

## Capitol Hill Hosts ‘Acts of Kindness’ Day

The Capitol Hill church in Washington, D.C., holds various “Acts of Kindness” days throughout the year where they minister to the Washington, D.C., community in various ways. Recently, volunteers delivered food and beverages to those experiencing homelessness, while other volunteers delivered a hot breakfast to D.C.’s Metropolitan Police Department. They also distributed cards and prayed over the officers.



Another team packed 300 bag lunches for three shelters and Habitat for Humanity volunteers who were building homes in Southeast D.C. They also collected more than 150 cans of tuna and canned peaches for the Holy Name Food pantry.

During the church service, pastors prayed for uniformed first responders. This “blessing of the uniforms” honored those serving in the police and fire departments, as well as medical professionals. During children’s church, they created cards for hygiene kits for Thrive DC, a crisis-relief organization.

“‘Acts of Kindness’ days give our congregation an opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus in D.C. Going out into the community, actually seeing where people live, and experiencing the conditions increases our understanding and helps us become better servants,” shares Karen Hayes, Capitol Hill’s Community Services Ministries leader.

*Robin Sampson, head deacon at the Capitol Hill church, packs bag lunches during the “Acts of Kindness” day.*

## Philadelphia Churches Meet Post-Pandemic Food Needs

When community residents learned they would no longer receive the extra food assistance they received during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Mizpah and New Life churches in Philadelphia stepped in to fill the gap.

The cut affected many families, and with increasing prices, feared how they would provide food for their loved ones. Mizpah and Life partnered with agencies to offer services to this community.

Mizpah hosted The Coalition Against Hunger’s first VIP pantry tour, in which organizers showcased how to resource and distribute food, clothing, house goods and provide other community needs. Howard Duncan, Mizpah’s pastor, delivered an inspirational message, and Vernessa Wilson, Mizpah’s Community Services leader, shared how Mizpah is

*Community residents line up for food at the Mizpah church during The Coalition Against Hunger’s first VIP pantry tour and Hope for Philly Network gathering.*

still able to keep their pantry stocked and vibrant even after the pandemic.

“God spoke to my heart, and I said, ‘If You want us to do this, You have to protect the team,’” says Wilson. God answered her prayer, and none of her team contracted COVID-19 during the height of the pandemic and still today. They continue to serve food twice a week and look forward to providing even more resources in the future.

