

JANUARY 2017



MATT. 25:36 & 40

ON OUR HEARTS: Message from Ron Calandra

A busy time of the year, this past December was truly a season of celebration of the birth of our Lord Jesus! *Hearts* had groups from local churches and businesses, as well as individuals carrying out programs from our mobile soup kitchen, donating items for street clients, adopting families for Christmas, and passing along heartfelt words of encouragement. We are so grateful for each one of you. Thank you so much for walking alongside of us to create such a wonderful atmosphere that allows those in our community to take part in, and those needing special care or just a time of fellowship during the holidays to receive it.

The need seems to come out stronger as people desperately want to join in the celebrations with what little (or nothing) they have. From Thanksgiving, through Christmas, to New Years the phone rings with requests for help. Although *Hearts'* main outreach continues to be feeding the poor and homeless, we get all kinds of requests. Families in need of holiday food, clothing and gifts; we even got a request from a street client for a space heater! Up until the last minutes prior to Christmas, we scurried to find gifts for all who ask, like the mom who was on a help list at her children's school who received a call a few days before Christmas that there were no more gifts and they couldn't help her!

Another woman hit on hard times; she broke her femur, was unable to work, lost her apartment,

and went back to live with her father. She also suffered from depression, gained weight and couldn't afford new clothing, or a warm winter coat. *Hearts* was able to supply her with clothing; but, the greatest moment was letting her pick out a winter coat (her current jacket was quite stained and too small). We witnessed her face light up when she saw a full length, down coat and it fit her perfectly. She couldn't believe we let her choose our best! Her eyes then welled up with tears as she told us how touched she was by how nice we were being to her; our embrace seemed to last for several minutes as she held on for human touch, tears streaming down her face. We learned more about her sad story; but, she left that day with her dignity intact. Her father came the following week to say thank you for all that we did for his daughter. This is the "Merry" in Christmas to us.

Hearts also partners with The Buffalo Dream Center every year to bus in the homeless and poor for a Christmas Eve event filled with food, entertainment, singing, and gifts. Every year the room is packed with volunteers serving fellow men from the streets and those who are poor. But, after the festivities are finished, there is still plenty of outreach to be done, for another new year has come and the needs continue to loom. This is why *Hearts* exists.

Hearts is grateful for the gift we have in all of you, year after year; for without you we could not touch the many folks that we do. May the Lord bless you in 2017 and "make His face shine on you and be gracious to you; ...and give you peace." ~Numbers 6:24-26



SUPPORT HEARTS THRIFT SHOP
Come in and Shop at 890 Tonawanda St.
Monday – Saturday • 10am – 5pm
Profits help us to help the homeless!

Hearts Thrift Shop would like to thank the churches, Boy Scouts, and individuals that donated Christmas gifts this year. Your donations were given away for "free" to people who came into the thrift store to shop in hopes of finding gently used toys and gifts for their families. They were so surprised and excited when we offered them brand new items to pick from at no cost. This is one of the reasons why Hearts Thrift Shop exists! We find no greater pleasure than being able to offer free gifts to our customers that utilize our thrift shop on a regular basis for their everyday needs.

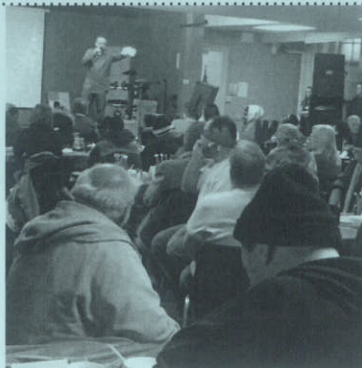
Thank you for helping us to relieve financial stress from our customers and those who have great needs. Their Christmas was made more special by your generosity. Our goal is to be more Christ-like each day; He gave the ultimate "free gift" which we share every time we help a customer or client.

IMMEDIATE FOOD NEEDS:



ELBOW MACARONI, MAYONNAISE,
CANNED: TUNA, CHICKEN, CHILI,
BEEF STEW & BAKED BEANS.
SANDWICH COOKIES, JUICE BOXES.
THANK YOU SO MUCH!

