

Year End Charitable Activities of Local MMVS Regions 2015

Brooklyn, Queens and Long Island Region

- **Thanksgiving Food Donation**

This region bought food items for thanksgiving meal for about 30 families. This was donated to Westbury Neighborhood house. They did not want bags or baskets made as the families this center serve range from one to six people.

- **Help For a Family In Need.**

Like the prior year this region donated money to a deserving family of our ethnic background.

New Jersey and Staten Island Region

- **Thanksgiving Food Distribution**

Members from various parishes met at St. Joseph Social Service Center, 1118 Division Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07201. The place is a clearing place for all the foods to be distributed for Thanksgiving. The task assigned to the volunteers was to make bags of food to be given out to the needy families. They had a set method of making these bags, So our members set out making those bags and were able to make a large number of bags. A couple of our volunteers also took part in giving out these bags to the recipients. The area MMVS also contributed money to buy turkey and accompaniments for 35 people.

- **Thanksgiving Baskets**

6 families were selected to receive these baskets. Baskets were made with all the items needed to make Thanksgiving dinner. This donation was done through RWJ foundation at New Brunswick, New Jersey. The baskets were given to those families which were really appreciated. Mrs. Ani Ninan coordinated this effort.

- **Hope House Food Pantry, Dover, New Jersey,**

Area MMVS contributed to the food pantry along with St. Thomas Orthodox Church Dover members, providing non-perishable food items to the Hope House food pantry, 21 Belmont Avenue, Dover, NJ. Office bearers of MMVS unit of St. Thomas Church, Dover coordinated this effort.

- **Soup Kitchen**

On Saturday Dec 12, 2015; 16 members of MMVS from NJ and Staten Island along with Vice President Rev. Fr TA Thomas assembled at Trinity Lutheran Church at 309 St. Paul's Ave, Staten Island. These people were able to give a helping hand in the soup kitchen. They helped in organization, preparation and serving of the lunch. The ladies not only brought in a

large cake as dessert for the occasion but also large amount of non perishable food items for the food pantry. The occasion was blessed by the presence of Dr. Soffy Vilson, the area coordinator for New Jersey and Staten Island, Dr.Ammukutty Paulose, Coordinator for charitable activities, NE American Diocese, Mrs. Sara Mathew, secretary, MMVS, St. Mary's Orthodox Church, Staten Island, Mrs. Sherin Varughese, secretary MMVS, Mar Gregorios Orthodox Church, Staten Island and Mrs. Reena Sabu, secretary, MMVS, St George Orthodox Church, Staten Island.



A heart- A home- Backpack campaign for foster and adoptive family services.

This was done in December along with the holiday season and backpacks filled with items as welcome kits were provided to Senator Joe Vitale's legislative office. St. Mary's Orthodox Church Linden MMVS members under the leadership of MMVS secretary Mrs. Ani Ninan coordinated the campaign.

Rockland and Upstate New York Region

- **Soup Kitchen**

The soup Kitchen area chose to help is run by St. Paul Episcopal Church; Spring Valley, NY. Members from various parishes helped at this event. They cooked, cleaned and served the meal for 60 people. The soup kitchen authorities needed more manual help than monetary. Area MMVS brought in a cake which was served as dessert.



- **Christmas Gifts to needy families through Project Joy.**

Project Joy is a part of People to People. They receive wish lists from needy families during Christmas time. Area MMVS selected wish list from 5 families with total of 8 children. Age appropriate clothes, shoes and toys were bought according to the children's wish. In addition they also donated a girl's bike to Project Joy. All these items were handed over to the Project Joy. They in turn gave it out to the needy families.



- **Hope and Safety:**

This is an organization which helps abused women. The organization welcomed the help from the area MMVS. Some of the ladies from the area spent time at Paramus Mall, New Jersey wrapping gifts at the gift wrapping counter. The money that was collected for the wrapping was given directly to 'Hope and Safety'. The materials used to wrap the gifts were all donated by the paper company. Members from the different parishes spent time on three days wrapping gifts. Area also did a small monetary contribution to the organization.



Bronx, Boston, Connecticut and Westchester Region

- **Thanksgiving Baskets**

MMVS members from different parishes came together in St. Mary's Church, White Plains and made bags filled with food for Thanksgiving. The bags contained all the food needed for a thanksgiving meal for a family of 4-5 and a gift card to buy a turkey. These bags were donated to 'Lifting up Westchester' in White Plains, NY. This is an organization that runs shelters, food pantries and soup kitchen.



- **Helping hand to a patient undergoing dialysis.**

Like the prior year the region was able to help a patient on dialysis with monetary assistance. This is a patient in bad financial situation.

Philadelphia Region

- **Chennai Relief**

Different MMVS units of the region came forth and collected clothes. These were sorted out and packed into 30 boxes. The region is coordinating with PIANO (Philadelphia Indian Nurses' Association) in arranging the shipping of the boxes.

- **Holiday Food Collection**

The MMVS members bought non perishable food and donated them to Philabundance, Aids for friends, 12271 Townsend Road 19154, Philadelphia.



DC, Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina



- **Raleigh Rescue Center**

During parish visit to Raleigh, NC the office bearers of the MMVS unit of that parish had arranged a charity event. They after finding out the need in the community purchased the items along with few copies of The Bible. These were donated to Raleigh Rescue Center.

- **Capital Area Food Bank, Washington DC 20017**

The mission of the capital area food bank is to feed those who suffer from hunger in Washington Dc. They work with partner agencies to educate and

empower the community about social issues from hunger and nutrition. MMVS donated items from their wish-list and non-perishable food.

- **Good Shepherd Alliance, Ashburn, Virginia, 20147.**

MMVS donated household items, laundry detergents, cleaning materials, diapers and baby care Good Shepherd is a Christian non-profit organization providing help and hope for the homeless and those in need through emergency and transitional housing and outreach services leading to self sufficiency.

- **Grass root Crisis Services, Columbia MD 21044.**

Grass root operates on a 24-hour crisis intervention and supportive counseling hot line to prevent suicide, assist in resolving family problems and provide shelter. MMVS donated household items such as paper goods, non-perishable food, and baby care products.

- **DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Washington DC 20005**

It operates on a 24 hour crisis intervention and supportive counseling hotline to prevent suicide. Area donated gift cards.