



ON OUR HEARTS: Message from Ron Calandra

On the coldest day last month, it was 22 degrees. I was getting Hearts Mobile Soup Kitchen loaded up and readied for the volunteer mobile crew to drive downtown to the Buffalo & Erie County Library and deliver a hot meal to our poor & homeless clients.

It was bitter cold! I remember thinking how it was just too cold to be spending time outside loading up the soup kitchen bus. My hands and nose were burning; I had a chill throughout my body. Here I was carrying heavy boxes filled with warm clothing, toiletries, drinks, blankets, and other miscellaneous items to hand out to our street clients, to help them stay warm, and all I wanted to do was head right back into our building and sit at my desk where it was warm.

While putting the last box of warm blankets on the bus, the reality hit me. If I am feeling this cold after just 15 minutes of being outside, just how cold are the people I was preparing to serve - those who don't have a place to go warm up inside?

I was reminded of why Hearts for the Homeless exists. We are here to bring hope to those who are feeling much of the same that I felt that day. But, their needs are much greater, "colder," and sometimes unattainable.

This day was a good reminder for how important Hearts' outreach is. I am sure I was not the only one feeling the burn of the weather that day and doubly sure our clients felt it too.

WHEN HEARTS IS NOT AT THE LIBRARY FEEDING, THERE ARE OTHER WAYS WE HELP...

Gerald, a homeless man that uses a bicycle to get around, called recently to ask if we had a full cover face mask and warm pair of ski gloves. He rides his bike throughout the winter and was hoping we could help. After assuring him we would put a bag with his name on it on the bus,

he called several times to confirm when he could meet us downtown to pick them up. Each time he called, we reassured him the items would be there. We received a call from Gerald a couple days later, in tears, saying just how wonderful the ski gloves were. "They were perfect," he exclaimed through his tears, "more than I could have asked for." These are the moments we live for at Hearts, knowing someone was so touched by receiving a warm pair of ski gloves to keep his hands from burning while riding around in the winter cold.

There are times Hearts finds it "the right thing to do" to support our very own employees. Although we exist largely on volunteers, we do have some paid employees (some of whom are people from within the very community we serve).

We recently got word that one of our warehouse workers, living pay check to pay check, got behind in paying his rent in order to use the money for his day to day expenses. He has a family to take care of; but, he was on the verge of being evicted. Hearts was able to help this employee catch up with his rent which kept him and his family from being evicted. This is not something we do often; but, sometimes we find it necessary to take care of those who have been loyal to us.

A GENUINE PAYBACK WITH A SMILE

One of our homeless client's was walking down Delaware Ave. during the Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot. He recognized Heart's volunteer, Steve Ash, participating in the Turkey Trot. Steve heard Bob, our street client, yell out, "Happy Thanksgiving Mr. Steve!" What a heartwarming way to end the Turkey Trot for Steve, to be recognized by one of our street clients. We hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving celebration.

IMMEDIATE FOOD NEEDS URGENT NEED FOR ZIPLOCK BAGGIES

- SPAGHETTI SAUCE
- PARMESAN CHEESE
- CANNED CHICKEN
- KIDNEY BEANS
- SANDWICH COOKIES
- ZIPLOCK BAGGIES



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

THRIFT SHOP NEWS

"FREE BOOKS" AT HEARTS THRIFT SHOP ENCOURAGES YOUNG READERS

Kristie, the mom in the picture, used to work with Burmese refugees and bring them to Hearts Thrift Shop to get warm winter clothing. At Hearts, these families could shop at no cost to them. Kristie enjoyed her work with the Burmese and bringing them to our thrift shop.



These days, you will find Kristie in her current position as a full time mother. She has remained a faithful patron of Hearts Thrift Shop; but, not just for shopping. As she inspires and teaches her children to love books and reading, you will find Kristie and her three children sitting around our overstuffed book case, reading and enjoying the moments of wonder and curiosity. To encourage reading, Hearts gives the books away at no cost. Kristie's eldest daughter proudly told us that she comes to the thrift store to find Chapter books because she reads so fast, she always needs more. What a great testament to Kristie and her husband's parenting.

