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### **A Message from the President**

I want to wish all members of the [HTN Team](#) a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May you be able to enjoy the peace that comes with the birth of Christ while also enjoying the hustle and bustle of the season as we spend time with friends and family.

December has been quite a month for the HTN Team as we carried out another year of Project Santa, worked with Catholic Social Services and Father Chris Walsh to help Afghan refugee families who have settled in our area and provided special help to Mother of Mercy House in Kensington, all while finishing up our furniture deliveries for the year.

Our holiday season would not have been complete without Project Santa, which was a huge success this year! Over 1,300 children received gifts through this HTN program. It's incredibly special to bring joy to children this time of the year and we were able to do just that by providing gifts to The Sheridan School, The Isaac A. Sheppard School, The Francis E. Willard School, Mother of Mercy House and the Community Center at Visitation. Special thanks to Tom Moore for his steadfast leadership on this project, to Chuck and Anna Marie Croney for logistics and transportation and to Kathy Morris and Sarah Dempsey (Morris) for communications and work with the ministries. Of course, there are about a hundred "HTN elves" out there who also provided their time and treasure to make this all work. Thank you all!

Working in lockstep with Father Walsh, we provided beds for an Afghan refugee family with 9 children who took up temporary residency in the St. Raymond

helping. Who is more needy than someone who was forced from their homeland because they supported democracy and have little or nothing as they came to the United States? This has sincerely been a feel-good mission that we are happy to support.

HTN also engaged with Mother of Mercy House (MOMH) to assist with their diaper project, provide some additional beds for the holiday season and help them provide Christmas dinner to 25 of their families who otherwise would have had little for Christmas. While most of Kensington is below the poverty line, MOMH works with some of the neediest families in the area. Special thanks to Mark Sutton and his classmates (LaSalle College High School Alumni Class of '72) for their contributions to help this project.



*Pictured: Members of LaSalle College High School Alumni Class of '72, Steve Finley, Kathy Morris and Alex Rodriguez.*

I'm beyond proud to see 2021 come to an end with our furniture ministry still going strong and several December achievements to reflect on. It won't be long before we start getting furniture donations to start our 2022 program so take the holiday season to relax and recharge!

**Steve Finley**

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*"We truly appreciate HTN's commitment to children and families in Kensington! With the help of HTN, we've be able to provide Christmas gifts to 50+ families this year.*

*Your generosity has given Kensington parents the peace of mind to not have to choose between paying a bill late or purchasing gifts. Mother of Mercy House could*

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*Alex Rodriguez, Director of Operations at Mother of Mercy House*

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## Supporting Afghan Families in Philadelphia

Just days before Christmas, HTN provided 5 beds, 2 dining room tables and chair sets, a desk, roughly 8 living room chairs/recliners and various tables to Catholic Social Services in their support of helping Afghan families settling into the Philadelphia area.

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*"I wanted to send you my gratitude for everything HTN does for our students. HTN is a real blessing to our community. Despite it being another incredibly difficult year, HTN has helped us make Christmas both festive and magical for our students."*

*Elana Galli, Principal at The Isaac A. Sheppard School*

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## Highlights from the 5th Year of Project Santa

Once again, it was a tremendously successful year for HTN's Project Santa initiative, even despite all the challenges presented by the pandemic. More than 125 donors provided gifts and financial support to HTN ministries in the Kensington neighborhood of Philadelphia, with half of this year's donors having no affiliation with HTN.

Gifts were provided to:\*

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- **The Willard School**, 4<sup>th</sup> year, K-4<sup>th</sup> grade — 523 gifts
- **The Community Center at Visitation**, 3<sup>rd</sup> year — 160 gifts
- **Mother of Mercy House**, 2<sup>nd</sup> year — 100 gifts
- **The Sheridan School**, 1<sup>st</sup> year (K-4<sup>th</sup> grade) — We first committed to K-1<sup>st</sup> grade, but because of our incredible donor generosity, the entire school received gifts.

