



OPERATION CHILLOUT

Fr. Mike Drury receives the first "St. George the Protector Award" for his consistent support of OPERATION CHILLOUT.

Can you help us help those who cannot help themselves?

WINTER CAMPAIGN CONTINUES IN 2009

"MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY OF SERVICE" ATTRACTS 75 NEW VOLUNTEERS

JANUARY - FEBRUARY - HIGHLIGHTS

On January 19, more than 75 new volunteers showed up to honor Martin Luther King Jr. on the annual **NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE**. Friends from nearby communities and as far away as New York City, Westchester, NY, Phillipsburg and Sussex County NJ, showed up to help prepare for our deliveries of warm clothing and toiletries to support Sussex County Homeless Connect activities. Check out the video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch>

A wicked **ice and snow storm** did not hamper the efforts of many social service agencies, church groups and individuals from turning out for the annual **SUSSEX COUNTY HOMELESS CONNECT** activities. Our trusty 'Miracles on Wheels' van was able to brave the slick roads to deliver more than 100 shoulder bags filled with hand-made knit caps and scarves and simple supplies. Special thanks to our Rapid Response Squad members - **Leslie and Rick** for their courage and commitment in the face of yet another winter storm. **Father Mike Drury** was recognized by the Leadership Team for his continuous support of **OPERATION CHILLOUT** from its early beginnings in the year 2000. At our Leadership Team pot luck supper (photo above) Fr Mike was initiated as the first recipient of the "**St George the Protector Award**". Our heartfelt thanks goes out to Fr. Mike for his promotion of our work and unwavering support of all those in need.

Just a thought The information age is truly upon us! Saying "YES" to an invitation from the National Day of Service campaign linked **OPERATION CHILLOUT** to millions in cyber space. The result was that 75 new volunteers - individual men and women, families, young adults and kids showed up on January 19, 2008 to help us prepare for the Sussex County Homeless Connect delivery. Everyone who arrived was greeted by a Leadership Team host, offered a hot beverage and home baked snacks and seated for a viewing of the **OPERATION CHILLOUT** video. Following a brief orientation, the volunteers deployed to pack 100 shoulder bags donated by **PNC Bank**, filling them with winter supplies from our cache of hand knit caps and scarves, T-shirts and toiletries. Within 3 hours, all 100 plus bags were packed, sorted by size and gender and staged for loading into the 'Miracles on Wheels' vans for delivery. Kudos to our "Quartermaster" **Mary Ann** for her coordinating skills. Our heartfelt thanks to all who showed up "unknowing" in faith and love to help those least among us. God is Great!

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PROJECT HOMELESS CONNECT links homeless individuals and families to local and regional services.