



Since 1990

P.O. Box 437, Buffalo, New York 14233-0437
(716) 877-3536
www.heartsforthehomeless.org

December 27, 2019

Dear Supporters:

First, let me extend to you and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and Happy New Year. The outreach programs at Hearts are made possible by support like yours. We are very grateful for your generosity, support and trust. Please continue to pray for this ministry and our brothers and sisters in need. The year 2019 was an exciting year for Hearts for the Homeless. The team looks forward to sharing more updates over the coming weeks on what took place in 2019 and what is in the works for 2020.

At this time, I want to thank our Founder, Ron Calandra, for all he has done for the ministry over almost three decades. Ron's vision to serve the poor and homeless and support the ministry through entrepreneurial ventures such as the thrift store and clothing recycling program runs deep within the organization. In 2009, Ron asked me, Pastor Eric Johns, to join the board of directors around the same time as his nephew, Nick Calandra. Since that time, I've gotten to know Nick by working with him at the board level and at the operational level through partnerships with the Buffalo Dream Center and Hearts. Nick has spent the last 10 years getting to know all of Hearts and the various operations within the organization. Nick has spent a significant amount of time over the years getting to know Ron's heart for the poor and homeless. In 2011, Nick graduated from Medaille College with a bachelor's degree in business administration and joined the staff in a full-time capacity as our Chief Operations Officer. Over the last few years, Ron has been delegating responsibilities to Nick and this fall decided it was time to transition the role of Chief Executive Officer over to Nick. In November, the board of directors ratified the change. Please join me in welcoming Nick Calandra to his new role as CEO. We believe God has big plans for Nick at Hearts. Nick and his wife, Chrissy, reside in North Buffalo and are members of Parkside Lutheran Church. His passion for helping people extends well beyond his time with Hearts and we look forward to all of you getting to know him more. Please feel free to reach out to Nick directly. He can be reached at our office at 716-877-3536 or by email, nick@heartsforthehomeless.org

After 30 years in ministry, Ron Calandra is on a leave of absence from Hearts. Ron has served the poor and homeless for over 30 years and has impacted countless lives. Through relationship ministry, Ron has planted and watered seeds in people from all walks of life. Ron shared the Gospel through countless acts of love and generosity. We are grateful for all Ron has done and know that God will lead the way in the next chapters of Ron's life. Please pray with us for Ron during his time of rest, healing and recharging. If you have questions regarding this please contact me at, revericjohns728@gmail.com or (716) 854-1001.

I know Nick and the team at Hearts will be diligent about being good stewards of the gifts the ministry has been given as they continue to expand. Please pray for the ministry as it opens the Hearts Harvest Food Pantry in 2020. Thank you for your continued support and may God bless each of you.

Sincerely,

Eric Johns - Chairman of the Board

*"Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter
- when you see the naked, to clothe him, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?"
Isaiah 58:7*