

“I am the Erie City Mission”

How the people in the community share a common bond through the Erie City Mission.

“I am the Erie City Mission”

“No home, no friends, no money. Broken. Alone in the “desert of life”. To those in our community that face these problems and more... The Erie City Mission provides the much needed unconditional love, emotional and spiritual care to lead them to newness in life.”
- John Tucker, DMD Erie City Mission board member



“I am the Erie City Mission”

“I like the fact that the Mission takes care of our local people, that’s very important to me, and I’m committed to help the mission in any way I can.”
- Sally Horner, former Board Member, longtime volunteer



“I am the Erie City Mission”

“If it wasn’t for the Mission, I would probably be on the streets doing the same thing with the same result. The Mission has helped me. The things I learn here I can take out and put into practice, including coping skills.”
- Ron C., Erie City Mission resident & client of the New Life Program



“We are the Erie City Mission”

“Brothers Maen, age 9 and Ali, age 12, come to the Mission’s Family Care Center because of the food and clothing they are able to get there. It helps their family make it from week to week.



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PRESIDENT'S

c o r n e r

“What If?”

A staff member posed a very interesting question the other day...“What if the Erie City Mission ceased to exist?” What would happen to all the people who benefit from its services? And how would our community be affected?

This question can be answered on several levels, but really comes down to why the City Mission exists and the purpose it serves.

First, let's take a look at one of the Mission's major ministries, to feed the poor and needy. In providing more than 150,000 free meals to the public on an annual basis, without the Mission, where would these men, women and children receive that life giving, life sustaining nourishment? Who would take care of all those who rely on the Mission to satisfy their hunger?

Furthermore, through our Family Care Center, in any given month, more than 2,200 men, women and children receive free and needed groceries, clothing and other household goods. That accounts for more than 26,000 individuals receiving our help annually!

Again, if the City Mission “vanished”, who would step up to the plate and fill the enormous gap... other agencies, a newly created agency, local churches, the county, the city or federal governments?

In ministering to the needs of homeless men, most of whom are suffering the effects of addictions, the Mission provides compassionate care and treatment in a safe and secure living environment to almost 500 men per year. These men have hit “rock bottom” in their lives, losing their families, their homes and their sense of self worth. Many have served prison time for crimes they committed to support their addictions. Many are on probation or parole and many are experiencing a range of mental health problems. Most of the men we serve have extremely poor work histories and have been unsuccessful in maintaining any type of gainful employment.

Without the Mission, what would happen to these men? Would they revert to the streets again, committing crimes to support their addictions? How safe would our community be if these men would be turned out to “make it” on their own? Who in our community would come forward to help them, and at what cost would it be done?

Without the City Mission's services, our community would leave its most vulnerable population; its poor and needy children and families, without any place to turn for help and support.

More of our homeless would be back on the streets again, malnourished and sickly...more crimes would occur...more individuals would be serving prison time...more people would continue to be among the ranks of the unemployed or unemployable.

Praise God that the Erie City Mission exists to serve our community's most vulnerable and most likely to be overlooked. We could not do it without your continuing and generous support. Partnering with us assures that our community will be a healthier, safer and better place to live and raise a family.

Helping others to change is our passion, seeing those changes is our reward!



Jack Kovacs – President

C L E V E R S CONTRIBUTIONS

We appreciate each and every donation and enjoy sharing with you some of the more unique letters we receive.

Dear Erie City Mission,

This is a “pay forward” gift. Someone did a special kindness for me and would not accept payment. This is my way of saying thanks to them.

Anonymous

“The Beacon” is the quarterly newsletter of the Erie City Mission.

