

# 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.®



**February 2020**

## On Our Hearts

*Answering a Critical Need in Our Community*

### In January, Hearts Harvest Food Pantry Served 633 People

Households	Infants	Toddlers	Children	Adults	Seniors
263	12	38	164	370	49

It's been a month since Hearts opened our food pantry. We feel really good about meeting such a critical need in the community. With the closings of the Black Rock Riverside food pantry and Save A Lot, there aren't other options for free or low cost groceries, especially for those who have to walk. The chatter on the street and even in Hearts Thrift Shop alluded that people in the community were quite upset when the only food pantry in the Black Rock Riverside area closed down.

Many people have found their way to Hearts Harvest Food Pantry. It is open 2 days a week, Monday and Friday. Our food pantry staff has done a terrific job in getting the pantry up and running, stocking the shelves, displaying the food and making this temporary home for the food pantry feel as comfortable as possible (we are still in the renovation stage with the building that will be its permanent location). It's been a learning curve; but, with the assistance and training from the people of the FeedMore WNY food bank, we've gained the needed knowledge and feel more confident in serving our community. And, most of you know, we're no strangers to serving! We even have hot coffee, water, and other beverages set out in the waiting area to make the wait more comfortable.

The staff is also starting to get to know each person and families as they come in to shop for their groceries and find them to be friendly and very appreciative that Hearts Harvest Food Pantry opened. Just like in a grocery store, they get to pick what they want off the shelves. Each shopper has their own personal shopping cart and a shopping assistant (food pantry staff) to guide them along the way.

We also made it a point to chat with them as they waited for their turn to shop in order to find out what their food needs are. For many of them, the end of the month is a critical time as their funds run low. Some use a food pantry to supplement their monthly food budget. They told us what types of food they need most from a pantry; this will help us as we place our food orders. We currently have fresh produce and meat, and canned and dry goods (Thank you Braymiller Market and Chris Desiderio for the produce donations last month).

Hearts is so pleased for the opportunity to serve the community this way. As Enette, one of the ladies that serve in the food pantry, said, "The people are so thankful and what I like most [about serving in the food pantry] is putting smiles on their faces!"

## 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 gather and send warm clothing from Hearts Thrift Store to help earthquake victims in Puerto Rico through our staff member, Enette, whose pastor is traveling there this month. Please pray for those in Puerto Rico who were greatly affected by the earthquake.

♥ In January, we were able to help a man who had to relocate his residence. He didn't have resources to furnish his new place or even purchases supplies. We invited him to shop, at no cost. He left very happy and was able to get kitchen ware including pots, dishes and utensils, along with other household items, blankets, and sheets.

♥ A little boy who just moved to America, and didn't have much, was given clothes.

♥ Last month, we provided clothing and a warm winter coat to the agency Peaceprints of WNY who helps to transition those who are getting out of prison.

♥ 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!



### HEARTS THRIFT SHOP CURRENT SPECIALS

#### BOGO

Ladies Sweaters, Long Sleeve Shirts, Casual Pants, Jeans, Skirts & Pajamas Men's Long Sleeve Shirts

#### 50% OFF

Ladies Boots, Pictures & Wall Decor, Comforters & Blankets

# 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*

## JANUARY 2020

Total Clients Served: **1,292**  
Homeless: **531**  
Male: **1,027**  
Female: **236**  
Seniors: **65**  
Children: **29**  
Total Volunteer Hours: **174.5**



### IMMEDIATE FOOD NEEDS HOMELESS OUTREACH

**Canned Beef Stew, Chili & Chicken, Parmesan Cheese, Mayonnaise, Fold Top Sandwich Bags**

Our new Food Pantry is a perfect opportunity to help Hearts serve our community. There are a variety of tasks to be done, including being a shopping assistant. If you are interested in volunteering in our Food Pantry, please call our office at **877-3536**.

## TALK FROM THE STREET & HEART

**1/2:** Served 73, including 12 children; wow, what a crowd! The bus was loaded with lots of blankets to give out and team mate, Angela, brought gloves to hand out too. **1/3:** Served 43; we gave out 2 cases of milk as an extra beverage. **1/4:** Served 50. **1/7:** Served 64; 6 people prayed for salvation. **1/8:** Served 65; Stuart from Braymiller Market in Hamburg came out tonight to see what Hearts does and to get to know the homeless. Braymiller will be opening a grocery store downtown near the library next year. **1/9:** Served 57 on this very cold night, chili with saltine crackers is perfect for tonight's chill. Thank you to Board Member, Gerald, for driving the bus for us; we handed out men's coats, socks & gloves, thanks to all our donors. **1/10:** Served 35. **1/11:** Served 44. **1/14:** Served 61; 5 prayed for salvation. **1/15:** Served 54; the personal care kits we handed out were a huge hit. **1/16:** Served 63; cold snowy night. The bus was loaded with blankets, gloves & socks – the crowd was thankful and happy. **1/16:** Served 53 a favored comfort food – franks & beans. **1/18:** Served 40. **1/21:** Served 67. **1/22:** Served 73; big crowd. **1/23:** Served 71 including 1 child on this 40 degree evening. We are handing out socks, blankets, lotions & soaps. **1/24:** Served 69. **1/25:** Served 58. **1/28:** Served 76 and 6 prayed the prayer of salvation with Team Leader, Rob. **1/29:** Served 77 – another large & hungry crowd. **1/30:** Served 75 people in line and they were all so happy to see Isaac who comes to serve with his grandfather, John. **1/31:** Served 49.



**DON'T LET ANYONE STAY OUT IN THE COLD.  
DIAL 211 TO SEND HELP!**

### WINTER NEEDS FOR THE HOMELESS

Brand New or Gently Used –  
Warm Gloves  
Thermal Socks.

### All Donations to Hearts are Tax Deductible

SCAN to DONATE



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

### 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:

- 📍 Kenilworth Church of Christ 45 Dalton Drive, Tonawanda 14223
- 📍 Stuyvesant Plaza 238-274 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo 14222
- 📍 West Side Value Redemption 327 14th Street, Buffalo 14213
- 📍 Buffalo Printing 2630 Elmwood Avenue, Kenmore 14217

To find a bin near you, [www.heartsforthehomeless.org/bin-finder/](http://www.heartsforthehomeless.org/bin-finder/)



[www.heartsforthehomeless.org](http://www.heartsforthehomeless.org)

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