

New Outreach Ministry is found at POP's Treasures

POP's Treasures was established by Prince of Peace Evangelical Church in Bangor to create a location where the community/congregants can donate gently used items /clothing. Presented in a "boutique style" store front where the visitors can see creative displays and purchase said items at a fair price.



The outpouring of community involvement has far exceeded our initial plan. The community supports us with items, and they also attend monthly during the sale days. We have had several new members at the church since the boutique was opened May of 2023. Our attendees support us in other posts on Facebook, letting the community at large know of our location. We are constantly reminded how they feel that this is a wonderful program. We also have individuals who come in our doors that ask to help volunteer.

We applied for and received a Witness and Service Ministry Team Grant to help with the costs to prepare a location on our property and purchase a connex container. The container is used to repurpose and store inventory. Items not sold at the boutique, are then stored until we have our spring or fall rummage sale. Items not sold there are donated to a clothing collection box and other organizations. Currently we utilize the 2 back rooms of the church, along with part of the fellowship hall during the days of our sale, which in total in 7 hours for both days.



While our program was set up to respond at the end of the fiscal year. As we hear of a need, we act in trying to make it happen if we can. It is difficult to say how many attend during the sale days. However, recently we provided a free clothing and houseware day that was attended by 200 individuals.

We currently have provided 3 meals at Safe Harbor, a transition shelter for the homeless. We have donated children's toys, and a stroller to the foster care program. There were also monetary donations to a local youth program, animal shelter, Portland food pantry (PUMP), and the purchase of animals from ELCA Good Gifts.

You may wonder if your congregations could do the same. Yes! If the organizers have the faith it will work, be willing to make changes and to realize that there are many paths to take to make it work. Success can be measured by outreach to the community and the programs it helps. We have been blessed beyond our wildest hopes and dreams. If you would like more information, please contact Jackie Horn at baskets@epix.net.

****Visit the synod website at [www. https://nepasynod.org/](http://www.https://nepasynod.org/) to find out how to apply for a Witness and Service Grant.**