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Locations:

Erie City Mission

1017-1023 French Street
P.O. Box 407
Erie, Pa 16512
(814) 452-4421

www.eriecitymission.org

Hours: Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Services:

Samaritan Care emergency shelter for men - up to 30 days

New Life program for men - 6 months to 2 years

Hope Center in-patient & out-patient drug, alcohol & gambling treatment

Free public lunch daily – all men, women & accompanied children welcome

Alcoholics Anonymous

Nameless Men's Group – Thursday nights 7:30

Gamblers Anonymous Meeting – Sunday nights 7:30

Family Care Center

717 French Street
Erie, Pa 16501
(814) 464-0766

Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays 9:00 – 11:30 a.m. & 1-3 p.m.

Services:

Emergency groceries, clothing & basic necessities available one visit per week

(Clients must register and meet income guidelines)

Referrals

Thrifty Shopper Stores open Monday through Saturday

914 State Street, Erie 455-3475
West Erie Plaza, Erie 464-8884
10081 Ridge Road, Girard 774-4256

Angel Bay Finer Used & Specialty Goods

843 Pittsburgh Avenue, Erie 459-0440

Donation Center

1105 West 12th Street, Erie
(814) 454-6212

Accepting donations of gently used clothing, furniture, small appliances, computers & household items

Hours: Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Call for special summer weekend hours & pick-ups

Donations and volunteers are always welcome!

Volunteers Helping Families

They arrive each Tuesday and Thursday at 717 French Street, families needing help to make it from week to week. Our Family Care Center (FCC) exists to help families under the poverty line with groceries and clothing on a weekly basis. This essential branch of the Erie City Mission is extremely blessed with its faithful volunteer team. We want to take this opportunity to highlight this dedicated group of individuals. Our Family Care Center operates on Tuesdays and Thursdays serving the public. Mondays and Wednesdays are devoted to set-up and inventory. As you can imagine, many hands are required to make this happen. But it is the heart of this special family of volunteers that is most evident.

Sean Snyder and Franklin Smith are two fine young gentlemen that enthusiastically serve alongside FCC Director June Adam and Asst. Director Gloria Ammissa. Sean says it is because of June and Gloria that he loves working at FCC so much. "They are very good people and treat us like we are a family." Franklin admits that he is a people person; he looks to make people smile in the midst of sometimes sad situations. Larry Gaines has been serving at FCC through the GECAC Senior Aid program. When he completed his tenure through that program, he wanted to stay on and continue to volunteer. Larry says it is great to be in an environment where everybody helps each other.

John Bliss, a client at FCC himself, also volunteers to give back for all that is given to him. He says the smiles and the thank yous are so rewarding. Ruth Bennett knew that she would always volunteer somewhere after she retired. She says God has blessed her throughout

her whole life and she wanted to make a difference in other people's lives and give something back through her time and abilities.

Mike and Patty Hall retired as Earth and Space Science teachers from McDowell Intermediate High School in June 2006. Not long after, they began volunteering weekly at FCC. Mike says, the experience has made them more aware of poverty in the Erie community. They have become advocates among their friends and retired peers, encouraging them to get involved as well. The team of volunteers at the



Patty Hall helps a client at the Family Care Center.

Family Care Center also include: Karen Larsen, Gladys Ferko, James Hollingsworth, Jessica Connor, Ruby Jones, Nancy Godfrey, and Jason Walker.

We want to express our sincere appreciation to this awesome group of individuals who are making a huge difference at 717 French Street. As the need to serve families continues to increase, the Family Care Center welcomes more volunteers whose heart is to serve and minister the love of Jesus. If you are interested in serving at FCC, or in any of our ministries at the Erie City Mission, please contact Volunteer Coordinator RoseMarie Lackey at 452-4421 Ext. 22.

Lifesaving Donation

You are standing in line at the checkout counter of your favorite store, and the person in front of you passes out. They're not breathing and there is no pulse. You know CPR. You send the person next to you to call 9-1-1 and you begin doing breaths and chest compressions, but there's still no response. If only there was more you could do.

