



IN THE NEWS

WINTER 2019

2018 by the numbers

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Leslie Koppel

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1,037
Children
delighted by a
holiday gift



19,643
community
volunteer
hours

we rise
do you?

648
Pajamas to
“Put Poverty
to Bed”



**Registration
is now OPEN!**



EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT!

Ask us
for more
details!

WE'RE HIRING!
Summer Camp
Counselors



26,853
boxes of food
given to local
families



Please visit our
website for more details.



It's time for the RISE
Springtime Spruce-Up!
Personal-Care Articles Drive

The ability for Rise clients to look and feel their best and maintain healthy hygiene habits greatly contributes to their overall sense of well-being and optimism.

A freezing MLK Day brought out warm hearted volunteers.



days before the national holiday was celebrated.

The night care packages include new pajamas, socks, stuffed animals, a new toothbrush and toothpaste and books for young children. Donors such as Tuttle Dental Care, West Windsor-Plainsboro High School North and the Morgan Lewis law firm gathered dental supplies, books and complete night care packages.

For some folks, Martin Luther King Jr. Day means a day off from work or school.

But for those who sign up to help at nonprofit groups and churches, such as RISE and the Methodist and Presbyterian churches in Hightstown, it is a day “on” – and this year is no exception.

The First United Methodist Church of Hightstown teamed up with La Convivencia on Monday to organize the collection of winter clothes and canned goods for RISE’s food pantry. La Convivencia is a nonprofit group that promotes dialogue and understanding between races, cultures and religions.

RISE picked up the food and other items and, with the help of some Girl Scouts, unpacked RISE’s van and restocked the food pantry, all while “braving the frigid weather” on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, said Leslie Koppel, RISE’s executive director.

RISE offers social support services to those who need it, primarily in the Hightstown Borough-East Windsor Township community.

But it was not just the First United Methodist Church of Hightstown that rallied to help RISE meet its mission of helping others.

Volunteers gathered at the First Presbyterian Church of Hightstown to sort and prepare “night care packages” through RISE’s “Put Poverty to Bed” drive Jan. 18, a few

“Children delight in the books and stuffed animals, and parents are thankful for the toothbrush, toothpaste and clean, new pajamas,” said Koppel, RISE’s executive director.

“For many, these basics seem simple, but for the local families we work with, these items are treasures,” Koppel said. The packages are given to the children of low income families when their parents register for services, she said.

The Presbyterian church became involved in the “Put Poverty to Bed” pajama drive in response to President Barack Obama’s challenge to celebrate Dr. King’s birthday by serving others, rather than taking a day off, said Mary Maleski, director of the church’s Children, Youth and Family Ministries.

“I reached out to RISE to see what we might do in partnership with them. It had to be something that all ages could do, with the desire for children to learn at an early age that they can make a difference in the world,” Maleski said.

“It is important because Dr. King was a man of peace, and he had a dream of equality for all. For me, when we work together, we create a community that surpasses the division and we can create a world that draws us closer to the world that he dreamed of,” Maleski said.

By Lea Kahn, Staff Writer - January 24, 2019



92
MLK Volunteers
Rise Food Pantry
Greater Goods
Thrift Stores

