

Women's Guild continues long-term service to Eva's Village with donation of clothing for the Moms of the Hope Residence

In the continuation of a 35+ -year tradition of helping the mothers and children of Eva's Village in Paterson, Women's Guild members Christine Badach and Sandra Shahinian delivered more than 30 bags of towels, pajamas and shower slippers for the use of the mothers at the Hope Residence shelter there. Christine usually organizes a monthly meal that is prepared and delivered by St. Leon volunteers. In the current conditions, the shelter is not accepting food prepared by non-professionals. When Christine asked what we could do to help, volunteer coordinator Angela Vance said that the women who come to the shelter often do not have adequate supplies and that nightwear, shower slippers and towels were especially needed.

As happens so often, when the parishioners of St. Leon were informed of an opportunity to help those in need, many people brought the donations as requested and left them at the collection point on September 20. Christine and Sandra were touched by the outpouring of support and the genuine desire of our parishioners to reach out and help others, especially when the needs are heightened by the pandemic. The staff at the Hope Residence were thrilled to accept the donations on the mothers' behalves. Any monetary donations were used to buy supermarket gift cards for the purchase of groceries for the mothers and children.

In 2018, St. Leon was recognized at Eva's annual *Visions of Hope* gala for our long-standing efforts. Besides the meal program, over the years St. Leon Women's Guild and ACYOA members ran a reading and craft program for the children of the shelter and the women's guild has decorated the residence at Christmas time. This year, our service to the Hope Residence will take a different form, but the compassionate desire to help and commitment to this ministry remains.

We thank all who came forward with donations, including the ACYOA who brought towels to their monthly meeting for this collection. We look forward to announcing future opportunities for St. Leon parishioners to be of service.

