



STARFISH MINISTRIES

END '25/BEGIN '26 NEWSLETTER

WHO WE ARE:

Starfish Ministries, based on The Starfish Story, began with a retired grandmother who had a desire to reach out to the homeless of Harrisburg and supply them with their basic daily needs. While handing out toiletries and snacks, her second desire grew...to give them hope to return to society. The 2nd Sunday of each month we go to the streets of Harrisburg to serve homeless men and women by directing them to support resources, distributing needed items, praying for/with them, all with the personal touch of a hug, a handshake or a listening ear. As paralleled in the Starfish Story, one by one, this is our goal.

Starfish Ministries
89 Broadwell Ln.
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

On the second Sunday of each month Starfish Ministries is on the streets of Harrisburg handing out basic needs to the homeless. We continue to grow and are now serving approximately 130-145 homeless people in our small city each month with the help of 40 volunteers.

Upcoming Outreach Dates and Main Focus Items:

(held on the 2nd Sunday of each month, 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m., behind Chase Bank in the Square of Harrisburg/behind the Dauphin County Courthouse)

- March 8 - backpacks, OTC meds/vitamins, sneakers/boots, disposable razors/shave cream
- April 12- - umbrellas/ponchos, travel size toiletries, canned meats and meals, readers
- May 10 - bath towels, bar soap, sneakers, cargo shorts, baseball caps, lightweight jackets, white socks and sunglasses
- June 8 - sunscreen, foot powder, bag chairs, first aid supplies, OTC meds, gently used sneakers

*“Our friends on the street might **have** less than we do, YET they **are** no less than we are”*
Carol Crossley

A MESSAGE FROM CAROL

Our story began many years ago with a simple act of kindness...handing out cold water on a hot day. In winter we transitioned to socks and hot chocolate. All from a card table. Currently the Starfish outreach serves with 35-40 volunteers by providing toiletries, personal care items, sleeping bags, blankets, tents, backpacks, groceries, clothing and shoes, a hot meal, a "to go" cold lunch, drinks, nursing care and free haircuts by our Mobile Barbershop (Anthony)

An outreach day includes loading up supplies, transporting, unloading supplies, and setting up 20+ tables/racks, serving the crowd, tearing down and repacking, reloading, transporting, unloading and cleaning up. Many hours are spent prior to each outreach sorting and organizing supplies. Those that we cannot use are repackaged and donated to Community Aid who in turns send us a quarterly check. Lots of man hours are needed to serve our friends on the street.

Unfortunately, 2026 has begun with some difficulty. The weather this year is playing a big part in discouraging folks from leaving their tents to come receive provisions. In addition to harsh weather, one of our Starfish vans has broken down and we are still undecided whether to purchase another one or repair this one with limited money as the big issue. UPDATE: the van has been repaired! Thanks to Fred Beans Kia Auto who split the labor cost 50/50 with us.

As of this writing, we have placed one especially vulnerable individual in a motel during the blizzard, moved two persons into housing, paid for another's motel stay while her vehicle is in repair (allowing her to return to work), received the donated contents of an entire apartment and so much more. This is only the beginning of February and the precedence being set is alarming for the year ahead.

What we wish others knew about Starfish.

Our society sees homelessness as a moral failing. As a result, many people tend to believe that people who are homeless must have made bad choices that led to their homelessness or that they simply refuse to get a job.

Many homeless people do have jobs, but still can't afford rent. Many more would probably welcome a job opportunity, but their current circumstances (no mailing address, no computer, no access to daily shower or clean clothes) make applying for a job tremendously difficult, if not impossible.

Most of the biggest risk factors for homelessness (such as mental illness, substance abuse, high healthcare costs, domestic violence, poverty and lack of affordable housing) are outside of individuals' control, or could have been prevented with appropriate and accessible social services. There are many, many housed individuals who are only one financial crisis or unexpected bill away from homelessness.

October - Served 164 a baked potato bar, fish sticks/nuggets and sweet/sour cut up hotdogs

December - Served 120 Baked ham, sweet potatoes, green beans, homemade Christmas candy by Sue Nyce. Handed out backpacks filled with items packed by folks at The Woods at Cedar Run.

January - Served 90 hot turkey sandwiches, mashed potatoes and stuffing, banana pudding.

February - Served 75, spaghetti, chicken alfredo, tossed salad and Valentine cupcakes in 10 degree weather! (check out the photos!)

THANKS SUSIE PULLER!



