



ST. LUKE IN THE FIELDS
CELEBRATING 200 YEARS

OUTREACH PROGRAMS

BY HANNAH SOHN, OUTREACH AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

St. Luke's Community Closet



Every Saturday, our volunteers and community partners (e.g. New York Cares, St. Luke's School) schlep, organize and welcome marginally housed neighbors who visit our Community Closet, including recently arrived immigrants from all corners of the globe. We provide new socks and underwear, all manner of personal care and hygiene products, gently used clothing, sneakers and shoes. We also provide period products, baby gear, diapers and wipes, backpacks and rolling suitcases. We prioritize seasonal items like winter coats, hats, gloves and scarves. Sometimes we simply lend an ear. The picture at the bottom right was taken during our Community Closet Winter Coat Giveaway thanks to a generous donation of brand new coats from the New York Disaster Interfaith Services who delivered them to our doorstep!



(Left) Guests are in line to visit our Community Closet which is open every Sat. 2-7pm in Laughlin Hall. From 2-4pm, it's open to the public, and from 4-7pm, our Art & Acceptance guests have access to it.

ST. LUKE'S HAS A LONG HISTORY OF RADICAL WELCOME.

Greenwich Village's oldest church, The Church of St. Luke in the Fields was founded in 1820 and has a long history of inclusiveness and radical welcome as a community. In 1979, it was one of the first churches in the Anglican Communion to appoint a woman as a priest. St. Luke's hosts one of the oldest Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) meetings in the city.

SAGE, the country's largest and oldest organization dedicated to improving the lives of LGBT older adults, also began in a small office at St. Luke's.





Art & Acceptance: A Safe Place

Since 2016, Art & Acceptance has been our weekly Saturday evening drop-in program (from 4-7pm at 653 Greenwich St.) featuring a safe space for LGBTQ+ youth/young adults (who are frequently marginally housed). Art & Acceptance operates through a harm-reduction lens to provide a hospitable, nonsectarian, safe space. The program includes a nutritious hot meal and a surprise dessert often dropped off by the families of St. Luke's School. Our guests enjoy arts & crafts projects, open mic nights and full access to our Community Closet to stock up on socks, underwear, clothing and hygiene supplies. We also provide metro cards, health and legal services, in collaboration with visiting partner organizations. Most importantly: We offer Community.

Over the last couple years, we've noticed a developing theme at Art & Acceptance. Cupcakes and ice cream treats are a big hit, jewelry-making with colorful beads and Valentine's Day cookie decorating. This group loves to celebrate! Our pancake suppers have also been a fun way to cook and share a meal together. Below is the volunteer group from the NYC chapter for Gay for Good who rustled up our last pancake supper, followed by an open mic/karaoke session; a great way to spend a Saturday evening!

In the 1980s, the congregation of St. Luke's was significantly impacted by the HIV/AIDS pandemic and founded the AIDS project of St. Luke's. This groundbreaking project served Saturday dinners and weekend teas to 35,000 people, welcoming, serving, fundraising, and holding funerals at a time when so many houses of worship refused to do so.



A BIG thanks to Ryan Ricarte and his crew of volunteers from the NYC Chapter of Gay for Good and our very own Anthony Lanzillo who led the group in producing a fantastic pancake supper with blueberries, chocolate chips, whipped cream, chicken sausages, scrambled eggs and real maple syrup!



GO Project at St. Luke's: Closing the Equity Gap in Education

For 30 years, St. Luke's has partnered with the GO Project to help NYC public school students thrive in the earliest stages of their education through year-round academic, social-emotional and family support. Over five weeks in July and August, and Saturdays from October-May, underserved public school students K-8 attend GO at St. Luke's for reading/math interventions and social-emotional support. Support programs are led by a team of trained teachers, social workers and enrichment instructors. St. Luke's hosts the program, rent-free.

The GO Project model relies on an inclusive community approach: public school partners collaborate on student enrollment, progress, and challenges; parents and caregivers ensure their child's active participation and build strong family-school-community connections; instructional staff from across the city lead the classrooms; non-profits and higher education institutions share services, talent, and resources; and volunteers supplement classroom instruction and enrichment.

We're happy to report that we have 126 kids registered to attend the GO Project at St. Luke's for our summer session which began July 1, 2024. The kids are with us for five weeks for all-day summer camp, free-of-charge.

