The opportunity to be outside and serve outdoors has proved to be a blessing. As the local New York City restrictions loosened, South Brooklyn church’s Adventist Community Services department, along with the social committee, reinvented the parking lot, which allowed the church to host a total of three events.

The first event on Saturday, August 1, was a spirited and physically distanced outdoor social. Church members celebrated God’s goodness to them and played several games. Earlier that day, PPE (personal protective equipment) packets were distributed. The packets consisted of masks, travel-size hand sanitizer bottles, disposable gloves, packs of tissues, and an encouraging pamphlet. God opened doors by way of the Brooklyn Borough president’s office and the FAB Alliance, a community-based organization, and a church member who provided all the PPE items.

The second outreach effort was a movie night on September 5. The film was shown on the building’s freshly-painted wall that was converted into a screen. Earlier that day, men from the Atlantic Avenue Shelter, as well as passersby, received PPE packets.

September 26 was the last outdoor-ministry event. Once again church members distributed PPE packets, and shared an outdoor movie. They also passed out new and gently-used men’s fall clothing. The gentlemen from the shelter expressed appreciation for the clothing, shoes, and PPE items they received. Lighthouse church’s community service team members joined in this outreach effort.

The blessings multiplied when several young people, who were distributing restaurant-prepared food, collaborated with the team. These young people explained that they represented three separate nonprofit agencies that came together to pass out food from Collective Food Works, a local nonprofit catering business.

If South Brooklyn church members had remained indoors, they would not have had the opportunity to meet these young people to partner with, nor would they have been able to be of greater service to the people in the shelter.

The members thank God for opening doors and for His continued protection as they seek to be His hands, feet, and voice in this uncertain time.

—Angela Huge, Adventist Community Services team member, South Brooklyn church.