



ON OUR HEARTS: Message from Ron Calandra

Coming into the office this morning, the answering machine had messages of every sort. A veteran was losing his housing and needed someone to foster his 3 cats; a woman needing beds for her kids; another needing food while at the same time needing a vet for her injured dog. Everyday there are phone calls from people with needs that are not included in the mission and services that Hearts for the Homeless provides. Our hearts sink and we hate to have to say, "We can't help." Sometimes we are able to stretch the definition of our outreach to fit a situation if it is in our power to help. Many times, we search the internet to find available resources for the people making these calls so they don't have to hang up empty-handed and defeated.

We also continue to get phone calls from those who are on the verge of being homeless, those who are homeless, and those calling for our feeding schedule. **Here are some staggering statistics from 2016:**

- There were 2,000,000 individuals nationwide who were homeless during that year.
- In Erie County alone, 8,000 individuals were homeless during that year. Imagine adding the surrounding counties to this number.
- On any given night nationwide, there were 700,000 homeless individuals.
- On any given night in Erie County, there were 2,100 homeless individuals.

Resource: <http://crisisservices.org/homelessness/understanding/>

Do you know someone in need or on the verge of crisis? We encourage you to advise them on the many services available to them in Western New York. You can find so many resources at www.211wny.org. This is a resource that we use to guide people to services specific

to their need, listed by county, by topic (i.e., click on the county, then put topic in the search box). You could be the catalyst that gets someone the help they need.

There are resources for every need out there such as transitional services for domestic violence, disabilities, homelessness, substance abuse, and all the basic human needs. There are even medical clinics and treatment centers for the homeless. Many shelters also provide alcohol and drug rehab treatment (along with clinics). If we familiarize ourselves with these resources, we are better equipped to help.

When Hearts gives information over the phone that doesn't fall into our definition of outreach, the tone of the desperate voice at the other end changes to calm as they realize the effort we made just for them. We hear often, "You are the first that has taken the time to offer suggestions when others just say, 'Sorry, can't help.'" This alone is like a medicine to their soul. They are also surprised to know the services that are out there. It only takes a few minutes to look up resources for those who are emotionally debilitated.

So often, we can become critical of those who are in a tough situation and feel that they should be able to help themselves. Unless you have been there, sometimes it is difficult to understand the pressure a person is feeling. It takes only one person sharing with someone in need to turn that person's life around.

Be the bright spot in someone's life today. Not only will you be helping someone get out of a bad situation, you will feel better too!



Please remember Hearts during your spring cleaning. Our Recycling Program offers many ways for you to help and restore the lives of others by recycling your unwanted clothing—new, used, torn, or tattered. We are able to repurpose it all!



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

It is always good to see God at work in Hearts Thrift Shop, especially when he uses it to deliver a message and bring hope and encouragement to our customers.

Recently, one of our regular customers, Carmen, was being introduced by one of our staff to another staff. Carmen began telling them how the Lord healed her from late stages of Lupus. She was in pain, couldn't walk, and suffering at extreme measure; her husband had to carry her and help her in every aspect of daily life.

Just as Carmen was explaining how God miraculously healed her, another customer that was suffering from Lupus and Fibromyalgia was standing nearby and overheard the conversation. She walked over to them and began to ask questions about what God did for Carmen. She told our staff and Carmen that she was greatly encouraged by Carmen's testimony.

Kathy and Kay from Hearts Thrift Shop asked if they could pray for her to be healed like Carmen was. The customer said yes, and left that day expecting God to touch her. We feel that God placed this woman at Hearts right at that moment for her to hear Carmen's testimony of His desire to heal us of our diseases. We can't wait for this customer to come in again to see what the Lord did for her!

Hearts Thrift Shop Current Specials

- Ladies Regular Pants BOGO
- Ladies Skirts BOGO
- Ladies Long Sleeved Shirts BOGO
- Ladies Short Sleeved Shirts 2/\$6
- Ladies Sleeveless Shirts 3/\$6
- Comforters BOGO

IMMEDIATE FOOD NEEDS
CANNED CHICKEN,
MAYONNAISE OR MIRACLE WHIP,
ONION POWDER, GARLIC POWDER,
SANDWICH COOKIES, SANDWICH BAGS



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

"CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED"

*Thank you
 for your
 good*

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

**Lives Touched
 Last Month**

APRIL, 2017

Total Clients Served: **846**
 Homeless: **343**
 Male: **685**
 Female: **153**
 Children: **8**
 Total Volunteer Hours: **148**



"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.

TALK FROM THE STREET & HEART:

4/1: Served 36; asking for socks. **4/4:** Served 32; ran out of deodorant & socks. **4/5:** Served 42; all went well. **4/6:** Served 46; wet & rainy; we served chili and clients loved the crackers with it; we had deaf clients tonight speaking in sign language. Everyone got 2nd helpings. **4/7:** Served 19; we ran out of PBJ sandwiches-Friday clients' favorite kind of sandwich. **4/8:** Served 23; need XL hoodies. **4/11:** Served 38. **4/12:** Served 46; a very nice "anonymous" man from Eggertsville brought by 60 or so individually wrapped, boxed chocolate bunnies! Bunnies were everywhere! Clients loved them. **4/13:** Served 53; clients were asking for blankets and socks; they were excited to hear that tomorrow the team will be handing out brand new shoes. **4/14:** Served 45; Hearts wonderful team leaders, Rick & Dave purchased brand new shoes, sneakers, boots for clients, size-specific, prepared ahead by getting sizes from clients; handed out on Good Friday. A huge thank you to Rick & Dave! Clients, of course, were blessed beyond measure. **4/15:** Served 31. **4/18:** Served 40. **4/19:** Served 53; Centerpointe Church from Lancaster is back serving with us once a month, yippee! **4/20:** Served 47. **4/21:** Served 42. **4/22:** Served 22. **4/25:** Served 45; 5 clients prayed for salvation. **4/26:** Served 50. **4/27:** Served 57. **4/28:** Served 38. **4/29:** Served 29.

NORTHTOWNS

Beechwood Continuing Care
 2235 Millersport Hwy.
 Getzville, NY 14068

Town Cafe
 2352 Grand Island Blvd.
 Grand Island, NY 14072

Citgo Gas - Jolly Rogers
 2065 River Rd.
 Niagara Falls, NY 14304

Lakeside Furniture
 1688 Lake Rd.
 Youngstown, NY 14174

EAST/WEST & SOUTHTOWNS

Borderline Bar & Grille
 11825 Main Rd.
 Newstead, NY 14001

Nature's Prize

13035 Main Rd.
 Akron, NY 14001

Grace in Community Church

11269 Broadway
 Alden, NY 14004

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

Karts and Parts
 667 Oakwood Ave.
 East Aurora, NY 14052

Valero Bob's Deli
 1045 Davis Rd.
 West Falls, NY 14170

Braymiller's
 6936 Gowanda State Rd.
 Hamburg, NY 14075

B & B Storage Inc.

14220 South Cascade Dr.
 Springville, NY 14141

Tops Market - Ellicottville

64 East Washington St.
 Ellicottville, NY 14731

CITY

Walden Convenient Store

599 Walden Ave.
 Buffalo, NY 14211

Grant & Delavan Family Market

302 Grant St.
 Buffalo, NY 14213

Pillar of Truth Church

2072 Fillmore Ave.
 Buffalo, NY 14214