If the store has an AED, an automatic external defibrillator, the shock can be just the jolt needed to bring the person's heart into a normal rhythm. AED's are easy to use. The units are light weight and about the size of a loose leaf binder. They actually talk you through the process, making it virtually fool-proof, even if you haven't had any training. Once you apply the special pads to the victim's chest, the unit evaluates the situation and tells you if a shock is actually needed. AED's are becoming more common in schools, churches and other public buildings. They are items you hope you never need. But if the need arises, having one can literally mean the difference between life and death.

With the help of the American Heart Association and Emergycare personnel, Erie City Mission staff was recently certified in first aid and CPR. That training included a demonstration of how an AED can save a life. The Erie City Mission buildings at 1017-1023 French Street hold anywhere from 130 to 400 people on any given afternoon, including those in shelter, employees, volunteers and those who come to our door for free lunch everyday. Having an AED would help the Mission to be more responsive to those we serve and those we employ.

Cintas First Aid and Safety normally sells a unit for \$1,749.75. Their price to anyone purchasing the unit for the Erie City Mission is \$1,275.91. That price includes the ReviveR AED package, a spare set of adult defibrillation pads, a set of child pads, a carrying case, prep & response kit, as well as a wall mounting bracket.



We ask that anyone interested in providing an AED unit for the City Mission, please contact us at (814) 452-4421. Thank you!

Squizly Scramble Benefits the Erie City Mission

When golfers tee up at Riverside Golf Course in Cambridge Springs on August 26th, they'll be doing more than just enjoying a fun day on the links. They will be remembering a life lost too soon, and helping to raise much needed funds for the Erie City Mission. Jayson Adam Vogt was 27 years old when he was killed in a one vehicle crash on Memorial Day weekend, 2006. The accident happened on a sharp curve on West Lake Road. Jayson's family and friends held a golf tournament last year in his memory. The second annual Squizly Scramble will benefit the Erie City Mission's programs to house the homeless, feed the hungry and rescue the lost. Why "Squizly Scramble"? The nickname "Squizly" is a play on Jayson's nickname "Squirrel", and he was often referred to as Squizly by his friends.

Why the Erie City Mission? Deborah Vogt, Jayson's mother, says her son spent years battling drug and alcohol problems. Although being under the influence played a part in the accident, Deborah says Jayson had been making great strides in his recovery.

When it came time to decide on a charity to benefit from the tournament, Deborah says she thought of the Mission first. As a long time donor, Deborah believes in the emphasis the Erie City Mission places on recovery. Men who aren't fortunate enough to have the family support that Jayson had are able to come to the Mission and commit to changing their way of thinking, and changing harmful behaviors. The Mission offers that help in a safe, nurturing and Christian environment. Deborah says Jayson had accepted the Lord as a teenager and had just recommitted his life to the Lord just weeks before the accident.

The Squizly Scramble tees off at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 26th. A few openings remain for foursomes, and hole sponsors are still needed. The \$90 fee includes a bag lunch and refreshments on the course, as well as a chicken and ribs barbeque to follow. For more information, please call Jayme Young, 459-4691. We'll see you on the course!

1:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 26th

\$90 player fee includes a bagged lunch and refreshments on the course, as well as a chicken and ribs barbeque.

Please call Jayme Young 459-4691 for more information.

YOUTH GROUP CHALLENGE '07

Summer is not the typical time to think of food drives. But the need is certainly great. This year, the Erie City Mission is enlisting the help of area church youth groups through a challenge: "Youth Group Commission '07".

Youth groups are commissioned to hold a food and clothing drive through their churches, being as creatively inspired as possible. One of our many sponsors for this event, Dick's Sporting Goods offered their store front for the four Saturdays in July to help Youth Groups reach the public in their endeavors. Howard Lincoln from Lincoln Metal Processing, Inc., will graciously allow us to use the truck scale to weigh each group's collection. The heaviest collection will win the challenge!

To celebrate, we will hold a picnic fest at the Erie Seawolves game on Thursday, August 9. Mrs. Cheryl Vicary has sponsored the winning youth group with free passes to the picnic and game. The Erie Seawolves will award each member with an awesome prize pack.

