

# Nourishing the Community through Dignified Service™

*"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me...whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine you did for me." ~ MATTHEW 25:35-36, 40 NIV*

The official monthly newsletter of Hearts for the Homeless of WNY, Inc.®



May 2019

## On Our Hearts

### Heading into Spring & Summer - Let's not Forget the Homeless or the Agencies that Help Them

Aah! – Finally, the two seasons that most of us in Buffalo look forward to are finding their way here. Warmer air, easier driving, vacation time, and outdoor activities make winter woes seem far in the past. For Hearts' homeless clients, it means life on the streets will be a bit nicer compared to weather related challenges like moving around with more gear to stay alive in the bitter cold.

Recently, a homeless man was at one of Hearts' donation bins just as one of our drivers was about to empty it. The homeless man was putting his winter items into the donation bin and said this was a way for him to give back for the help he has received.

Although summer can be an easier time to live on the streets, there are heat challenges such as heat exhaustion, dehydration, and sunburn. Those that struggle with addictions also face extreme temptation because there are more outside activities where alcohol and drugs can be found.

During this season, we can all help by being more aware of the homeless around us. Interacting with the homeless and giving items directly to them would be a welcomed gift. Handing off a bottle of water or cool drink can be just what a homeless person needs. If you suspect heat exhaustion or illness, let them know you will call 911 or for non-emergencies dial 211 for other

services like places to eat, shelters, etc. Private businesses can help by hiring ready-to-work homeless individuals.

You should also support the local agencies that help our street friends by giving financial or donating needed supplies. Favorite items of Hearts clients for spring and summer are: razors & bar soap, deodorant, bottled water, backpacks or carry bags, sneakers, sandals, white socks, blankets, tissues, hats & visors.

With all the activities, and hustle and bustle of the summer, the homeless and the agencies that serve them tend to be unintentionally forgotten. This summer, please remember the homeless and the agencies that help make their lives a little more bearable.

The spring/summer season is also a great time to volunteer on one of our Mobile Crews that go out to feed our homeless clients. Hearts' Wednesday night team is looking for a new team member. They meet at Hearts at 5:00pm and it takes less than 2 hours to feed our clients from start to finish. If you are interested, call our office at 716-877-3536 or fill out an application online at [heartsforthehomeless.org](http://heartsforthehomeless.org).

*We wish you a fantastic spring and summer season. Have a happy and safe Memorial Day!*



*"Thank you for joining hands with us to help the disadvantaged in Buffalo"*

*"Your generosity allows us to carry out our mission to meet the demands of those who are living on the streets, and those who have very little and depend on us."*

## All Donations to Hearts are Tax Deductible

SCAN to LOCATE



SCAN to DONATE



To make a secure online donation,  
[www.heartsforthehomeless.org/donate/](http://www.heartsforthehomeless.org/donate/)

## Hearts Thrift Shop



**SUPPORT HEARTS THRIFT SHOP**

Come Shop at 890 Tonawanda St.

MON - SAT 10AM - 5PM

*Profits help us to help the homeless!*

## Thrift Shop News

♥ Your donations have a positive impact on our customers! This photo was taken in the thrift shop of a family enjoying their shopping experience. But, what struck us most was the way the little girl was clutching to a wooden jewelry box she was going to buy. We watched her walking around the store and our hearts just melted as we observed how carefully she clutched it close to her and how happy she was to be buying it. A big thank you to the donor for giving Hearts the opportunity to put a smile on this young girl's face.



♥ A friend of Maria in our thrift shop has been helping a Muslim family in the Riverside area where our thrift shop is located. Upon hearing the great price our thrift shop had on bike helmets, Maria's friend was able to come and purchase 6 of them, at only \$1.00 each, so that each child in this family could have one.

