

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.®



IN 2019, YOU HELPED US REACH 14,000* HOMELESS AND POOR PEOPLE

	JAN	FEB	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
TOTAL SERVED	1,378	1,119	1,222	1,265	1,100	1,166	1,066	1,126	936	1,240	1,165	1,099
MALE	865	921	1,042	1,001	879	929	794	871	743	993	910	865
FEMALE	171	179	162	248	221	226	240	221	181	237	216	219
CHILDREN	11	19	18	23	22	11	32	34	12	10	39	36
HOMELESS	390	403	482	556	389	451	335	438	354	546	455	451
SENIORS	59	76	71	77	60	55	70	69	64	53	104	45

*100+ people served at our Annual Christmas Eve Dinner

IMMEDIATE FOOD NEEDS

Canned Chicken, Canned Beef Stew,
Parmesan Cheese, Sandwich Cookies,
Fold Top Sandwich Bags

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

♥ We were able to help a gentleman through our thrift shop (at no cost) who was in need of a coat. We received a donation of several brand new men's ski coats and on that very day a man came in who needed one. He tried one on in his size and it fit him perfectly. He was so excited that he didn't want to take it off! Our donors are so generous; this generosity allows us to take care of those in need. The needs are great in our community.

♥ Last month, Hearts Thrift Shop handed out new items to customers at no charge who came in to do their Christmas Shopping. We were also able to bless many children with gifts that came in from area churches and the boy scouts.

♥ As always, if you are interested in supporting us and want to do some shopping, but can't make it to the store, you can shop from the comfort of your home on eBay at <https://ebay.com/usr/heartsthiftshop2011> currently, there are 376 items for sale. Check us out!

On Our Hearts

We wish each of you a very happy New Year!

How wonderful that the scripture verses in Isaiah 43:18-19 remind us that we CAN start fresh and leave behind those things that were a hindrance, mistakes, or upsets that have kept us bound. It reads, "Do not remember the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing, now it shall spring forth; shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."

It's a new year, to begin again. We encourage you to heed those words along with us, as we pray for each other to succeed.

As Hearts steps into 2020, we have two announcements to share with you:

You may already know, Hearts has been preparing a building to open Hearts Harvest Food Pantry & Café to fill a need in the community we reside. The need is great and there are many people who are not currently being served at a local food pantry. We still have a ways to go before the building is completed. However, right before Christmas, we received word that there was an urgent need for Hearts to consider opening ahead of schedule even if it wasn't in the new building. Hearts' food pantry expansion was put on a fast track to open in January.

Our team at Hearts was eagerly getting ready to celebrate the Christmas holidays when the news came. But, the need was greater and we knew

we had to switch gears. The only food pantry in Riverside lost its lease, and after efforts of opening at a new location, they ran into a zoning snag. With the help and encouragement of Feedmore WNY (Food Bank) to get us set up, we jumped in with both feet so that the families in the Hearts' community won't miss out on their resources for food this month. Our opening day is January 13th.

Please join us in prayer as we go forward. Our space is limited and we are now even more eager for the interior construction of the new building to be completed so that the people in our community can have a place to receive their food allotments in a comfortable atmosphere.

The second announcement comes in letter form from our Board of Directors to share the news of Nick Calandra in his new role at Hearts as Founder and Executive Director, Ron Calandra, takes a leave of absence after nearly 3 decades of serving people from all walks of life and carrying the mantle of Hearts for the Homeless. As Ron has reached countless number of people in Buffalo over the years, he has shared his vision and instilled his commitment for the underprivileged in Nick to pick up his mantle and go forward. That letter of announcement from the Board is enclosed with this newsletter.

We realize that we shared two major pieces of news with you. Your continued prayers and support are needed as we walk out what God has imparted onto the team at Hearts for the Homeless.

