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123 E. Hanover St., Trenton, NJ 08608; 609-396-9355  
61 Nassau St., Princeton, NJ 08540; 609-921-2135

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**CONTACT:** Sarah Unger, ext. 15; [sarahu@thecrisisministry.org](mailto:sarahu@thecrisisministry.org)

### **High School Students Hold Personal Products Drive for the Crisis Ministry**

(TRENTON)—Four students who belong to the outreach group JUST THINK organized a recent drive to collect personal care items for low-income families who go to the Crisis Ministry of Princeton and Trenton for help. The students, who attend West Windsor-Plainsboro High School South, collected from their neighbors and fellow students enough shampoos, soaps, lotions, toothbrushes, and toothpastes to fill two shelves in the Crisis Ministry's Trenton store. During their drive they also collected \$800 for the Crisis Ministry to make bulk purchases of the needed items.

"I always wanted to help those who aren't as fortunate as myself, said the group's founder Alexis Etheridge, who is in the ninth grade. "My parents have always told me that we are truly blessed and with all that we have, we should give back to others." Alexis's fellow members are Anais D'Ottavio, Tahliah D'Ottavio, and Aarcha Sagar.

Mark Smith, who directs the Crisis Ministry's Food Services program, said most people do not know that basic hygiene items, as essential as they are, are not eligible for purchase through the Food Stamp program. "We appreciate donated personal care products because it is difficult for our clients, many of whom work for very low wages, to afford to pay for them," said Mr. Smith.

The Crisis Ministry, a non-profit, 501(c) 3 program, partners with the community to achieve stability for neighbors in need. Founded in 1980 by Princeton's Nassau Presbyterian Church and Trinity Episcopal Church, the Crisis Ministry serves people from over 1,400 households each month who seek heart-healthy food, homelessness prevention assistance, and work training. The Crisis Ministry also collaborates with Capital Health System to offer bimonthly health screenings hosted by Trenton's First Presbyterian Church.

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**Photo caption:** At right, Alicia Morrison, Volunteer Coordinator of the Crisis Ministry, accepts a check for \$800 from three members of Just Think, a group that helps people in need. From left are Anais D'Ottavio, Tahliah D'Ottavio, and Alexis Etheridge. Member Aarcha Sagar was unavailable for the photo. The group collected personal care products and \$800 for the Crisis Ministry. The students, who attend West Windsor-Plainsboro High School South, were awarded the Crisis Ministry's Cream of the

Crop certificates for their efforts. For more information visit [thecrisisministry.org](http://thecrisisministry.org) or [facebook.com/TheCrisisMinistry](https://facebook.com/TheCrisisMinistry), or call 609-396-9355.