



Global pandemic, closed facilities, increased need. Now ... go!

If there's one thing we've learned in our half-century in the South Hills, it's that serving our community means adapting with the times. Of course, we didn't see COVID-19 coming. In March, we shuttered our physical facilities for the safety of our community and staff, and quickly reimagined our programs via social distancing and video conferencing to continue serving the families that count on us. We are thankful for everyone on this journey with us, as neighbors help neighbors in new, innovative ways.



▲ Hungry? Visit the drive-thru.

When our three food pantries were forced to close to walk-through visitors, we got creative and developed a 'drive-thru' service where families could receive pre-packed boxes of food including fresh produce and meat, along with personal products like diapers.



▲ When is a mall not a mall?

When it's the location for a mass food distribution, as South Hills Village was on Saturday, May 16, when we served nearly 950 cars thanks to our partnership with the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. *See more inside.*



▲ No rain on our parade

To celebrate our young learners, SHIM's After School Program staff joined together for a special parade featuring WQED's Nature Cat. We traveled the Whitehall Place neighborhood cheering, honking and delivering kits that included books, crayons, frisbees, bubbles, bandanas and more.

Bethel Park
West Mifflin Castle
Brentwood Shannon
Upper St. Clair Mt. Oliver
Heidelberg Mt. Lebanon

▲ Hunger knows no zip code

While people came from everywhere from Aliquippa to Wilmderdig, most visitors to our May 16 food distribution came from right here in our neighborhoods.



No ordinary day in May.

By Steven DeNoon, George Pashel,
Jay Sukernek and Mandy Thomas,
SHIM board members and Upper St. Clair residents

On a sunny Saturday, it's not surprising to see the South Hills Village parking lot packed with cars. Moms shop for graduation gifts. Teenagers hang out. And, well, a little retail therapy never hurts after college finals.

But this particular Saturday was like no other.

Beginning several hours before the scheduled 11:00 am start, cars started appearing, neatly lining up among the carefully placed pylons and ribbons of 'caution' tape. A couple from Bethel Park, with their grown son along to help however he could, didn't know what to expect. A South Park man didn't mind the wait, as it had been so long since he'd been out of the house. And a woman from Upper St. Clair in a mini-van broke down in tears because she'd found herself in an unfamiliar, scary place: navigating a mass food distribution to ensure her two kids wouldn't go hungry.

Yes, Saturday, May 16, was one for the record books. More than 950 carloads of neighbors and more than 70 volunteers gathered with SHIM and our partner Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank to do something that had never been done before: provide a large-scale mass food distribution to South Hills families at a time when they could really use it.

People are often surprised to find that, amongst the top-tier school districts and well-manicured lawns, hunger is an issue in the South Hills. Truth is, it's always been hiding in the shadows here, as evidenced by the growth of our three

food pantries over the past few years. But the COVID-19 pandemic brought hunger to families who had never faced it before. Newly unemployed. Temporarily furloughed. Home together with more mouths to feed.

This is why we're here. You see, for 53 years, South Hills Interfaith Movement has helped our suburban community through hardships. Ironically, it was 53 years ago that our organization began its work – started by, no kidding, a priest, a rabbi and a minister – on the very site of this mass food distribution, South Hills Village, as "Ministry in the Mall." Funny how tough times bring you full circle, though none of us could have predicted this.

What is truly extraordinary about this particular day in May, however, was the partnership and cooperation of so many in our community to make it happen. The leadership and police of Upper St. Clair and Bethel Park created a masterful plan – and skillfully executed it – to keep cars and neighboring traffic running smoothly. The team at Simon Properties wholeheartedly agreed to host this unprecedented event, as they're thoughtful neighbors in good times and in bad. The community volunteers who spent six hours on a Saturday lifting boxes also cheerfully provided encouraging words to the folks arriving in the queue, as we all need a little help now and then.

And to the 950 carloads of our neighbors, we say thank you for coming out and raising your hand to help your family. We do what we do because of you.

Here's hoping this parking lot, in May of 2021, looks a little different.



together in tough times



◀ An impressive donation

Jason Flinn of Bill Flinn Insurance Agency purchased 1,750 pounds of potatoes, onions and oranges from Ruthfred Market in Bethel Park. But he didn't stop there. Jason's friends at Pepperidge Farm helped deliver the food and donated 420 pounds of Goldfish snacks.

A birthday wish ▶

For her birthday, Aubrey, from the Spencer Family YMCA Y-Princesses Wampano Tribe in Bethel Park, asked for donations instead of gifts. Her kind heart and birthday wish collected an incredible variety of items for SHIM. Happy Birthday, Aubrey!



◀ Gift cards to go

The Pagliai-Busch family wanted to find a way for the community to support SHIM and stay safe. In a stroke of absolute genius, they partnered with Upper St. Clair School District to host a donation drive-thru that raised more than

\$7,000 in gift cards and donations to SHIM.

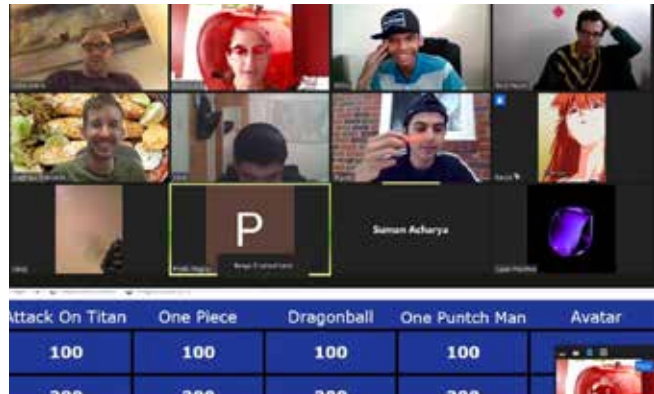
From the classroom to YouTube ▶

To keep our littlest neighbors engaged, SHIM Early Childhood Program teacher Diana Hunsberger started a YouTube channel and uploaded more than 40 videos. She sings, reads and uses puppets to keep the videos fun, entertaining and educational.



Public service from a public servant ▶

PA State Representative Natalie Mihalek and her staff volunteered at SHIM's food pantry distribution on April 23. Together with SHIM's staff and volunteers, they packed boxes and distributed them to hundreds of neighbors.



▲ Zoom keeps youth mentoring connected

When SHIM's Youth Mentoring Program couldn't meet in person, they used their brains and technology to get together via Zoom, even playing a version of the game Jeopardy that turned the session into a whole family affair.

Local car wash brings the magic ▶

Giving back is a win-win. Mr. Magic Car Wash held a special promotion where members of the community could bring a donation for SHIM and receive a \$5 car wash. Thanks to you, they have donated nearly one ton of food to SHIM. That's a lot of clean cars and caring neighbors!



You make a difference.

Your generous gifts power the work that helps our struggling neighbors across the South Hills. With your support, SHIM has been able to serve thousands of individuals and families in these uncertain times. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for helping the vulnerable among us. If you haven't already and would like to, donate now using the enclosed envelope or online: shimcares.org/donate.



▲ No longer a bumpy road

With heavy traffic due to increased use of our food pantry over the past year, SHIM's parking lot was showing its age. Thanks to Massey Charitable Trust, our parking lot was repaved in May, creating smooth sailing for visitors to our drive-thru food pantries.



▲ Meet our sweet fleet

When you see volunteers out and about picking up food or dropping off supplies, please offer a friendly "hello," as our vans just received a welcome facelift.



▲ We ♥ our neighbors: Sacking hunger in new ways.

Not only did COVID-19 upend our important work in the community, it virtually knocked out our critical March to Sack Hunger campaign, as the safety of our community took precedence over food drives. You responded with record-breaking generosity as we asked you to help restock our pantries.

\$150,000
in donations, nearly
\$85,000
of those via shimcares.org

725
generous
donors
Nearly half of
these caring
neighbors are
new to SHIM

WOW, as average donation size was
Thank you!

\$150

CELEBRATE
THE SOUTH HILLS
— WITH SHIM —

Save the Date: September 9, 2020

Learn more about the virtual event for the
community at shimcares.org/celebrate.



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