*\*In some cases, a "gift" is made up of 3-4 packages.*

It takes a lot of work to put this all together and we are extremely grateful for all the time and effort everyone put in to make it a success. Steve Finley touched upon this in his opening message, but we wanted to take a moment to acknowledge a number of individuals:

- **Chuck and Anna Marie Croney** coordinated and organized the 1,000+ gifts to be delivered.
- **Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish**, Doylestown for the 80 gifts to Mother of Mercy House
- **St. Catherine's Parish**, Horsham for the 100+ gifts, including gifts from their PREP Program and Guardian Angels
- **Denise & Mark Sutton** for coordinating the gifts at St. Catherine's and working with the LaSalle Alumni.
- **Old School Men of Faith (OSMF)**, a faith-sharing group of men, for organizing their family and friends.
- **The LaSalle College High School Alumni Class of '72**, also known as Service for Life, for their financial donations.
- **Sarah Dempsey (Morris)** for designing our Project Santa sticker placed on each child's gift.
- **Upper Moreland Kiwanis Club**, with special thanks to the **Young Family**, for gifts and the use of their trailer for our deliveries.
- **Tony Romano** for coordinating the Forman Mills and St. Alphonsus donations and "playing Santa."
- **Jerry Duggan** for also "playing Santa" at The Willard School and The Sheridan School.
- **Mary Hicks, Family and Friends** for providing all the gifts for The Sheppard School.
- **The Will Henry Family** and **Lauren Steele** for being our gift shoppers.
- And finally, to **all the Bible Study and Prayer groups, organizations, family and friends** who worked together to provide a memorable

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The generous outreach of Project Santa donors has enabled HTN to serve over 1,300 children in the five ministries we currently support. The gifts provided bring great joy for many and knowing there is someone out there who cares, gives much-needed hope to these children, their parents and those who support them in their community.

Check out more photos from this year's project [here](#). We will continue to add more photos as the ministries share them with us.

**Tom Moore & Kathy Morris**

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*"We always look forward to having Santa and the HTN volunteers back at The Willard School. I know years from now our kids will still remember this day. Thank you for making these memories possible and for bringing so much joy to our kids and staff. As you can probably tell, Project Santa Day is my favorite day of the year!"*

***Teresa Bronte, School Counselor at The Francis E. Willard School***

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## **As We Await in Blessed Hope**

At this point of the Advent season — when the days get shorter and darker — it seems like we are constantly being inundated with bad news, and we yearn for more positive stories. I'm happy to report that we do have some GOOD news to share from the HTN Fundraising Campaign dedicated to the memory of Dick Mohrbacher.

As of December 5<sup>th</sup>, we have exceeded our 2021 campaign goal of \$40,000 with gifts already totaling \$41,056. On top of that, we received another \$6,195

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To date, HTN donors have contributed 56 gifts of \$200 for beds for the needy families referred to us by the teachers at The Willard School, The Sheppard School and the Germantown Avenue Crisis Ministry. Many of these donations are made in memory of a loved one or in honor of a special person. Providing a bed to a child without one is a wonderful way to remember a special person or to show gratitude for God's blessings. This year, some grandparents made gifts in honor of their grandchild's First Communion or Confirmation.

As we wait in joyful hope for the coming of the Christ Child, we in the HTN ministry are blessed to have so many wonderful, generous members and friends that give us the financial support we need to carry out our mission. Your gifts will undoubtedly help brighten the lives of our needy brothers and sisters. Thank you, Merry Christmas and best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year!

***Dave White***

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"We are so very thankful for our partnership with HTN. Your team has been wonderful to work with these past few years and we are so grateful to be able to distribute gifts to every student. I wish all of HTN an amazing and safe holiday!"

***Justine Rybaltowski, M.Ed., School Counselor at The Isaac A. Sheppard School***

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A graphic with a blue border and a blue diagonal bar at the bottom. The text "HTN 2021 Year in Review" is centered in a large, bold, blue, 3D-style font.

**HTN 2021 Year  
in Review**

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**54**

**PROVIDED  
FURNITURE TO**

**76**

**DONORS WE  
PICKED UP  
FURNITURE FROM**

**78**

**HTN BEDS WE  
DELIVERED**

**80+**

**BEDS DELIVERED TO  
CHILDREN THROUGH  
ONE HOUSE AT A TIME  
(OHAAT)**

**1,000+**

**GIFTS PROVIDED  
THROUGH PROJECT  
SANTA 2021**



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"I want to express to you my deepest gratitude for all that HTN does for our children and their families in Kensington. HTN has surely made a difference in their lives for the last five years. May God bless you all with His gifts of faith, hope, love, peace, joy, and happiness this holiday and throughout the new year. I keep you all in my thoughts and daily prayers!"

***Awilda Balbuena, Principal at The Sheridan School***



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