Life 106.3 WCTL will be on hand broadcasting live from the game, while we give away lots of prizes throughout the night.

We are most grateful to all our other sponsors:

Holland Dairy Queen-Ice Cream Cakes for a year

Best Buy-MP3 Player

Dick's Sporting Goods-4-\$25.00 Gift Certificates

Max & Erma's-Gift Card

Outback Steakhouse-Gift Card

Longhorn Steakhouse-Gift Card

Tinseltown-Movie Passes

Family First Sports Park-Fun Park Gift Card

Life 106.3 WCTL-Prize Packs

WICU-TV CHANNEL 12-Gift Certificates

Brusters-Gift Card

“I am the Erie City Mission”

The faces on the cover of your newsletter all have at least one thing in common; they all depict the Erie City Mission. From the man who finds shelter here, to the prominent dentist who sits on the Mission’s board of directors, to the longtime volunteer, to the children whose parents come once a week to the Family Care center for needed groceries, clothing and other basic necessities. Every one of us in this community has a stake in its health and safety. Imagine what we can accomplish to that end if we all work together. That is what the Erie City Mission is trying very hard to get across to all of its neighbors, including businesses, schools, and churches.

We need each one of you to be a part of the Erie City Mission that works to keep your community healthier and safer every day of the year.

Mission staff has been working hard over the past months to help our neighbors understand what you mean to the Mission, and what the Mission means to the community. Your generosity makes it possible for up to 82 men a night to find shelter in a safe, nurturing, sober, Christian environment. Something you may not realize is that the shelter beds are often filled to capacity in the summer, even more so than on the coldest winter nights.

Some of those men are with us for a short time, finding emergency shelter here for up to 30 nights. Others, who find they have nowhere left to go, make a commitment to their recovery and join the New Life Program. Imagine that, an opportunity for a “new life”! It is a chance like no other. Through addiction recovery, Bible study, vocational training and classes of all kinds, the men are able to change their way of thinking, away from negative perceptions of life and themselves. Like Paul, who you will read about later on these pages. Despite a brutal upbringing, he now has hope for his future as a productive member of society, and as a father.



Thank you CMI-EPTI, LLC in Knowledge Park. Employees and CEO Tony Hawranko presented a check for \$2,240 to City Mission President Jack Kovacs. Half the money was raised by employees with a “jeans day”, the other half was matched by the company.



Erie City Mission employee and former client John Macadlo prepares to throw out the first pitch May 30th at the Erie Seawolves “Church Night”. Prepping him is Seawolves Assistant GM Rob Magee.

Each night, these men are here with us, living healthy lives of recovery, instead of fending for themselves out on the streets. As you can imagine, the streets can sometimes mean having to commit crimes to feed yourself, or your addictions. A former Erie Police Chief once figured out that the City Mission at the corner of 11th & French Streets saves the Erie Police Department the need for as many as 8 additional police officers.

Your generosity means that hundreds of hungry men, women and children know they can find a free nutritious lunch each day right here at the Mission. **Because you care, no one needs to even go hungry.** Because of your caring, more than 2,200 people a month get the help they need at the City Mission’s Family Care Center at 717 French Street. That’s where families living below the poverty level can come once per week for critically needed groceries, clothing and other basic necessities.



Villa Maria elementary school students collect more than 1,000 books in a recent book drive for the children who come to the Erie City Mission Family Care Center.

When you donate your gently used clothing, furniture, electronic items and computers, you make it possible for the 3 Thrifty Shopper stores, and Angel Bay Finer Used & Specialty Goods store to generate much needed revenue to support the City Mission’s programs. That means that more of each donated dollar goes directly to housing the homeless and feeding the hungry.

Just think of all the people’s lives you touch each day. GOD BLESS YOU for being able to say that you too, are the Erie City Mission!