Students enter the GO Project in grades K-2 and all have been identified by their public schools as being 1-2 years behind academically in reading, math, or both upon enrollment; 45% of students have a special education classification; 20% are English Language Learners; 43% live in single parent households; and the average household income of families served is below \$35,000.





Community Connections...



Hope and Beth from East End Temple (pictured here in the middle) are helping care for a group of 12-15 recently arrived migrant families. St. Luke's helps supply them with clothing, new parkas, boxes of diapers, wipes and new and gently used baby/kids clothing as they offer community and care to families in need.



Local Sikh non-profit Let's Share a Meal delivered hundreds of delicious vegetarian meals to our doorstep for our Community Closet and Art & Acceptance guests!



(Above) Sat. evenings, only Art & Acceptance guests wearing hats sit at this particular table!
 (Left) The tulips are blooming at St. Luke's! The gardens provide a sense of beauty and peace to our guests every day.

Above are the staffers from the Immigrant Affairs Unit of the Manhattan District Attorney's office who gave a presentation to our recently arrived Community Closet guests on the financial frauds that target immigrants. The presentation was given in English, Spanish AND Arabic plus one of our New York Cares volunteers translated the presentation into French!

Below, in a rented U-Haul, founder Austin Rivers of Knit the Rainbow, Inc. hand delivered six huge boxes of beautiful, hand knit hats, scarves and gloves. Here he is handing off the boxes to Tony, our head of facilities. (We were his 8th stop!)





A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS...



Community Closet



Community Closet



Distributing hundreds of sneakers (and baby supplies!) purchased with a generous grant by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints



Morning Harambee (singing together) to start the day at GO Project at St. Luke's



Families from St. Luke's School making lunches for our Community Closet



GO Project at St. Luke's



A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS...



Volunteers organize our Community Closet



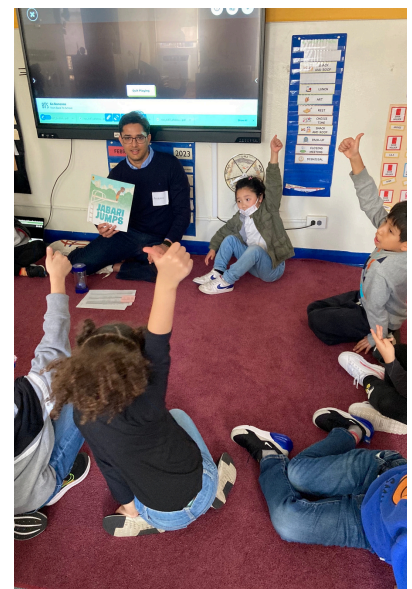
A truck-full of donated clothing and diapers delivered by Artists.Athletes.Activists



Moms from P.S. 3 drop off clothing donations



St. Luke's School families make lunches for Community Closet



GO Project at St. Luke's



NY Disaster Interfaith Services donates 300 new winter coats for our Winter Coat Drive



Community Closet guests stocking up on summer clothing



WE HAVE FRIENDS NEAR AND FAR...AND WE'RE THANKFUL!



CalLEN-LORDE





**Drop off Community Closet
donations
Mon-Fri 9-5pm
St. Luke's Parish House or
Saturdays
in Laughlin Hall
1-3:30pm at
487 Hudson St.**

If you're able, please consider
making a financial contribution to
our Outreach Programs using this
QR code:



You can also order new underwear
and the most requested travel-
sized hygiene items from our online
wish list using this QR code:



THANK YOU FOR YOUR
SUPPORT!

Most requested items for our Community Closet:

- New underwear/briefs are #1 in demand
- Travel sized hygiene items in bulk are best! (soap, shampoo, razors, lotion etc.)
- Laundered, gently used clothing, sneakers/walking shoes
- T-shirts, shorts, tank tops, rain gear, fleece, light jackets, hoodies, umbrellas, sweatshirts/pants
- Jeans, pants, joggers, sweat pants, belts
- Gently used towels, sheets, pillow cases, blankets, sleeping bags
- Period products and larger sized baby diapers and wipes
- Adult disposable underwear
- Disposable razors, lotion, shampoo/conditioner, shower gel, soap
- Toothpaste, toothbrushes, floss
- Moisturizer, hand sanitizer
- First-aid supplies
- Rolling suitcases, backpacks
- Non-perishable canned goods, pasta, rice, boxes of cereal, etc.