## HEARTS THRIFT SHOP CURRENT SPECIALS

- ♥ Men's & Ladies Long Sleeved Shirts BOGO
- ♥ All Bicycle Helmets \$1.00
- ♥ Roller Blades \$3.99
- ♥ Pink & Green Tagged Items 50%

## TALK FROM THE STREET & HEART

**4/2:** Served 58; clients asking for razors & socks. **4/3:** Served 46; the last 2 weeks a younger girl came to eat who was very distraught – we gave her our best advice; she left with one of our clients who was going to help her – tonight she came with a bruised eye; please keep her in your prayers. **4/4:** Served 56, including an infant, a toddler, and 2 teens; we handed out blankets & hoodies. One man who received a blanket was so grateful he hugged the blanket so tight it brought tears to our eyes. **4/5:** Served 47. **4/6:** Served 55; clients asking for backpacks. **4/9:** Served 52; asking for socks. **4/10:** Served 66, including 2 kids; all went well out there even though it was a cold night. **4/11:** Served 63; a colder night. We gave out toiletry bags to each client. We also gave out backpacks & t-shirts; we put every clothing box that was on board the bus out on the sidewalk so the clients could take whatever they wanted. **4/12:** Served 56. **4/13:** Served 56; asking for hoodies & blankets. **4/16:** Served 65; 5 prayed the prayer of salvation; clients asking for sneakers, socks, & bags. **4/17:** Served 71; all went well. **4/18:** Served 73; everyone was blessed by the meal. When we arrived, we immediately gave out mats handmade from plastic bags. **4/19:** Served 41. **4/20:** Served 57. **4/23:** Served 70; we ran out of razors (a favorite toiletry of our clients). They were also asking for back packs/bags, socks & sandals. **4/24:** Served 78; a very peaceful group tonight; gave out seconds. **4/25:** Served 78; Isaac the grandson to volunteer John took a meal to child at the bus stop. **4/26:** Served 55. **4/27:** Served 62. **4/30:** Served 67; clients asking for pants & sneakers.

## Lives Touched Last Month

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

**APRIL 2019**

Total Clients Served: **1,265**  
 Homeless: **556**  
 Male: **1,001**  
 Female: **248**  
 Seniors: **77**  
 Children: **23**  
 Total Volunteer Hours: **143.5**



## IMMEDIATE FOOD NEEDS

- ♥ CANNED CHICKEN
- ♥ MAYONNAISE
- ♥ SWEET RELISH
- ♥ ONION POWDER
- ♥ GRAPE JELLY
- ♥ BOTTLED WATER

(We cannot use outdated/expired food)



## Hearts Harvest Food Pantry & Café Expansion Update

We are excited that there is a buzz out there, in the Riverside community, where Hearts' ministry campus sits. People are really looking forward to this new outreach designed especially for them.

Although there is still a lot to be done, we continue to move forward. We've been able to purchase important equipment pieces like refrigeration, a freezer, various displays for food product, and even shopping carts, made possible through a grant from the Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program (HPNAP) via Feed More WNY (Food Bank). We also just received notice that The Chapel Church has granted us \$10,000 to put towards our \$150,000 goal to get the food pantry finished. An architect is currently working out the floor plan and layout of equipment for both the food pantry and the area where the café will be.

Please continue to keep the food pantry & café in your prayers as each piece falls into place – finishing the building, need for volunteers, the clients we will serve, and finances.

### Hearts Harvest Food Pantry & Café CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



## REMEMBER HEARTS RECYCLE PROGRAM



Recycling unwanted clothing restores lives—new, used, torn, or tattered, we can re-purpose it all!

## Drop-Off Locations!

### Recycling Clothes, Restoring Lives®

Please use our Drop-Off Locations or visit and shop at HEARTS THRIFT SHOP, 890 Tonawanda St, Mon-Sat: 10am - 5pm.

### DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN FIND A BIN AT:

- 54 Fitness**  
 7183 New York 54  
 Bath, NY 14810
- ECO Centers**  
 8102-8292 Niagara Falls Blvd  
 Niagara Falls, NY 14304
- Annunciation Church**  
 146 West Utica St  
 Buffalo, NY 14222
- The Wildwood Grill**  
 53 Wildwood Ave  
 Salamanca, NY 14779

To find a bin near you,

[www.heartsforthehomeless.org/bin-finder/](http://www.heartsforthehomeless.org/bin-finder/)



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