On Your Mark, Get Set, Shop!!!

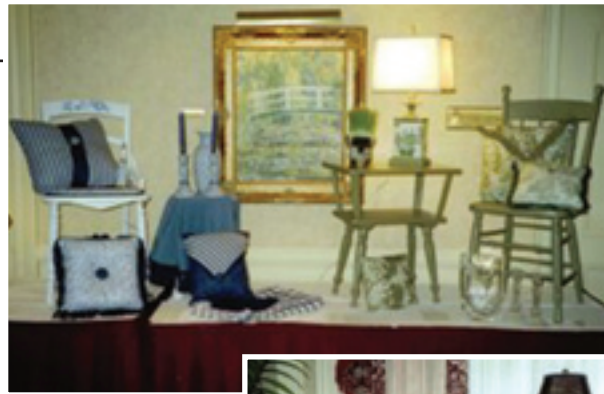
It gets bigger and better each year! Mark your calendars for October 4th. That's the date of the Erie City Mission Annual Banquet and Silent Auction.

The Ambassador Conference Center will once again be transformed into a marketplace like no other. Dedicated volunteers have been working all year to create one of a kind packages to be awarded to the highest bidder. These packages include beautifully unique furnishings, decorative touches, holiday decorations and sports packages too. Look for 100 opportunities to take home a treasure. That includes the chance to win beautiful jewelry and even a money tree!

The banquet is a way for the Erie City Mission to meet with our long time supporters, meet new friends and let everyone know what we have planned for the future. It's also a chance for us to say thank you to those who have gone out of their way to keep the Mission in their hearts.

Last year's banquet was a beautiful evening that raised more than \$10,000 for Erie City Mission programs to house the homeless, feed the hungry and rescue the lost. We are hoping that the addition of a corporate sponsor will help us double that amount.

Look for more information on the banquet and how you can get in on the fun by logging onto our website, www.eriecitymission.org. Or call Sue McChesney at (814) 452-4421.



Where Your Money Goes...

The Erie City Mission is grateful for every penny of support from community members who realize that it's up to all of us to help those less capable of helping themselves. Here is a brief overview of where the Erie City Mission's money comes from, and how it is spent. Each day, we work harder, through our Thrifty Shopper and Angel Bay stores, and other social enterprises, to become self sufficient. Our goal is that one day, each and every penny donated will go directly to housing the homeless and feeding the hungry.

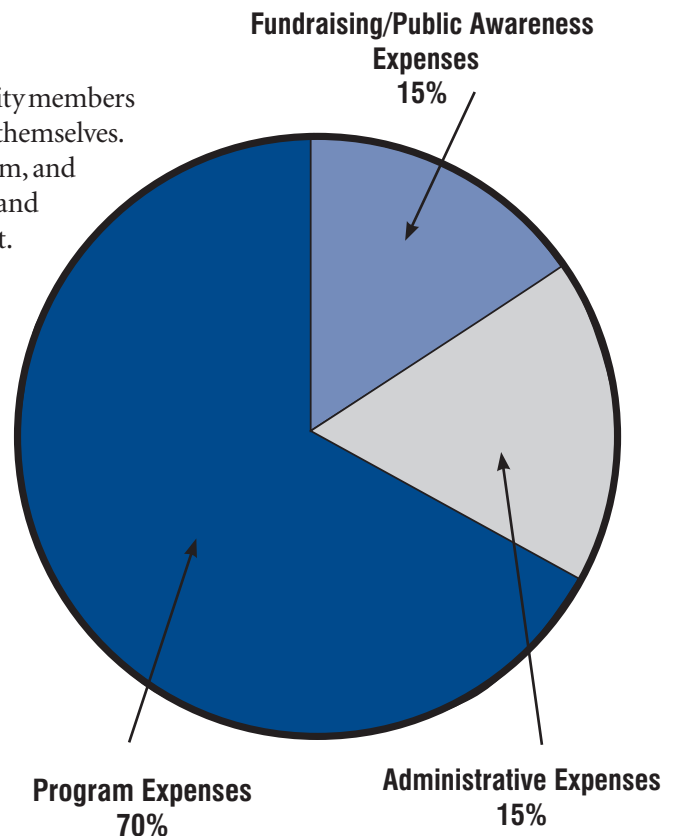
2005/2006 Fiscal Year Sources & Uses of Funds