It is not unusual to find many of our customers sitting on the steps or floor in front of the book shelves picking out books to take home. To see children enjoying books in our thrift shop is so gratifying in this day of computers and technology. We welcome them all.

350 to 400 DOZEN CHRISTMAS COOKIES NEEDED FOR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS EVE DINNER

It's that time of year!

Please call our office at 877-3536;
drop off your cookies at our

890 Tonawanda St. Center by Dec. 19th.





HEARTS FOR THE HOMELESS

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

NON PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
BUFFALO, NY
PERMIT #681

"CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED"

VISIT US ONLINE AT: heartsforthehomeless.org

ALL DONATIONS TO HEARTS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

Lives Touched Last Month

NOVEMBER, 2017

Total Clients Served: **1,169**

Homeless: **459**

Male: **918**

Female: **232**

Children: **19**

Total Volunteer Hours: **181**



"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:

11/1: Served 72; doesn't happen very often but the police were called because 2 homeless men were fighting. All else was okay. **11/2:** Served 56+; serving beef stew on a nice warm evening. We had extra meals & sandwiches so we took them to the park & stopped at bus stop and fed 11 more people. **11/3:** Served 38; clients asking for sleeping bags. **11/4:** Served 29; we handed out candy & socks to clients; clients were looking for backpacks and XL jackets. **11/7:** Served 43; 9 prayed to receive Jesus. **11/8:** Served 66. **11/9:** Served 76 on a cold rainy night; asking for blankets. A lady said, "Thank you for coming every week." Another male client picked up the trash for us. **11/10:** Served 25; lots of warm gloves, socks, & face masks to hand out. **11/11:** Served 43. **11/14:** Served 64; 4 salvations; clients asking for blankets. **11/15:** Served 72; all went well, could use more hoodies, warm pants, big size winter coats, gloves, boots, shoes. **11/16:** Served 59; a cold rainy night, clients asking for blankets. **11/17:** Served 42; clients asking for winter coats. **11/18:** Served 30; clients asking for hoodies & blankets. **11/21:** Served 68, clients asking for razors, socks, hoodies, sweat pants. **11/22:** Served 51. **11/24:** Served 60; thank you Zion Group for giving clients a wonderful Thanksgiving meal. **11/25:** Served 56; need LG/XL coats, shirts, hoodies. **11/28:** Served 62; 4 prayed for salvation. **11/29:** Served 76. **11/30:** Served 74; gave out blankets; line was very long! Hearts is so thankful for all of our faithful Mobile Crew Volunteers who serve unconditionally.

NORTHTOWNS

Valero Grand Island Market
1441 Ransom Rd.
Grand Island, NY 14072

Newfane General Contracting
4022 Lake Ave.
Lockport, NY 14094

Buffalo Design & Printing
2630 Elmwood Ave.
Kenmore, NY 14217

Hock's Flower Shop
700 East Robinson Rd.
North Tonawanda, NY 14120

Budwey's Market in the Square
535 Division St.
North Tonawanda, NY 14120

Fels Three Crown Motel
10220 Main St.
Clarence, NY 14031

EAST/WEST & SOUTHTOWNS

Purses by Danielle
3663 South Park Ave.
Blasdell, NY 14219

Hamburg Plaza
5999 South Park Ave.
Hamburg, NY 14075

Valle of Mexico 2
5569 Camp Rd.
Hamburg, NY 14075

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

Go Gas Station
930 George Urban Blvd.
Cheektowaga, NY 14225

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

ARB Heating & Cooling

7338 Olean Rd.
Holland, NY 14080

Hope on the Hill
10039 Savage Rd.
Holland, NY 14080

CITY

Moe's Tire & Auto Repair
337 North Ogden St.
Buffalo, NY 14206

Auto Service
1460 Niagara St.
Buffalo, NY 14213

Jerusalem Halal
1146 Hertel Ave.
Buffalo, NY 14216

Bargain Hunters
976 Bailey Ave.
Buffalo, NY 14215