The homeless and poor were bused in to enjoy the 2016 Christmas Eve Dinner



Hearts Thrift Shop CURRENT SPECIALS:



Ladies Jeans: \$2 pair
Ladies Regular Pants: BOGO
All Leather Coats: \$15 each
Comforters: BOGO
Decorative Pillows: Buy 1, Get 2 Free
Purses: Buy 1, Get 3 Free
Kids DVDs: 5/\$1.00



HEARTS FOR THE HOMELESS OF WNY®, INC.
MOBILE SOUP KITCHEN
 P.O. BOX 437
 BUFFALO, NY 14223
 716.877.3536

FIRST CLASS
 US POSTAGE
PAID
 BUFFALO, NY
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"CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED"

VISIT US ONLINE AT: heartsforthehomeless.org
 ALL DONATIONS TO HEARTS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

**Lives Touched
 Last Month
 DECEMBER, 2016**

Total Clients Served: **900**
**Plus several hundred attended annual
 Christmas Eve dinner (not listed in these #s)*
 Homeless: **488**
 Male: **800**
 Female: **89**
 Children: **11**
 Total Volunteer Hours: **250+**



"Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter...?" ~Isaiah 58:7



**WE NOW HAVE 350+
 CONVENIENT DROP-OFF LOCATIONS!**

Thank you all for placing a bin. Please use our Drop-Off Locations or Visit and Shop at...

HEARTS THRIFT SHOP

890 Tonawanda St. in Riverside • Mon-Sat: 10am - 5pm
 Please call our office at 877-3536 if you need a donation receipt.

NORTHTOWNS

Platinum Fitness

9450 Transit Rd.
 E. Amherst, NY 14051

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

8900 Sheridan Dr.
 Clarence, NY 14031

Clarence UMC

10205 Greiner Rd.
 Clarence, NY 14031

Gallagher Printing

9195 Main St.
 Clarence, NY 14031

Allen's Garage

1036 Cleveland Ave.
 Niagara Falls, NY 14305

**Whitehaven Road
 Baptist Church**

1290 Whitehaven Rd.
 Grand Island, NY 14072

Faith Tabernacle Church

5676 Beattie Rd.
 Lockport, NY 14094

Wendy's

3586 Beebe Rd.
 Newfane, NY 14108

EAST/WEST & SOUTHTOWNS

Zodiac Aerospace

225 Erie St.
 Lancaster, NY 14086

Karts and Parts

667 Oakwood Ave.
 East Aurora, NY 14052

Eastown Beverage

563 East Main St.
 Batavia, NY 14020

South Buffalo Trading Company

1005 Abbott Rd.
 Buffalo, NY 14220

Hamburg Trading Company

4973 Clark St.
 Hamburg, NY 14075

Big Tree Trading

3405 Big Tree Rd.
 Hamburg, NY 14075

Star Service

7041 Boston Colden Rd.
 Boston, NY 14025

CITY

First Student Bus Terminal

119 Botsford Place
 Buffalo, NY 14216

Shop Rite Plaza

224-234 Elmwood Ave.
 Buffalo, NY 14222

Annunciation Church

146 West Utica
 Buffalo, NY 14222

TALK FROM THE STREET & HEART:

12/1: Served 46, clients loved the beef stew; they also received blankets. **12/2:** Served 25; 1 child. **12/3:** Served 43. **12/6:** Served 44, 1 prayed for salvation. **12/7:** Served 46; asking for gloves, sweatshirts, & coats. **12/8:** Served 47; gave out socks, gloves & hats—clients so happy for the warm wear. **12/9:** Served 33. **12/10:** Served 29; requests for socks & coats. **12/13:** Served 33; 1 prayed for salvation; requests for hoodies & coats. **12/14:** Served 32; 2 children. 1st real snow of the season, very cold—clients so appreciative we came; many w/o gloves! Gave out 2nd & 3rd helpings of hot meal. **12/15:** Served 43; very cold—handed out socks, gloves & hats. **12/16:** Served 25; asking for boots. **12/20:** Served 38; 4 prayed for salvation; asking for large size pants, boots, coats & blankets. **12/21:** Served 59; client Frankie looking for a space heater, the room he stays in is only 45 degrees. Thank you Smiths of Eden for blessing the clients tonight. **12/22:** Served 67; Ingram Micro group gave out backpacks filled with winter necessary items! Clients were so happy! **12/23:** Served 53; 1 child; thank you to Metropolitan UMC & Zion Dominion for making tonight a special night for clients. **12/24:** Christmas Eve Dinner for Homeless & Poor. **12/27:** Served 43, 4 prayed for salvation; big size coats needed & boots, sleeping bags & blankets. **12/28:** Served 53; 1 child; requests for chapstick. **12/29:** Served 74; Star Point teachers donated hats, gloves, scarves, & toiletries to hand out; each client also got a pair of socks. **12/30:** Served 37.