Sources of Funds

Contributions	\$ 1,431,276	52%
Memorials & Bequests	\$ 112,318	4%
Grants, Found. & Endow.	\$ 438,522	16%
Store Sales	\$ 682,257	25%
Other	\$ 92,180	3%
	\$ 2,756,553	100%

Uses of Funds

Ministries & Programs	\$ 1,902,086	69%
Administrative	\$ 419,635	15%
Fundraising/Public Awareness	\$ 411,566	15%
Year-End Balance	\$ 23,266	1%
	\$ 2,756,553	100%



Finding

Stepping out of your “comfort zone” can be difficult. Just ask 40 year old Erie City Mission client and intern Paul Bratt. He’ll be the first to tell you that he lacks the compassion he needs to be social and comfortably relate to others. A look into Paul’s childhood could tell you why.



a “NEW LIFE”

Originally from the Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania area, Paul says he was passed around from relative to relative as a baby, eventually living with his mother and step-father. His step-father beat him and his mother did nothing to stop it. Paul says that by the time he was 7 or 8, he had built a shelter in the woods near his home, a shelter he often lived in with his dog, for days at a time. He would literally live off the land, going to school when he was hungry enough, because he knew he could find food there. He says no one really looked for him.

At that young age, he started hanging out with biker groups and older relatives who smoked marijuana. He got a reputation

“The internship program ... affords them the chance to give back and be of service to the Mission, as well as the community at large.”

in school as a “bad apple”, a reputation enforced by bruises most likely seen by others as the result of fighting. Apparently, no one suspected the domestic violence in his home. At age 14, Paul did stand up to his step-father, physically challenging the man. After that, Paul was not allowed back in the house. Paul’s mother and step-father are both deceased. We can’t get their side of the story. The side we do have shows a man shaped by a view of life that knew only cruelty.

Fast forward to 2007. Paul Bratt is living at the Erie City Mission and has risen to the level of intern. According to Program director Darrell Smith, that is a coveted position. “The internship program offers supervisory and leadership opportunities for our men who have demonstrated an exceptional level of dedication to the New Life Program and to changing their lives. It affords them the chance to give back and be of service to the Mission, as well as the community at large”, Smith says.

Paul Bratt admits a problem with marijuana, stemming from his early days. He says he is not an alcoholic, although ironically, it was alcohol that ushered him into his first brush

with the law. He says he got drunk and broke into a neighbor’s house. That landed him in prison for 5 years. At that time, Bratt says he had a decent relationship with his two children, a daughter now 16 and a son 13. Working two full time jobs wasn’t enough to pay child support and all the rest of his bills. He got pulled over for letting the paperwork go on his van, and ended up back in jail for 5 months.

That’s when he began walking the road that led to the Erie City Mission’s door. Paul has been at the Mission since May, 2006. He is part of the “New Life Program” that offers homeless men a place to live and a chance to change their lives.

It is a 6 month to two year program. Paul spends a lot of time working on his recovery. He believes the 12-step program and group sessions are key to changing his way of thinking. This change is important to Paul, since he believes his only view of normal life was skewed.

Smith says changing the men’s thinking is one of the biggest challenges. “The disease of addiction has also been characterized as diseased thinking and because the person has been operating from this warped perspective for so long, the challenge is to retrain his thinking process.”

Like most of the Erie City Mission New Life program clients, Paul Bratt is taking his recovery and his life...one day at a time. Interns work an average of 25 hours a week for the Mission.