HIGHLIGHTS OF 2025

- *Furniture and household goods were supplied to 15 newly housed folks
- *Did 6 whole house “clean outs”
- *Assisted with the move from Tent City to AMiracle Community
- *Hosted a Volunteer Appreciation Dinner
- *Delivered MANY pallets to Tent City prior to their move
- *Purchased 3 tents, 3 solar fans and 3 sets of pillows to AMiracle Community and donated \$500 to purchase lumber for platforms
- *Served 1643 folks with an average of 137 each month
- *Were blessed with 146 free portable stoves, 20 cases of butane, a skid of sports drinks and food from the local food drive in New Cumberland
- *Participated in 2 Resource Fairs
- *11 individuals/businesses donated \$1000+ each
- *Received \$970.71 from Community Aid for our donations to them
- *Had volunteers representing Trinity, First COG, Grace Hummelstown, Dillsburg Community, Mt Olivet and Mountain Ridge Church, Dillsburg
- *Had 35- 40 volunteers each month to serve
- *Trinity Church of New Cumberland brought carolers to our Christmas outreach on a very cold Sunday

M28 MINISTRY (HOUSE2HOME) is one of our biggest suppliers of home furnishings. When other agencies have placed someone into housing they refer their clients to Starfish Ministries. These clients often have nothing but a sleeping bag and a few personal items. Enter House2Home! Everything in their well organized warehouse, from small furniture, beds, kitchen appliances and utensils, etc. are all donated by the public. They simply ask for a \$50 donation from each client who “shops” their warehouse. **So when you find yourself purchasing new things for your home, please consider reaching out to House2Home to donate your gently used items. www.m28.us (Click on the drop down menu; click on House2Home; click on “set up a pickup appointment” and House2Home will confirm with you)**

If you or someone you know would like to be added to our mailing list, please send an email to 4starfishministries@gmail.com with your/their name and address.

PLEASE USE OUR COMMUNITY AID PARTNER NUMBER 50218 WHEN MAKING DONATIONS TO COMMUNITY AID! This brings us modest but welcome income.



SPECIAL THANKS....

Starfish Ministries is amazingly blessed by so very many organizations, families and incredible individuals.

- Chic Hair Design which held a two month donation drive for us
- Century 21 (Piscioneri) who also held a donation drive
- OnSong who donated \$3000
- Weis Markets on Bumblebee Road donated \$150 gift card
- LAMBS, another mission donated \$1000
- Mechanicsburg Swim Team assembled 160 “goodie/lunch” bags for our January outreach and also volunteered to serve that day
- Trinity Church’s Youth volunteered at the February outreach
- Our many faithful individual donors
- All of our dedicated volunteers!!!

ALWAYS NEEDED:

Deodorant
Foot/body powder
Travel size toiletries
Warm socks
OTC pharmaceuticals

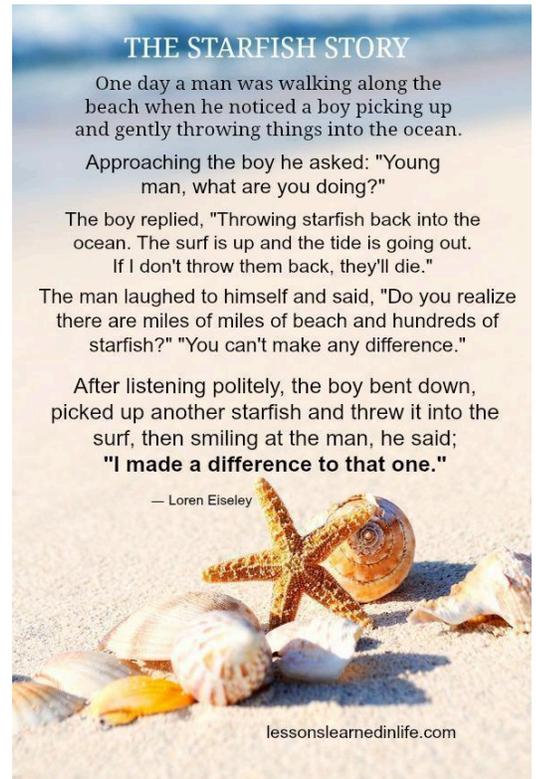
Backpacks
NEW underwear
Canned meats/meals
(flip tops)
Monetary donations
PRAYERS!

