

Dear Ascension Parish Community,

As we conclude our second full week of engaging with and supporting our newest neighbors in our parish and surrounding community, we would like to thank all of the generous donations of clothing, supplies, funds, work and effort, and care, prayer, and concern that you have showered on these new families. Thanks to your efforts, the 95 families who are living at the shelter on Central Park West and 107th have received clothing, toiletries, delicious hot meals, fresh fruit, and other essential items. Together with a network of neighborhood volunteers, we are providing guidance and information about other services, including medical expertise, legal guidance for the immigration and asylum process, registration for local schools, enrollment of children in community sports leagues, in addition to offering general guidance about our neighborhood and city.

This weekend, 17 September (Saturday) and 18 September (Sunday), we will hold our final distribution event at Ascension Church.

NEED FOR VOLUNTEERS

This weekend we could use volunteers for organizing and distributing clothing and supplies, for our final event, at the following times:

SATURDAY 9/17 -- SET-UP ONLY

****All volunteers welcome****

Ascension Church

221 West 107th Street

Community Center (basement)

Start time: 2:00 pm

SUNDAY 9/18 -- DISTRIBUTION EVENT

****Spanish-speaking volunteers essential; all volunteers welcome****

Ascension Church

221 West 107th Street

Community Center (basement)

Time: 10am - 4:30pm

After this weekend, we will be coordinating with the St. Francis Thrift Store organized and supported by our neighboring parish of Holy Name Church. The thrift store is located on 96th Street between Broadway and Amsterdam. Our donations of clothing and household items will contribute to the efforts of Holy Name to support our entire community, including our new neighbors. Our new neighbors will be able to shop in the St. Francis Thrift thanks to vouchers that Holy Name will be offering each family, with the support of Ascension Church.

OTHER WAYS TO VOLUNTEER:

If you are a Spanish-speaker and would like to volunteer your time to accompany our new neighbors to medical and legal appointments, and to provide overall guidance as they learn their way around our neighborhood and city, please consider attending an information session on the process of accompaniment:

THURSDAY 9/22 -- ACCOMPANIMENT INFO SESSION

****Please join us if you would like to join a team of volunteers to accompany our new neighbors to medical and legal appointments.****

Ascension Church

221 West 107th Street

Community Center (basement)

Time: 6-7:30pm

CATHOLIC CHARITIES WELCOME AND NAVIGATION CENTER

You can also volunteer your time and energy at the Welcome and Navigation Center for arriving new neighbors, which is organized by Catholic Charities. Here is the link to the webpage where you can access more information, and sign up for a shift: Catholic Charities Welcome and Navigation Center

The Catholic Charities Welcome and Navigation Center is located at 520 West 49th Street, between 10th & 11th Avenues.

ONGOING NEED FOR DONATIONS:

Our newest neighbors have ongoing need for the following donations, which we will accept in the bin placed in the Rectory Office and will offer to families when they come to the Community Center for clinics and workshops:

- > Toiletries such as soap and shampoo
- > Feminine hygiene supplies (sanitary pads, please; no tampons as per: women's preference)
- > Diapers, wipes, and diaper rash cream (for all sizes of babies and toddlers, including pull-ups)
- > New underwear and socks of all sizes and sexes
- > Antifungal treatments for yeast infections, such as Monistat
- > Fever and pain reducing medications for children and adults, especially in small bottles (so that each family can take one)
- > Laundry detergent (liquid)
- > MetroCards

We are also gathering monetary donations to support our new neighbors. We assist them monetarily with filling prescriptions for medication, buying MetroCards, filling pre-paid cards for laundry, and so on. You can make a monetary donation at the following link:

<https://rcchurchoftheascension.flocknote.com/give/4889>

You can also navigate via this QR code to the donation website:



The needs of our newest neighbors are dynamic and changing. We are doing our best to respond to their needs and to support them. Please keep checking for announcements by email, bulletin, and on the church website for updates.

If you wish to be added to the volunteers' email list, please email your name, phone number, email address, and particular skills that you would like to contribute, to Hope Bond: hopembond@gmail.com.

Thank you for your outpouring of generosity. Sheltering the stranger, healing the sick, and providing refuge for the weary: this is faith in action.

With gratitude for all that you do,

Fr. Kearney