“The disease of addiction has also been characterized as diseased thinking and because the person has been operating from this warped perspective for so long, the challenge is to retrain his thinking process.”

Paul’s first job was in the City Mission’s donation center warehouse. He liked it there, but when given the opportunity to step out of his comfort zone, and take a job that would force him into social interactions with others, he took it.

Now Paul works at the men’s desk, helping interview new arrivals, and helping others in the program on a day to day

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Extend your Summer to Benefit the Homeless and Hungry




Splash Lagoon is a big hit with kids of all ages. Here's your chance to enjoy one of the area's premier destinations and help your neighbors in need.

September 30th is Erie City Mission Day at the indoor water park. Simply clip out the flyer on this page and bring it with you to Splash Lagoon on September 30th. You can spend a full day enjoying over an acre of indoor water fun in a Polynesian setting for only \$15.95, instead of the regular rate of \$26.95. Or, enjoy Splash Lagoon after 4 PM for only \$12.95.

Please note that 20% of each admission sale will be donated to the Erie City Mission. Call the Mission at 452-4421 ext. #34 for more information.

SPLASH FOR CASH!

ALOHA!
Bring this coupon and admission to Splash Lagoon is \$15⁹⁵ Full day & \$12⁹⁵ After 4^{PM}
20% of your admission price goes to the


ERIE CITY MISSION

SEPTEMBER 30, 2007

Splash LAGOON

(814) 217-1111 splashlagoon.com

Present this coupon at Splash Lagoon at time of purchase on 9/30/07 to receive discount and make donation. Not Valid with other offers.

WHY YOU ARE SO IMPORTANT TO US

The Erie City Mission simply could not house the homeless, feed the hungry and rescue the lost without you. Whether you have written a check, dropped off your gently used clothing and furniture to the Donation Center, or volunteered to serve lunch or help us at the Family Care Center...we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

The need for the Mission's services is constantly growing. The summer months are seeing an often filled to capacity shelter and greater demand to help families by providing food and clothing. We are serving just over 50% more people at our daily free lunches now, as compared to this time last year. Our Family Care Center serves more than double the amount of families we served a year ago. More than double!

The last few months have been difficult but rewarding. Private donations are at their lowest this time of year. But even with that, and a cut in HUD funding, we have not dropped any services. On the contrary, we are expanding to include more programs for our residents and increased Hope Center Addiction Treatment programs; in-patient care for men and outpatient care for both men and women. We have faith that God, and our community will provide.

It is a daunting task to raise enough money to keep the Mission moving forward

to help our own area's poor and needy people. One way we are helping to accomplish that is to look for partners from the business community.

We are so grateful to Hamot Medical Center and its President & CEO, John Malone. They are stepping up to the plate by sponsoring the Erie City Mission in a very significant way. The hospital has hired Strategy Solutions Inc. to work with the Mission on strategic planning. This planning process should help insure that the Mission is run in the most efficient way, making the best use of each donor dollar.

Over the next couple of months, the Erie City Mission will be asking other local business leaders to visit the Mission, urging them to get involved as well. We all have a stake in this community's health and safety. The fact is, the Erie City Mission helps to keep this community healthier and safer. We truly need to work together to make this continue. We need our private donors to continue partnering with us as well. We ask you to please look into your heart and consider making a donation today to help us in these very busy and tight financial times.

God bless you for your generosity in the past, present and future.

The Semi-Annual Weekend Spa Event To Benefit the Erie City Mission

\$35 per person

Friday, September 7 &
Saturday, September 8
Hosted at the Homewood Suites by Hilton

Sessions include:
Professional Skin Analysis with Skincare Recommendations, Paraffin Wax Dips, Chair Massage

Tickets are available at all Thrifty Shopper locations or by calling (814) 392-3917

“Enjoyed greatly and would bring friends (next time)!”
– Heather S.

