

HEARTS FOR THE HOMELESS

IS IT NOT TO SHARE YOUR FOOD WITH THE HUNGRY AND TO PROVIDE THE POOR WANDERER WITH SHELTER ISAIAH 58:7

On Our Hearts... Message from Ron Calandra

IN 2014, YOU HELPED US REACH 12,472+ HOMELESS AND POOR PEOPLE

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN*	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC*
TOTAL SERVED	1,115	816	1,053	1,077	1,132	1,020+	1,094	1,135	1,020	1,200	840	970
MALE	820	675	681	815	881	669+	822	868	862	1,018	725	727+
FEMALE	281	130	137	239	231	203+	246	247	152	173	112	131+
CHILDREN	14	11	07	23	20	13	26	20	06	9	03	14
HOMELESS	440	355	325	351	467	369+	440	578	483	568	415	414+

*Several Christmas & Summer Events did not allow tracking of gender or total clients served and caused monthly totals to be smaller.

The Year in Review: As is with most years, *Hearts* experienced both a mix of blessings and challenges in 2014. We were blessed with faithful committed donors and volunteers. The existence of our ministry is dependent on both – donors and volunteers are our lifeline. We are a small nonprofit that is not funded by federal or local government grants. We depend on the finances and material donations of local businesses, churches, organizations, and individuals. It amazes us to see the same people give year after year to whom we are ever grateful.

Food and Clothing: Your food drives have provided us with a well-stocked pantry. Each time we spoke of a need, you came through at just the right time. We are also so happy to see the large amount of people utilizing the many red clothing bins placed throughout WNY. The clothing from these bins helps to keep *Hearts Thrift Shop* and the *Mobile Soup Kitchen's* free clothing pantry stocked, supplies our recycling division with recyclable clothing, and is shared with other organizations that are low on certain items. Profits from the thrift shop and recyclables fund our homeless outreach.

Events: This year *Hearts* was able to offer several Christmas outreaches because of our donors – for those of you on Facebook, you have seen post after post of special events for *Hearts'* clients made possible by the provision of donor resources and supplies. Our Mobile Crews also created and financed and/or fundraised for events such as Summer BBQs and other festivities. *Hearts* is able to be a blessing to the homeless because of the faithfulness and generosity of our donors and volunteers. We extend a huge thank you to our mobile crews, volunteers, business donors, churches, organizations, and individuals who donated food, Christmas gifts & cookies, turkeys, finances, and time this past year.

From October, straight through to the end of the year, *Hearts* received many donations of warm wear, blankets, and toiletries which helped our Mobile Soup Kitchen continue to operate our free clothing pantry and stock supplies every homeless person is in need of during the cold weather and all year long.



Code Blue Backpacks made available by Ingram Micro



All kinds of toiletries donated throughout the year.



Friday Night Crew handed out Christmas stockings stuffed with necessary items.

Challenges: 2014 had its challenges. The community *Hearts* serves in is a challenge because there is a lot of poverty, unrest, and crime and we are not exempt from its effects. 2014 had great trials including two break-ins (several thousand dollars taken from our safe); theft of the catalytic convertor from our clothing truck, store theft, and continual vandalism of ill-mannered language and symbols spray painted on our building and motor home.

2014 was also a year of decrease in financial giving. *Hearts* was founded on making sure no one goes to bed hungry by supplying them a hearty meal. During the months of October through December we were flooded with donations, but it doesn't sustain us all year long. In order to continue what has become an essential outreach to our clients, we are dependent on our donors.

We pray 2015 will be a bountiful year so that our clients can continue to depend on our services. We also pray the same for you, and that your 2015 will be happy and prosperous.

HEARTS FOR THE HOMELESS OF WNY®, INC.

MOBILE SOUP KITCHEN

PO BOX 437

BUFFALO, NY 14223

"CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED"

ALL DONATIONS TO HEARTS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE



WE NOW HAVE 300+ CONVENIENT LOCATIONS
Thank you all for placing a bin.
Use our Drop-Off Locations
Visit and Shop at...

HEARTS THRIFT SHOP

890 Tonawanda St. in Riverside
Mon-Sat: 11 am - 5 pm

Nonna's Pizza
4538 Broadway
Depew, NY 14043

The Deli Shoppe
4730 Broadway
Depew, NY 14043

Ace Flag Company
5444 Transit Rd.
Depew, NY 14043

Whale of a Wash
35 French Rd.
Cheektowaga, NY 14225

Belltower Apartments
42 Haley Lane
Cheektowaga, NY 14225

Dave's Christmas Wonderland
2675 Union Rd.
Cheektowaga, NY 14227

Losson Garden Apartments
110 Losson Rd.
Cheektowaga, NY 14227

Lancaster High School
1 Forton Dr.
Lancaster, NY 14086

Reinstein Woods Env. Edc. Ctr
93 Honorine Dr.
Depew, NY 14043

John & Mary's
6425 Transit Rd.
Depew, NY 14043

The Grapevine Banquets
333 Dick Rd.
Depew, NY 14043

Cheektowaga School District
3600 Union Rd.
Cheektowaga, NY 14225

Broadway Sports Center
3500 Broadway
Cheektowaga, NY 14227

JJ's Texas Hots
2984 Union Rd.
Cheektowaga, NY 14227

Broadway Motel
3895 Broadway
Cheektowaga, NY 14227

Mobil Gas in Lancaster
1 Central Ave.
Lancaster, NY 14086

**PLEASE CALL OUR OFFICE AT 877-3536
IF YOU NEED A DONATION RECEIPT.**

Lives Touched Last Month DECEMBER 2014

Total Clients Served: 970
Homeless: 391
Male: 697
Female: 142
Children: 11
Events [mixed gender] 120+
Total Volunteer Hours: 139.50



Several Christmas events did not allow tracking of gender or total clients served and caused monthly totals to be smaller.

Talk from the Street and Heart

12/2: Served 34. **12/3:** Served 52, 3 were children. Clients need XXL coats & clothing. **12/4:** Served 56; it was great to see the motor home stuffed with socks, gloves, hats, and blankets. A blind man came and asked for someone to help him to the bus station (all in a night's service to the community). **12/5:** Served 46. **12/6:** Served 30. **12/9:** Served 36. **12/10:** Served 52; Clients asking for XXL coats. **12/11:** Served 50; snowy & cold weather. Clients were happy to receive homemade cupcakes. We gave out hats, gloves, and blankets too. **12/12:** Served 38. **12/13:** Served 27; extremely cold night, but clients that came out had high spirits which warmed the hearts of the volunteers. **12/16:** Served 45; 2 prayed for salvation. **12/17:** Served 62; clients asking for sweatpants. **12/18:** Served 100 who knew to come tonight for a special gift from our special donor Ingram Micro who donated backpacks filled with everything a homeless person would need in frigid temperatures – it was an exciting night for clients, volunteers, and Ingram Micro employees who joined us to hand out the back packs. **12/19:** Served 40. **12/20:** Another special event which took place inside the down town library including gifts, food, and activities – thank you Saturday team for your flexibility and hard work; 120 clients attended. **12/23:** Served 50, clients still looking for large, extra large and XXL coats; 3 prayed for salvation. **12/24:** Christmas Eve dinner and celebration in partnership with the Buffalo Dream Center. **12/26:** Served 32. **12/27:** Served 47, short one meal. **12/30:** Served 53; clients looking for gloves, sweat pants and Bibles.