HEARTS THRIFT SHOP CURRENT SPECIALS

Skirts, Jeans, & Regular Pants **BOGO**

House wares with pink or green tags **50% off**

Wall Decor, Vintage Housewares, &

Comforters/Blankets **50% off**

Men's Long Sleeved Shirts & Sweaters **50% off**

TALK FROM THE STREET & HEART

12/3: Served 72. **12/4:** Served 65 including 4 youth. **12/5:** Served 52 including a toddler, and everyone got 2nd helpings along with rice crispy treats; so grateful that we had all the extras on board the bus tonight that people asked for. A man kept saying, "God bless you" to us. **12/6:** Served 54; Team Leader, Rick, brought his daughter and grandkids to help serve tonight. **12/7:** Served 38. **12/10:** Served 72, including an infant and 1 toddler; 5 people prayed to receive Jesus in their hearts. **12/11:** Served 58. **12/12:** Served 82; Melissa our new volunteer was impacted by the service we do and felt sad for the people. Everyone received a new pair of socks. **12/13:** Served 47. **12/14:** Served 50, including 4 youth and a toddler. **12/17:** Served 68 including 3 toddlers; 8 people prayed for salvation. **12/18:** Served 73. **12/19:** Served 67, plus 3 youth and 2 toddlers; it was a snowy and cold evening and we served chili. Volunteer John T. brought sugar plum treats that his wife made for everyone. We made sure to invite everyone to our Christmas Eve Dinner. **12/20:** Served 49; each person in line received their own personal bag or tin of homemade Christmas Cookies. **12/21:** Served 50; asking for men's boots in large sizes. **12/24:** Served 100+ guests at the Christmas Eve Dinner and Celebration; what a wonderful time for everyone to enjoy. **12/26:** Served 60; Volunteer, John T., brought Christmas cookies that we bagged up for each person which they all loved. **12/27:** Served 75 including 5 youth. **12/28:** Served 60.



Our Thursday Night Volunteer Mobile Crew fed 72 people on the first night out for 2020 on January 2nd, including 10 youth and 2 toddlers. The bus was packed with all the right weather appropriate gear and we have you to thank for that. Thank you for all the donations of personal care bags, clothing, socks, warm winter gloves, hats, masks, sweatshirts, and snacks.

All Donations to Hearts are Tax Deductible

SCAN to DONATE



To make a secure online donation,
www.heartsforthehomeless.org/donate/

*"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."*

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*



DECEMBER 2019

Total Clients Served: **1,099**
Homeless: **451**
Male: **865**
Female: **219**
Seniors: **45**
Children: **36**
Total Volunteer Hours: **165**

Plus **100+** Guests at our Annual Christmas Eve Dinner



Our partnership with the Buffalo Dream Center to hold an Annual Christmas Eve Dinner was a hit again this year. We bused in, from 5 different locations, anyone who wanted to attend.

Thank you to everyone who baked Christmas Cookies for this event. The cookies are always a welcomed treat because it gives us the opportunity to send each guest home with a bag or two so they can remember the good time they had long after the dinner is over.

Hearts was also able to take 200 bags of your cookies to The Magdalene Project in Niagara Falls. They were handed out to the women and children that they serve through their outreach program. This was an unexpected surprise for the staff there, as well as, the families that received the cookies.

Hearts Recycle Program

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



DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN FIND A BIN AT:

- ♦ **Fast Mart 1 (Valero)** 400 Rhode Island Street, Buffalo 14213
- ♦ **Minimax Express** 319 Massachusetts, Buffalo 14213
- ♦ **Cazenovia Park Baptist Church** 520 North Legion Drive, Buffalo 14210
- ♦ **Niagara Falls Info Center** 1660 Grand Island Boulevard, Grand Island 14072

To find a bin near you, www.heartsforthehomeless.org/bin-finder/

WINTER NEEDS FOR THE HOMELESS

Brand New or Gently Used – Warm Gloves, Thermal Socks, Face Masks,
Hoodies, Fleece Jackets, Boots, Blankets, Sleeping Bags



www.heartsforthehomeless.org

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