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Holiday Outreach

Morgan Williams

Kyra Collins

Karin Thompson

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Holiday Outreach

Throughout the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday season, Andrews University faculty, staff and students connected with the local community by distributing food and water, collecting jeans for an area organization and sharing the gift of music through a television broadcast.

by Morgan Williams

ON NOV. 20, 2021, NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP AND THE SOCIAL WORK CLUB collaborated to distribute turkeys and water to the Benton Harbor community via Harbor of Hope, an Adventist church in Benton Harbor, Michigan. The social work department at Andrews University has a close relationship with Harbor of Hope as our professor, Shannon Trecartin, is active in the church. After the unclean water statement was issued for the city of Benton Harbor and after talking extensively with our professor, the Andrews University Social Work Club held an event for social work students and faculty to hand out water.

On campus, the leaders of New Life Fellowship, Chaplain Danielle Pilgrim in particular, and the congregation have committed to serve the city of Benton Harbor and help where possible and needed. While the Social Work Club prioritized giving out water, New Life Fellowship gave out turkeys the week before Thanksgiving. This ensured families in the neighborhood had something special to enjoy.

I am very thankful that I witnessed and was part of this experience. We cannot stay silent or do nothing when we are faced with God calling us to be our brother's keepers and "love each other as [he] loved us" (John 15:12).





by Kyra Collins

WHERE THERE'S A WILL, THERE'S A WAY. ANDREWS UNIVERSITY declares in their mission statement that they seek to change the world, and Paris' Purse has a calling to help women in need. Both of these organizations have a passion for serving people. This is the will to help others. Together these two organizations partnered with Pioneer Memorial Church (PMC) and PMC's Grow Groups to hold a jean drive in the fall semester of 2021. The mission? To gather jeans as a gift to empower women.

Bins were placed in every residence hall and at each entrance of PMC for a month. Jeans were collected because they are versatile enough to wear in all seasons, and the pairs unworn could be sold to create a source of income. This is the way to help others. We collected over 200 pairs of jeans donated from students, faculty, staff and church members through this drive. In addition, there were also donations of socks and shirts. These items were handed over to Paris' Purse to be given freely to women who need them because "where there's a will, there's a way."

by Karin Thompson

IN CONTRAST TO THE 2020 CHRISTMAS CONCERT PANDEMIC SCHEDULING disruptions, in December 2021 the Andrews University ensembles were able to present live Christmas concerts to audiences in the Howard Performing Arts Center. The Andrews University Symphony Orchestra, directed by Chris Wild, joined the University Singers and Chorale, directed by Stephen Zork, for the annual "Welcome Christmas" concert on Dec. 3, and the following evening the Andrews University Wind Symphony, directed by Byron Graves, performed another Christmas concert. Students who performed together voiced their excitement about the experience and expressed their desire to perform one large concert with everyone from the music department.

This is nearly what happened over the course of two days on campus, and from these two concerts, an expert team of technicians, in collaboration with the ensemble directors, created an integrated program of selections from both performances to broadcast on the local WNIT public television station (PBS Michiana). Immediately after receiving the program for broadcast, the WNIT manager exclaimed, "Outstanding!" and expressed his thanks to the Andrews team for sharing with the WNIT audience. Making music together was a joy to the musicians, and responses from the broadcast audience affirmed and expressed appreciation for the beautiful Christmas concert.

