

Atlantic Baptist Women 2017 Home Mission Project: Blessing Bags

When on your way to the post office or grocery store, did you ever see someone in need? Did you notice someone who could have been encouraged by a smile, a kind word, or a “blessing bag”?

In 2017, Atlantic Baptist Women have the opportunity to show God’s love to two communities: your own, and Happy Valley-Goose Bay, in Labrador. Your Women’s Missionary Society or Atlantic Baptist Women’s group may make two “blessing bags.” One blessing bag is to give to someone in need in your community, or in a nearby town or city. The other blessing bag will not be an actual or physical bag, but will contribute items to be given to a ministry in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, which is the community where the Northern Cross Community Church is located and involved.

Here’s how you and your WMS or ABW group can be involved to bless others. The two blessing bags are slightly different.



A Blessing Bag For Your Community

To make a blessing bag, first sew or purchase a drawstring cloth bag, large enough for several items. Into the bag, place new, practical, personal-care items, such as unscented lotion, sunscreen, wet wipes, lip balm, a travel coffee mug, socks, a toothbrush, etcetera. Also include a gift card from a nearby grocery store, pharmacy, or Walmart (suggested \$25 value for an individual). Do not include hand sanitizer, mouthwash, soap, and shampoo, as these may contain alcohol or fragrance. If the blessing bag is for a woman, include feminine hygiene products (which may be placed inside a cosmetic bag). Also, in a large-sized, plastic bag with a zippered closure, include pudding cups, pre-packaged applesauce, plastic spoons, trail mix, beef jerky, etcetera; check expiry dates. Put the bag of food and snacks inside the cloth bag. If the blessing bag will be delivered during the winter months, it would be appropriate to include mittens or gloves and a warm hat. *All items need to be new.*

When given with a kind, generous heart and delivered with dignity and respect, blessing bags may affirm the receiver. Go with one or two others to deliver the bag to a person in need. Don’t hurry away; chat for a few minutes.

Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Labrador Hamper Program

The Roland Shears Memorial Hamper Program was started in Happy Valley-Goose Bay in 1973. Roland saw a great need in his community, especially around Christmas time. He encouraged all the churches to work together to help families who might otherwise not have a Christmas dinner. The program began with Christmas food hampers given to needy families, and later included giving much-needed Christmas gifts. In recent years, pajamas, hats, and mittens have been added to the hampers. In 2015, the hamper program helped over 282 families.

The Northern Cross Community Church (NCCC) observes “White Gift Sunday” to help raise funds for the hamper program. The church is used as one of the places to pack the hampers, and people from NCCC help with this annual program in many ways.

Your WMS/ABW group can be involved in the 2017 hamper program in Happy Valley-Goose Bay. Knitted or crocheted items would be welcome additions to the hampers. You or your group may provide new, home-made or purchased knitted or crocheted hats, socks, mittens, and gloves: all sizes and colours will be appreciated. You may also purchase a Visa gift card that will be used to purchase food and gifts for families in Happy Valley-Goose Bay. (Please attach the receipt to the gift card.)

Bring the knitted/crocheted items and Visa gift cards to interMISSION, May 26–28, 2017. Hamper items and gift cards will be taken or sent to Northern Cross Community Church to be included in or used for the 2017 hamper program. Pastor Jonathan and Kimberly Beers of NCCC are very grateful for your involvement with this program, and that you care for those in need.

Take time to notice those around you, and be a blessing to them.

June Little

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For sewing instructions for a 22" by 14" blessing bag:
[atlanticbaptistwomen.ca/programs/Home Mission Project](http://atlanticbaptistwomen.ca/programs/Home%20Mission%20Project)
or see the January ABW Online Newsletter.