SPECIAL REQUESTS

Sleeping Bags and Tents
Hand/toe warmers
Manual can openers
Blankets gently used
Thermal underwear

THINGS THAT HAVE KEPT US BUSY SINCE THE LAST NEWSLETTER:

- helped with 3 complete home “clean outs” and were granted many of the items to be used for Starfish
- donated LOTS to Community Aid. REMEMBER TO DO SO ALSO AND USE OUR PARTNER NO. 50218
- Helped a man furnish his “room” after graduating from rehab
- Helped a Starfish avoid eviction
- Helped a woman who is living in her truck by providing gas cards and resources
- Helped a woman return to work by helping with car repairs, and then into housing vs. motel living
- Provided proper shoes and clothing for two individuals going into the working field
- Did another “move in” in February (She was so happy she baked a cake the same day!)



WAYS YOU MIGHT HELP

- *Volunteer to help at a Starfish outreach and bring a friend to introduce them to the joys of community service. (Sign up on our website under Events)
- *Sponsor a Starfish with a tent and sleeping bag (\$55)
- *Organize a collection at your church or work place for specific items. i.e. foot powder, canned meals, etc.
- *Prepare snack bags containing items such as something salty, something sweet, Slim Jims, fruit cups, etc.
- *Make sandwiches, bake cookies, cupcakes or brownies

Proverbs: 19:17 *“Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward them for what they have done.”*

2026 Starfish Ministries Sponsorship Opportunities

IF YOU WISH TO DONATE TO STARFISH MINISTRIES You can now do so via PayPal, Venmo, (see address below) **OR** simply mail your check made payable to **Starfish Ministries** and return to Carol Crossley, 89 Broadwell Ln, Mechanicsburg PA 17055. All donations are used for helping our friends on the street. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for caring for them! Prayers for all, that you and your loved ones remain safe from harm.

***The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'* ~Matthew 25:40**

Please complete the form below and return it to Carol Crossley at the following address or send via email to 4starfishministries@gmail.com Return envelope enclosed

Starfish Ministries
Attn: Carol Crossley
89 Broadwell Lane
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No. and Email Address: _____

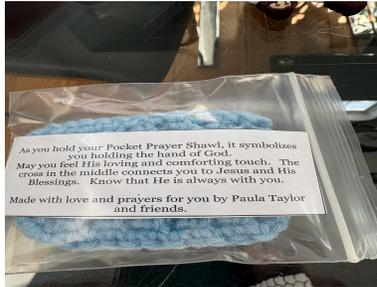
- Sponsorship level:**
- Gold (\$750+) will supply one month's outreach items needed**
 - Silver (\$200) will buy 3 tents , 3 sleeping bags and 3 tarps**
 - Bronze (\$175) will cover one complete "move in" (H2H, Uhaul, Daystar)**
 - \$150 will provide the monthly donation for the Mobile Barbershop**
 - \$75 buys gas for the Starfish van to pick up collections, do "move ins" and helps with the monthly outreach**
 - \$60 will provide monthly electricity for the garage**
 - \$55 will provide an essential tent and sleeping bag**
 - \$35 will purchase one tent**
 - To be used where needed the most _____**
 - Make my gift monthly because the need and the work is ongoing. Thank you!**

Payment type: Check (enclosed) Check # _____
Made payable to "Starfish Ministries"

Venmo/Paypal www.venmo.com/Carol-Crossley-2 OR
www.paypal.me/starfishministries

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING STARFISH MINISTRIES

Compassion in *Action* for our unhoused friends on the street



Starfish Ministries
89 Broadwell Ln.
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

Carol Crossley, Founder/Director
Phone: 717-379-9030
Starfish email: 4starfishministries@gmail.com
Stay informed at: www.facebook.com/starfishministries.hbg
Website: www.starfishministrieshbg.org

If you wish to be taken off of our mailing list, please text "remove," and your name to 717-379-9030
Tax ID No. 83-4362989
A 501(c)3 non-profit organization

THE STARFISH STORY

One day a man was walking along the beach when he noticed a boy picking up and gently throwing things into the ocean.

Approaching the boy he asked: "Young man, what are you doing?"

The boy replied, "Throwing starfish back into the ocean. The surf is up and the tide is going out. If I don't throw them back, they'll die."

The man laughed to himself and said, "Do you realize there are miles of miles of beach and hundreds of starfish?" "You can't make any difference."

After listening politely, the boy bent down, picked up another starfish and threw it into the surf, then smiling at the man, he said;

"I made a difference to that one."

— Loren Eiseley

