

Greetings All Saints Family and Friends,

Last year I wrote "I have amazing news to share concerning SOS, our annual Socks or Soap Drive!" and this year I have even more amazing news to share!

During a pandemic, and without a goal, we donated over 83,330 pairs of socks or bars of soap in 2020! All I really can say is WOW... And, let's do that again.

In the past I have told you of how our sock drive has become "The single largest independent donation in the 125 year history of the mission" as relayed by Steve Kerr -Wheeler's Chief Development Officer. How our sock drive has encouraged other organizations to start their own sock drives, and thus, meeting the need of socks in our community for those experiencing homelessness. While also learning the need of individual bars of soap and how important those are, especially as Wheeler goes on to expand their locations.

As a reminder, Wheeler serves over 366,000 meals; provides over 253,000 nights of shelter with fresh showers; and helps over 10,000 men, women, and children each year. Wheeler distributes our socks and soap not only inside their facility, but they also are the distribution point for other social organizations such as our own Dayspring and Trinity Haven. Wheeler has also opened an additional shelter for women and children on the east side this year, which will also make use of our donations.

We at All Saints have personally donated multiple times our collection to Indiana Youth Group (IYG), and to Circle City Relief, (a local food program at 30<sup>th</sup> and Meridian which meets on Sunday afternoons), as well as to other organizations who pass on the distribution to those in need.

News of the All Saints SOS-drive spreads near and far. We continue to help so many people and organizations with our outreach. As an example, this past summer I received a call from our sock supplier in Mt. Airy, NC., he was telling one of his buyers of our project. That person contacted me, to tell me they just shipped us 1,000 pair of socks to start us off this year. I have no idea who this person or company was, they simply wanted to contribute.

While we still learn how to navigate safely during the COVID-19 pandemic, I think it is best we follow last years model, concentrating on financial contributions and mass distribution. *Again, I will ask each of you to consider being involved in the SOS campaign this year.* While the pandemic might bring challenges to each of us, can you imagine what it would be like trying to stay healthy and survive if we were experiencing homelessness?

#### **How to help this year:**

We will accept all financial donations through the All Saints website [AllSaintsGivingPage](#), Click on the "fund" tab and scroll down to socks and soap. If you are not a member of our parish and leave your email address, we will send you an email conformation and receipt for your contribution. You are also welcome to send in a personal check made to the church with "SOCKS AND SOAP" written in the memo. Donations of any amount will be greatly appreciated. Either avenue you choose, you must click or write "Socks and Soap" for your donation to go to the correct account. A \$55 donation will purchase 120 pairs of socks or 500 travel size bars of soap. It would be best to have all donations in before the third week of Advent so we will know how to anticipate numbers.

Have questions about the 2021 SOS drive? Contact me directly at (317) 297-1010 or [JB TININDY@aol.com](mailto:JB TININDY@aol.com).

Our All Saints family has always stepped up to make this Advent outreach program a huge success, and I have no doubt we will again. Thank you.

Best,  
Jim Tomlinson

P.S. 100% of all donations go directly to the purchase of buying socks or soaps.