

# MESH Tidings

NEWSLETTER OF MONTCLAIR EMERGENCY SERVICES FOR HOPE

## MESH CAFÉ

Partner houses of worship, Christ Church and Grace Presbyterian Church welcome and seat vaccinated guests for the MESH Café, giving other guests to-go bags.

Partners who prefer to give Grab-n-Go meals do so either from their facility or from the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Montclair's property.

Café serving nightly is 4:00 TO 5:30PM, Mon. to Sat.

## SMILE & Support MESH!

When you shop on Amazon you can also support MESH at no cost to you through Amazon Smile. In fact, MESH will receive 0.5% of all eligible purchases.

Here's how:

Go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), log in to your Amazon.com account and select MESH as the charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases. Then, just shop...

## Dear Friends of MESH,

Our MESH Board is growing! I am thrilled to welcome our enthusiastic new members, Sam Lopez, Martin Krezalk and Carly Pisano.

Sam Lopez has a background in finance, having worked as an accountant. Sam has most recently worked for Amazon as an Operations manager, safety site specialist and finally, safety northeast regional specialist. He is currently the COO of the Boho Brand, which includes Montclair's Boho Café and Boho Hair Salón. We are very pleased that he has accepted the position of treasurer.

Lawyer, Martin Krezalk, is a Montclair resident who has been actively involved in the community for over 12 years. Martin is a partner with the law firm Blank Rome LLP. His previous board experience includes serving as president of the board of directors of the Fullerton Green Condominium Association in Montclair, and as a board member of the alumni association at his alma mater, New York Law School. With his family, he has enjoyed serving our MESH guests and looks forward to taking a more active part in MESH as a board member.

Carly Pisano has just taken on two new roles — newlywed and MESH administration and social media point person. Carly is a Montclair State graduate who, along with her new husband and friends, founded Cocoon Collective, a mutual aid group that prepares hot meals out of their home, collects and distributes clothing, toiletries, overdose kits and more to the homeless population in Paterson and Newark and also Montclair every Sunday. She has already set to work, applying for a new grant for our organization.

The entire board is working to find ways to better welcome and serve our homeless and food insecure friends.

*Albie Monterrosa, Board President*



## Respite

MESH overnight respite has a new home, St. Mark's United Methodist Church at 51 Elm St, Montclair. St. Mark's has long been a MESH summer partner and the parish is eagerly serving our homeless neighbors in this new way. Beginning on January 15th, our homeless neighbors have been welcomed in to sleep out of the freezing weather.

Donald Ames and Joseph Tyson set up the large room for respite whenever the weather is 32° or less by opening and arranging cots for social distancing. Vaccinated guests bring their individual sleeping bags with them to be checked for normal temperature and signed in at 8:30.



Andrew Sudol, of our second shift, folds up and stores the cots and mops the floor after each respite.

Setting up for Overnight Respite

MESH executive director, Dr. Gwen Parker Ames, hosts weekend daytime respite with Andrew on Saturdays and Sundays from 2:00 to 6:00 in the large Peierls Room of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Montclair, where our guests can social distance and even watch television. Funding for this initiative is being provided by The Montclair Township Council, The Montclair Foundation, the Partners for Health Foundation, The Montclair Fund for Women and The Schumann Fund.

Toni's Kitchen, at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, hosts daytime respite weekdays from 3:00 to 6:00 pm.



St. Mark's hall allows plenty of room for social distancing

## Director's Corner

### What You Can Do to Help the Homeless



#### 1. Respect the homeless as individuals

Give homeless people the same courtesy and respect you would accord your friends, your family, your employer. Treat them as you would wish to be treated if you needed assistance.

#### 2. Respond with kindness

We can make quite a difference in the lives of the homeless when we respond to them, rather than ignore or dismiss them. Try a kind word and a smile.

#### 3. Carry packaged food

It's as simple as taking a few extra sandwiches when you go out. When you pass someone who asks for change, offer him or her something to eat. If you take a lunch, pack a little extra. When you eat at a restaurant, order something to take with you when you leave.

#### 4. Give money

One of the most direct ways to aid the homeless is to give money. Donations to non-profits like the MESH, Inc. organization that serve the homeless, go a long way.

#### 5. Donate clothing

Next time you do your spring or fall cleaning, keep an eye out for those clothes that you no longer wear. If these items are in good condition, gather them together and donate them to organizations that provide housing for the homeless.

#### 6. Donate a bag of groceries

Load up a bag full of non-perishable groceries and donate it to a food drive in your area. If your community doesn't have a food drive, organize one. Contact your local soup kitchens, shelters, and homeless societies and ask what kind of food donations they would like.

#### 7. Advocate

Get involved in your local community. Help agencies in your area whose policy and initiatives support the goal of ending homelessness.

*Gwen Parker Ames, Ed.D BCC  
Executive Director, MESH Inc.*

## Save these MESH Inc. Dates

### The Homeless and Hunger Awareness Fair Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts

**May 14, 2021**

**10am -12 noon**

**St. Marks Church Montclair**

**51 Elm Street**

**Montclair, New Jersey 07042**

**For more information call: (862) 621-9488**

### Quarter Gallon Race Fund raiser

**June 2021**

**10am -12 noon**

**Bullock School Playground**

**51 Elm Street**

**Montclair, New Jersey 07042**

**For more information call (852)621-9488**

*Montclair Emergency Services for Hope, Inc.*



### **Donations Are Always Appreciated!**

**Please call 917-751-2176 if you'd like to help  
by sponsoring a meal.**

**To learn more about MESH or to make a  
monetary donation visit  
[www.meshmontclair.org](http://www.meshmontclair.org)**