

Did you know that public schools do not supply school supplies? The list of required supplies goes home to every student in "poor" schools as well as "middle class" schools. There is no provision akin to school lunch and breakfast programs to assist families who cannot afford supplies. Many teachers reach into their own pockets to buy supplies for their students.

Did you know that some children miss school because they have nothing to wear? Again, there is no government program for providing school clothes. Even "well off" families can find it a challenge to keep up with the clothing needs of a growing child. Imagine providing clothes for your children to wear each day when you have little or no cash, little or no transportation and no in home laundry facilities!

This is the need that Hands of Christ addresses.

More than 38,000 children have "shopped for school" at hands of Christ since 2003. What began as a partnership of Westminster and Zion Olivet Presbyterian Churches has grown to a 501(c) 3 Corporation supported by more than 20 Presbyterian Congregations. First (Scots) was the third partner, actively supporting HOC since 2004. Each child receives two complete sets of clothing (including socks and underpants) and a bag of grade-appropriate school supplies.

New congregations continue to join and distribution sites continue to be added to meet the needs of a broader area. Distributions begin on July 25 and run through the 15th of August, **including the first ever distribution at Second Presbyterian Church in downtown Charleston where that congregations is partnering with Zion-Olivet Presbyterian to serve those in need on the Peninsula.** Overall, 20 distributions will be held at 14 different churches. Our goal is to be ready to serve 5,000 students through these distributions and in the coming year. (HOC also responds to emergency requests from the school systems throughout the year.)

Volunteer help always is needed at these distributions and in the days leading up to them. Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall or by contacting Catherine Byrd (cbyrdtsbb@bellsouth.net or phone 881-7816). You can help children shop for their clothes, visit with families waiting in the sanctuary, help check in or check out and generally be a smiling face to accompany the Hands of Christ. Volunteers also are needed to "pack and stack" as we get ready for distributions, an excellent opportunity to work alongside and get to know volunteers from other Presbyterian congregations.

New this year: **You can volunteer online.** Go to www.handsofchrist.net and scroll down to the big green checkmark to go to Volunteer Spot and find the month, then the date on which you wish to volunteer.

Sat Jul 25--**Neyles Crossroads, Colleton County @ 9:30 a.m.;**

Mon Jul 27—**James Island @ St. James Presbyterian 5 p.m.;**

Tues Jul 28—**East Cooper @ Mount Pleasant Presbyterian 5 p.m.;**

Wed Jul 29--**Edisto Island @ Edisto Presbyterian 5 p.m.;**

Thu Jul 30—**Johns Island @ Hebron Zion Presbyterian 5 p.m.;**

Sat Aug 1--**Walterboro @ Bethel Presbyterian (downtown) 9:30 a.m.;**

Mon Aug 3— **Hanahan @ Yeamans Park Presbyterian 5 p.m.;**

Tues/Wed Aug 4/5—**Moncks Corner @ First Presbyterian 4 p.m./4 p.m.;**

Thu/Fri/Sat Aug 6/7/8 **North Charleston @ Park Circle Presbyterian 5 p.m./5 p.m./9:30 a.m.;**

Mon Aug 10--**Summerville @ Summerville Presbyterian 4 p.m.;**

Mon/Tues Aug 10/11—**Downtown Charleston @ Second Presbyterian 5 p.m./5 p.m.;**

Wed Aug 12—**McClellanville @ New Wappetaw Presbyterian 5 p.m.;**

Thu Aug 13 — **Kingstree @ Williamsburg Presbyterian 4 p.m.;**

Thu/ Fri/ Sat Aug 13/14/15—**West Ashley @ Westminster Presbyterian 5 p.m./5 p.m./9:30 a.m.**

Times given are when the doors open; volunteers are needed 30-45 minutes before that time.

Doors remain open for two hours, but actual distribution may finish up later. We tidy up, reload the trailer if necessary, and then sit down and enjoy a meal together.



Did you know that, while we emphasize donations this time of year, we accept them **any time?** Don't clean out your children's closets or pass a good deal on clothing or supplies without thinking of Hands of Christ.

Of course you know that Christ said "whatever you do for the least of these, you do for me." **This is your opportunity!**