

"Coats For Kids/ Pythians Provide for Those In Need"

December 1, 2012

by Sir Lloyd Merson, PDSC

It's December 1, 2012, 9:00 a.m. and the Knights of Pythias *Coats For Kids/Those In Need* Committee finds over 1,000 coats waiting for us.

The committee, begun the Winter of 1996, represents one of many altruistic endeavors of the Knights of Pythias. From its inception seventeen years ago through today the Knights and the committee donated tens of thousands of coats to those in need.

The offerings of coats from countless numbers of generous people year after year is astonishing. Most of the coats come from our friends in the area of the Plainedge and Bethpage. Coats are collected at various schools in the district and are brought to a central place, The John West School in Bethpage, NY.

The coordinators for the collection, Joan and Jack Geagen separate sizes and genders and bag each coat.

Every year Joan, Jack and their volunteers have the coats assembled and ready to go.

All these coats and those donated by the Knights of Pythias and Pythian Sisters get delivered by members of the Knights of Pythias and Pythian Sisters to those in need.

Past Deputy Supreme Chancellor Sir Lloyd Merson and Past Chief Deputy Grand Chancellor Sir Ronald Klare lead this committee. Town of Oyster Bay Councilmen Joe Muscarella and Joseph G. Pinto presented the Pythians a Certificate recognizing their charitable efforts. Nassau County Legislators also joined the Pythians volunteers to express their support..

The Pythians donate coats to organizations on Long Island, in all five boroughs, Westchester County and as far as Monroe, New York. Recipients of these coats and other items of clothing collected by Pythians include shelters for the homeless, churches, schools, veteran groups.

“Helping our fellow citizens to get through the winter a bit warmer is a blessing,” stated Merson. “The Knights of Pythias, Joan and Jack Geagen, volunteers and those who donated their coats truly believe in the motto of the Pythian Order: *Friendship, Charity and Benevolence*.”

The [Order of Knights of Pythias](#) is an international, non-sectarian fraternal order, established in 1864 in Washington, DC, by Justus H. Rathbone and was the first fraternal order to be chartered by an Act of Congress. The distinguishing [principles](#) of this fraternal organization are "FRIENDSHIP, CHARITY and BENEVOLENCE". Domains of the Order exist in most states and provinces, and subordinate lodges are located in many cities and towns across the United States and Canada.

The New York [Grand Lodge](#) supports [charities](#), including the Pythian Humanitarian Fund, Juvenile Diabetes Research Association, Pythian Camp, Dr. Morris Smoller Social Service Fund (which supports health and elder care institutions) and the Special Olympics.

For information on becoming a member of the New York State Order of the Knights of Pythias please contact Michael Sukenick: rmsukenick@aol.com. Michael will be able to assist you with information about the Order and joining the Knights of Pythias or [Click here to Request Information](#). You may find a lodge near you by visiting the [lodge listing page](#), or by contacting Grand Lodge at: Grand Lodge Knights of Pythias State of New York, 2347 Jericho Turnpike, Garden City Park, NY 11040 Telephone: (866) PYTHIAS (866) 798-4427, (516) 739-5000, Fax: (516) 739-2800.

[You may download and print an application to join the Knights of Pythias, in a PDF format, by clicking here.](#)



[Photo caption: Top Row: (L to R) Grand Chancellor Craig Shink, Herb Gold, Michelle DeCrescenzo, Ron Klare, Ted and Heidi Pashko, Alan P. Katz, Nassau County Legislator Michael Venditto and Michael Sukenick. Bottom Row: (L to R) Lloyd Merson holding proclamation from Councilman Joe Muscarella, Steven Dalton, Councilman Joseph Pinto, Joan and Jack Geagan, Nassau County Legislator Rose Walker, Anne Gropper and Gert Siegel. (Credit Photo to Grand Lodge of New York, Knights of Pythias)]