

## Donations of money, furniture sought for Barnabas Project

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SENECA FALLS — The congregation of Calvary Lutheran Church has initiated The Barnabas Project to provide beds and other furniture to families in need.

Since the project began in the spring of 2104, 30 local families have been provided beds and bedding, as well as furniture and household items such as lamps and vacuum cleaners.

“There are children and adults in Seneca County who are sleeping on the floor, families who don’t have a kitchen table to eat dinner on or a couch to sit and watch a movie together,” said Elizabeth Reed, a church member who is heading up the project.

“When families are starting over with their housing or just don’t have much, they may not have the extra money to buy furniture or beds because that extra money often goes toward food or bills,” Reed said.

She said she saw the need and proposed The Barnabas Project to the Calvary Lutheran congregation, who were receptive.

Church members enclosed the outdoor pavilion on church grounds and dedicated half of it to storage of household pantry items, beds and furniture.

“There are other pantries in the area that help folks with food and clothing and they do a great job. We want to focus on furniture and especially beds,” Reed said.

The church has purchased furniture and taken donations of furniture and household items in good, clean condition. Furniture donations can only be accepted by appointment only; drop-offs are not accepted.

The program does not accept used mattresses or bedding, large appliances, food, clothing or toys. New bed sheets are purchased and paired with each new bed that is given out.



### Barnabas Project

Calvary Lutheran Church members Beth Reed and Pastor Bill Dorow accept a donation from Seneca Meadows representative Mark Benjamin.

Reed said the church has provided the beds and furniture to date but is now looking for help. She said Seneca Meadows Landfill has twice donated money for beds in the past year.

“Currently, we are looking to purchase new beds for a family who lost their home to a fire,” Reed said.

A new, single bed with mattress, boxspring and frame can cost up to \$200.

Last year, the Holiday Inn donated sheets and pillows, but Reed said more donations would be welcome.

The church has sent letters to other churches and businesses, but the response has been minimal. “That may be due to the many requests for help they receive,” she said.

People or organizations interested in making a donation of furniture or money should call 878-2886.

Families who need furniture or beds from the project must have a minister, caseworker or other person to verify the need for the help. Pickup and delivery of donated items may also be available.

The Biblical figure of Barnabas was a disciple and apostle, though not one of the 12 Apostles. He is said to have sold all his property, giving the proceeds to the Apostles for their ministry. He was known for looking after the physical needs of people.