

Announcement from St. Paul's conference of St. Vincent de Paul

## Holiday Homeless Project

As the Holiday Season quickly approaches, St. Vincent de Paul would like to invite members of our parish to assist with our Homeless Care program. This past year we have distributed over some 400 care bags to Delaware's homeless. It is estimate Delaware has some **921** persons experiencing homelessness on any given day. Of that Total, **116** were family households, **65** were Veterans, **42** were unaccompanied young adults (aged 18-24), and **168** were individuals experiencing chronic homelessness.

Public school data reported to the U.S. Department of Education during the 2017-2018 school year shows that an estimated **3,484** public school students experienced homelessness over the course of the year. Of that total, **8** students were unsheltered, **176** were in shelters, **378** were in hotels/motels, and **2,922** were doubled up.

Since the start of the pandemic, we have noted an increase in the number of homeless individuals in Delaware and are providing some 50 to 60-care bags each month.

For the Holiday Season we are asking your help to provide items to be placed in our care bags. Each of these bags contains much-needed items. Please help our homeless neighbors and take a few moments to read our list of suggested items for donations. You can return your donations to the rectory on Monday & Tuesday during Linda's working hours or place your donations on the floor in front of the St. Joseph statue **before** Masses. **Cash donations, in lieu of a specific item donation, should be placed in an envelope marked HOMELESS PROJECT and placed in the offering basket during Mass or mailed directly to the church; again marked HOMELESS PROJECT.**

Our Care Bags emphasize personal care items, nutrition, hydration, protection from the elements and are specific to the season. Please help us to make this project meaningful to those in need. As always, thank you for your continued support of all our projects. I leave you with this thought.

The Bible tells us in Deuteronomy 15:11 ***"For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you, 'You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.'"***

Anyone needing additional information concerning this project should contact Cathy Hofstee 302-465-0879.

**All items should be of TRAVEL or SMALL size and could be carried in a backpack or bag. No Glass.**

Cathy Hofstee

Suggested items for Men and Woman, but mostly homeless men are as follows:

Travel Size Tissues pkg.	Individual pkgs. Trail Mix	Individually wrapped Protein Bars or meal replacement bars	Bottles of water	Individual pkgs. of Cheese Crackers, Peanut Butter Crackers etc.
Hand sanitizer	Facial masks	Meal replacement drinks as Ensure etc.	Tuna or chicken salad pouches	Toothpaste
Toothbrush	Toothbrush caps	Dry Shampoo	Foot Powder	Foot Cream
Body Lotion	Lip Balm	Comb	Deodorant	Nail Clipper & nail file
Rain Poncho	\$5.00 gift card to fast food establishment.	Scarves, gloves, knit caps, ear muffs	Hand & feet warms	Gently used coats Men's L or woman's S/M
Men's and woman's body wipes	Mylar Emergency blankets	Fleece throws	Sun glasses	Hotel size bars of soap, shampoo
Insulated Underwear  <b>SOCKS</b>	First aid kit	Cash or check made out to St. Paul's Catholic Church, with memo Homeless Project	Sweatshirt  Large- men  Medium- Woman	Sanitary products for Women

Note: This is an on-going project. Donations from this list can be made anytime of the year. In the summer, we concentrate on sun protection instead of warmth. (Caps, visors, sunglasses, sunblock etc.)