Our minivan visited many schools and left with a very generous amount of non-perishable food donations. Some brought their donations to the mission.

St. Peter's Lutheran Church donated over 1000 food items. Thrivent Lutheran said that if they collected 500 items we would receive a \$500.00 grant. St. Luke Lutheran Church donated 35 beautifully assembled food baskets again this year. Trinity OPC Church of Syosset donated 25 turkeys. We are grateful for the wonderful relationships we have with our supporting churches. The love and encouragement means so much. You are all special congregations and we appreciate you so much!

We distributed to the many families over 4 days, morning and afternoon to keep the parking lot safe and to avoid having long lines for people to wait on. This turned out to be a wonderful way to handle the distributions as it gave us more personal time with the families. Many prayers were prayed, much love was shared. We had a Thanksgiving chapel twice each day. I spoke from 1 Thessaolonians 5:18, "In everything give thanks..." There is always something to be thankful for! The people who attended were uplifted and encouraged and the gospel was shared with them.

Over 1000 coats have already gone through the mission doors this season. Irma does an amazing job sorting and organizing the many donations that come in. The stories are amazing about people finding their perfect coat. The smiles when they try them on are really incredible. We even met two little boys 10 and twelve years that were sharing one coat. One wore it one day and the other wore it the next. Now they each have a beautiful warm coat. It's hard to believe that was happening right here in Huntington Station. We would like to thank Douglas Elliman Realty, Harborfields Library, Cold Spring Harbor Library, West Side School, Flower Hill School and many generous neighbors for the beautiful coat donations we have received this year. I may be leaving some names or organizations and I apologize if I have. We appreciate ALL OF YOU!

We will continue to serve community lunches on Thursdays and will add Tuesdays after the holidays as many are out of work for the winter and appreciate a hot meal. We continue to have our community closet and Happy Day Express outreaches each week. God is so faithful to provide for every need! We are grateful to the many volunteers who help each week as we serve together to make a difference here in Huntington Station.

My son Drew Chadwick has been a wonderful help answering phones, going out on food pickups, helping in the pantry and doing whatever it takes to help me. His brother Mattinot our USAF Airman will graduate tech school 12/8 and is coming home for 20 days beginning 12/9/18. We are so happy! He will leave on 12/28 for Minot, North Dakota where he is scheduled to be stationed for the next couple of years. Brrrr! Heather & A.J. will be coming for Christmas and we are so excited to have our family together for a few days!

The holiday season is a time of giving, sharing and showing care for others. Will you help us meet the need today with your gift to HHRM? As always we appreciate your prayers, support and love knowing that you believe in our work here in Huntington Station. Will you help us end our year with all of the needs met and moving forward to do more in 2019?

Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year!


Rev. Kimberly Gaines-Gambino, President



**We are on Facebook as
Helping Hand Rescue Mission
Instagram as hhrm2535 and Twitter @hhrm
Visit our website at www.hhrm.org**



Community Mission Partners help us to serve others. We are grateful for our partners like TTPM who help us to serve more families with needful, quality things.



Two years ago I was privileged to meet Mr. Bob Glaser of TTPM in Manhattan. He asked about our mission and his eyes lit up when I told him about the children that we serve. "We can help you with that," he said. And they have. We have received several van loads of toys over the past 2 years including these this past Monday when my son Drew and I drove into Manhattan early in the morning and Bob loaded our van with toys to wrap for the holidays!

Toys are still needed! Christmas is Near!

Our 54th Annual Christmas Party for Children will be held on Saturday, December 15th 2018 at the Jack Abrams STEM Magnet School. We share a lovely afternoon celebrating the Reason for the Christmas season with our local families who look forward to this event every year! We already have 400 children registered and will be taking names of an additional 100 children to provide gifts for.

1st Annual Toy Wrapping Week December 11th-14th

WE will wrap from 10-4pm and 6pm-9pm until the job is done!

We are in need of new, unwrapped toys for boys and girls ages 0-12 years old. Toy donations can be dropped off at HHRM Tues-Friday 10am-4pm. If you need to schedule a different time please call to make arrangements. Or email kimberlygambino@hhrm.org

Thank you in advance for helping us to share God's love in a special way during this MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR!!!

**We are in the midst of one of the BEST
Holiday Seasons at HHRM.
So many wonderful things are happening.
Thank you for your support.
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!**

Baby Blessings Outgrows HHRM

At our last Baby Blessings in November it became obvious that we have outgrown our space at HHRM for this event. Our parking lot was packed, our chapel was packed as we served over 100 babies, toddlers and moms. The line was long as moms waited patiently with their children to look through baby items and to receive their diaper bag for the month.

Each baby receives a bag with 40 diapers, wipes, hygiene items as available. Baby clothes and other items are available each month as they are donated.

The parking lot issue is a safety issue and we don't like the idea of people having to wait on long lines to receive needed items.

We approached Pastor Danny Rivera at the Huntington Assembly of God and he generously offered the use of their church once a month for our Baby Blessings program. We are not sure if we will begin this in January or February and there are many details to work through but we are happy to have the possibility of using a beautiful facility with ample space and parking to host our event. We will keep you updated on this.

We are always in need of diaper and wipe donations, especially sizes 4, 5 & 6.

HELP US TO REACH OUR MMP GOAL

Monthly Mission Partners (MMP's) help to make our mission possible by providing financial help on a consistent monthly basis.

At present time we have approximately 115 MMP's. We would like to reach a goal of 500 MMP's by the end of 2019. It's an aggressive goal but it would help us to reach our goals of having more staff and expanding the ministry.

MMP's receive special acknowledgments and updates on our progress and current needs.

Will you consider becoming a Monthly Mission's Partner? (MMP) Make a monthly financial contribution of your choice to HHRM and help us to help local children, their families and other people in need.

Simply write **MMP** in the memo section of your check, sign up for a recurring gift via our website online, www.hhrm.org or use your bill pay service to set up a recurring donation.

All donations are tax-deductible and will be acknowledged with a receipt for tax purposes.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter!