



**You Made It Happen!
We surpassed our goal!**



Thank you to everyone who donated items for Church World Service's school kits. School kits give children in impoverished schools, refugee camps, or other difficult settings some of the basic tools for learning. We received 1203 items which included crayons, erasers, notebooks, pencil sharpeners, pencils, rulers, scissors, and school bags. Our goal was 25 kits, and we were able to put together 55 kits, reaching a goal of 220%. A special thank you goes to Joy Gravely and Emilie Moyer for sewing the school bags for this mission project.

On Friday, August 12, a group of 46 volunteers from within Penn Northeast Conference traveled to the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, Maryland—the regional headquarters of CWS (Church World Service) and the SERRV Center (Sales Exchange for Refugee Rehabilitation Vocation). We left St. Paul's UCC in Northampton at 6:00 a.m. However, there was glitch along the way when the bus broke down just outside of Gettysburg with less than an hour to go before reaching our destination. After waiting approximately an hour for another bus, we then unloaded and loaded our disaster relief kits and then proceeded on to New Windsor.

Members from the following churches volunteered that day: First UCC, Milford, NJ; Grace UCC and St. Paul's UCC, Northampton; Lower Saucon UCC, Hellertown; St. John's UCC, Allentown; St. John's UCC, Emmaus; St. John's UCC, Fullerton; St. John's UCC, Palmerton; St. Paul's UCC, Indianland; and Union UCC, Neffs. **The youth volunteers from St. John's included: Jordyn Brown, Halie Holderman, Eireann Hunsicker, Melissa Mendiolina, Austin Musselman, Madison Musselman, and Corrina Schneck along with adult volunteers: Michelle Funk, Joy Gravely, Barbara Jennings, Brenda Johnson, Carol Raszler, and Barbara Seeds.**

With donations from the above churches and from the Church of the Manger in Bethlehem, we were able to supply CWS with: 62 clean-up buckets, 221 school kits, and 293 hygiene kits.



Half of the group of volunteers worked at the Material Resources warehouse where items in hygiene kits and school kits were counted, repackaged, and boxed for shipment. The other 23 volunteers worked at the SERRV Center where over 1000 items from Indonesia were sorted, wrapped, priced, and boxed, preparing those items for marketing and sale. We enjoyed a wonderful lunch provided by CWS, visited the SERRV gift shop, stopped at the Cracker Barrel in Mechanicsburg for supper, and arrived back at St. Paul's at 9:30 p.m.

CWS was founded in 1946. It is a cooperative ministry of 37 Christian denominations and communions in the United States. It provides sustainable self-help development, disaster relief, and refugee assistance around the world. When disasters such as hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, and floods strike, CWS works with partners on the scene to provide shelter, food, water, blankets, recovery kits, and counseling. For over 67 years **SERRV** has worked to eradicate poverty through their direct connections with low-income artisans and farmers. SERRV markets their crafts and food, finds joint solutions to their challenges, and helps them grow and embrace the future.