

## Website: mmwsk.org Holiday Greetings from Mother Marianne's West Side Boutique

Throughout the year in addition to helping local individuals in need, the Boutique is helping some Sudan and Afghan refugees via The Refugee Center, and with St. Volodymyr's Church, we are distributing clothing to newly arrived Ukrainian families. We have also sent out some extra clothing to refugee camps and orphanages in and near the Ukraine border. Some Bombas socks have been sent to Ukrainian troops *(Bombas is glad we are sharing with soldiers).* We have been blessed to receive a generous supply of socks from Bombas.

Our soup kitchen numbers are increasing, serving over 100 meals a day, and in the boutique on Mondays we are helping almost 50 people during lunch time (11:30 to 12:30 pm). Four "volunteer" personal shoppers help folks find things they need. Every person gets near to 10 minutes to shop. We need to keep moving so we help all. We are planning soon to extend shopping time to 90 minutes. Currently some volunteers pop in during the week to sort donations and help someone in need, also a Saturday volunteer distributes miscellaneous items to lunch guests. If you're interested in volunteering, go to our website to contact us.

We are still doing haircuts monthly. In fact, we even have mothers and young children from a shelter coming over for both haircuts and clothing. We are thankful to Linda Perrymen from Hair Solutions in Yorkville; she has been donating her services since December 2018. Blood Pressure clinic is held monthly with the help of Mohawk Valley Health System. Some folks with blood pressure concerns are getting follow-up medical appointments via the nurse in charge.

## "We are continuing to grow and so is the meal program, the need never decreases"

We believe St. Marianne is always helping us to continue her work right here in Utica and in the surrounding communities and beyond. We would like to have you and any guests come and tour the boutique.

We are sending out our Holiday Wish List to many who have helped and others who express interest in helping. Any consideration you may give is greatly appreciated. May God bless you and your families always! Wishing you a wonderful Christmas Season!

With much appreciation,

Mancy Robert | Volunteer Coordinator / EMAIL: <u>nancyrobert@mmwsk.org</u>
\* We are in immediate need of blankets, sheets, pillows, bath towels!