



ON OUR HEARTS: Message from Ron Calandra

Several years ago, Hearts for the Homeless initiated an extensive recycling program that has grown in leaps and bounds with a 3-fold purpose: to supply 1) "free" clothing for the homeless; 2) merchandise to sell through Hearts Thrift Shop; and 3) textiles & shoes to send on to get recycled. The third purpose has created another source of revenue for Hearts and also prompted local job creation for those who otherwise may not have a chance to be employed. As our recycling department has expanded, we've had to hire more help in the warehouse as well as drivers to empty clothing bins.

Did you know that U.S. consumers put almost half of their unwanted textiles and clothing in the trash? Since textiles do not degrade under landfill conditions due to lack of sunlight and oxygen, and incineration contributes to air pollution, textiles account for some 12.8 million tons of the solid waste stream. Taxpayer money is used for landfill dumping at \$100/ton. Taxpayers could save \$1.1 billion every year by keeping textile waste out of landfills.

Almost 100% of your unwanted clothing & textiles can be recycled and repurposed. Even items that might be considered rags have value. In addition to clothing & shoes, you can recycle wallets, belts, purses, backpacks, toys, stuffed animals, caps & hats, and more. Some of it gets processed into cloths, and some gets converted into fiber and used in carpet padding, rubberized playgrounds, or insulation. Rubber from the bottom of shoes can be shredded into crumb rubber for use on asphalt.

The best part for Hearts' donors is that no matter how it's purposed, your donated items help us reach the homeless & poor people in Buffalo. Recycling also creates economic development around the world. Your used clothing that may not sell in a U.S. thrift shop is deemed as quality to a person in a developing

nation because new clothing for sale in their country is shipped and made from China's cheapest materials and still costs too much for the average person. So, second-hand clothing is all that is affordable to someone who earns only \$200 annually. The revenue Hearts makes from this type of recycling goes back into feeding our street clients.

To give you a better idea—Hearts first sends our recycled clothing surplus to a thrift store in New York City (see photo below) which affects the local economy there; then the New York City thrift shop ships its surplus to a community in Africa. Hence, exporting our recycle clothing surplus that we receive from you generates revenue for us and keeps the wheels of the motor home turning while helping U.S. local and world economy as they sell and recycle what we send them.



You may or may not be a fan of recycling. But, wherever you find yourself on the spectrum, the info we shared above is worth taking notice. Most of us are familiar with recycling of plastics, aluminum and other packaging because our town's waste program requires it; but, recognizing the value of recycling unwanted clothing and household textiles is compelling and might persuade the non-believers to do it, and in the process benefit Hearts for the Homeless. Please remember Hearts as you bag up your clothes, shoes, and other household textiles this spring.

You can bring your donations to our center at 890 Tonawanda St., in Riverside, or drop them off at one of our Red Donation Bins throughout Western New York. Please call our office at 877-3536 for more info, the nearest clothing bin to you, and/or to request a donation receipt.



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

When the staff at Hearts Thrift shop isn't sorting clothing, restocking racks & shelves, or cashing out a customer, they can usually be found assisting someone in the community with a need who came to our store because they know Hearts cares about their well-being.

Recently one of our regular customers told us that her older male relative was very ill. He needed some bits and pieces to make his life more comfortable as he suffered from his illness. Our staff was able to provide men's incontinence briefs, sweat pants, and additional things. Not only did this help his situation, it gave him an emotional boost and brought him hope.

This continues to be what it is all about for all of us at Hearts. As our mobile soup kitchen provides food for the homeless, our thrift shop reaches the local community around us who come into our store.

WE REPURPOSE ALL CLOTHING & TEXTILES!

Hearts "Free" Clothing Pantry provides seasonal, gently used jeans, sweats, hoodies, t-shirts, jackets, shoes/boots, blankets, and backpacks to our street clients. Your XL and plus size men's clothing is our greatest need as 90% of our street clients are men. Please mark outside of bag "FOR HOMELESS."

Hearts Thrift Shop sells gently used and new men's, women's, and children's clothing, shoes, and small household items and décor. The profits from thrift shop sales go back into feeding the poor and homeless.

Hearts Recycle Program offers you ways to help and restore the lives of others by recycling your unwanted clothing, shoes, and textiles—new, used, torn, or tattered. We repurpose it all!



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

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 US POSTAGE
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“CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED”

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

**Lives Touched
Last Month**

MARCH, 2017

Total Clients Served: **892**
 Homeless: **411**
 Male: **772**
 Female: **109**
 Children: **11**
 Total Volunteer Hours: **146**



“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!

TALK FROM THE STREET & HEART:

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.

Hearts for the Homeless would like to thank Mr. Rob Banks and The Ellicott Development Group for placing our clothing bins in your plazas. The amount of clothing donations that come through those bins is a huge blessing to our organization.



- Haeberle Plaza**
743 Portage Rd.
Niagara Falls, NY 14301
- Healthworks WNY**
2075 Sheridan Dr.
Tonawanda, NY 14223
- Big Tree Trading**
3405 Big Tree Rd.
Hamburg, NY 14075

- Hamburg Trading Co. Convenience**
4973 Clark St.
Hamburg, NY 14075
- South Buffalo Trading Company**
1005 Abbott Rd.
Buffalo, NY 14220



3/1: Served 39; nice crowd of clients; everyone received 2nd and 3rd helpings. **3/2:** Served 39; thank you Ed & Shelly for joining us tonight and bringing hats & scarves; they thought our system was very efficient – they will donate razors & tooth-paste soon. **3/3:** Served 29. **3/4:** Served 17 on a very cold evening. **3/7:** Served 53; 2 prayed the prayer of salvation. **3/8:** Served 43; 2nd helpings given out; cold & windy; requests for XL hoodies and book bags. **3/9:** Served 32; clients loved the crackers with their chili; one client was praising God because he is drug & alcohol free for 5 months. **3/10:** Served 25. **3/11:** Served 35; asking for XL hoodies. **3/14:** Served 34; 1 prayed the prayer of salvation. **3/15:** Served 50. **3/16:** Served 41; sun is shining tonight, but still cold; clients asking for blankets. **3/17:** Served 27. **3/18:** Served 24; clients asking for gloves, socks, and hoodies. **3/21:** Served 41; 2 prayed the prayer of salvation; clients asking for razors. **3/22:** Served 47. **3/23:** Served 35; Isaac was a big help serving the hot meal tonight; everyone received a 2nd helping, some stayed for a 3rd. Clients really love the crackers with their chili. **3/24:** Served 40. **3/25:** Served 40; clients asking for shoes, socks, gloves, blankets. **3/28:** Served 45. **3/29:** Served 59; all went well; gave out lots of socks, razors, soap, & other toiletries. Everyone was happy. **3/30:** Served 63. **3/31:** Served 39.

IMMEDIATE FOOD NEEDS:



PARMESAN CHEESE, CANNED: CHICKEN, BAKED BEANS, CHILI, CREAM OF MUSHROOM SOUP, CREAM OF CHICKEN SOUP, SANDWICH COOKIES, AND JUICE BOXES. THANK YOU SO MUCH!