Finding a “New Life”

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basis. His job duties are to work in the office, interview new arrivals, and lead by example. Each day he tries to gain that compassion needed to hear the men's stories and help. He says it is getting easier with time.

Paul's internship ends in 2008. He recognizes that he has the characteristics of an addict, and worries about falling back into old habits when he leaves the Mission. For now, he is practicing what most people in recovery believe, that you have to take things one day at a time. He continues to gain the experience he needs to grow and deal with life on life's terms.

Even though Paul had been in Erie for 20 years, like many of the rest of us, he said he never really knew all that the City Mission had to offer. Having never truly been homeless himself, he assumed that the Mission was there for “bums in trench coats”.

Paul now knows that the Mission is like no other place, offering a safe, nurturing environment, even to those who may have never really been nurtured before. He is grateful for the shelter and food, but even more so for the unique programs that allow a man who has burned all his bridges, to find a bridge back to society, to the workforce, to his family, and to the knowledge that all people aren't mean and selfish, as he was brought up to believe.

What does he look forward to? Paul says he's anxious to rebuild his relationship with his children, and anxious to get out into the working world, after honoring his commitments at the Mission. Paul Bratt is learning to see the world and himself in a different light. **The City Mission, he says, has saved his life.**

Help for Fire Victims

It was a tough month of May for firefighters and fire victims in the Erie area. Four blazes within just a few days sent 32 people away from their homes, including 17 children. The Erie City Mission is in the business of recycling. Gently used goods that come into our Donation Center at 12th & Raspberry in Erie are either given away at our Family Care Center or sold in our 4 thrift stores. We knew we were in a unique position to help these families.

The Mission contacted the Red Cross, offering the Donation Center as a collection point for items to help the fire victims get back on their feet. The call went out through the Erie television stations, and by that same afternoon, the donations came pouring in.

Thanks to Birkmire Trucking Company for donating the use of a 40-foot storage trailer, which was set up in the Donation Center's front parking lot for more than a month. Collected furniture, clothing and household items earmarked for the fire victims were distributed to those identified by the Red Cross. Remaining items were made available to others in need through the Mission's Family Care Center and other area social service agencies.

Thank you to everyone who responded with donations. You have once again proven that the Erie Community is second to none when it comes to taking care of its neighbors in need.



Eastminster Presbyterian Church Youth Summer Camp collected coins totaling \$1,150 for the Erie City Mission!



Scott Enterprise employees raise 500 to help the Erie City Mission out of a summer slump, the company matches for a total of \$1,000 to help feed the hungry and house the homeless L-R Jack Kovacs-ECM, JoAnn Barnes- Scott Enterprises HR Director, Nick Scott, Jr., Chris Scott, Lisa Nietupski-ECM.

NEWS & NOTES



LECOM osteopathic medical students present the City Mission with the proceeds of a recent fundraiser. Left to right: LECOM students Joseph Zachariah, Lindsay Stephens, Margaret Hallahan, Lisa Nietupski – Erie City Mission, and Allison Long (LECOM student).



Michael Miller of Antiques by Walker House evaluates a customer's "treasure" during the Angel Bay grand opening. It was our own mini "Antiques Roadshow".



What a great idea for a fundraiser! Lord Corporation managers served lunch to employees, with all tips donated to the Erie City Mission. \$1,025 was raised to help house the homeless, feed the hungry and rescue the lost right here at home. Fundraiser Committee Members from left to right - Cathe Hedderick, Jim Willett, Sharon Sabella, Caroline Foulk, and Yvonne Pollock. Missing from photo: Steve Forgenie, Lisa Manendo, Greg Turos.



GE volunteers help sort clothing and other items in the Donation Center at 12th & Raspberry.



ECM President Jack Kovacs thanks Lake Erie Classics President Cos Helsel for the group's latest donation in what has been a wonderful relationship of long-time support.



In Memoriam Franklin William "Bill" Hirt October 8, 1925-July 13, 2007

The Erie City Mission remembers Bill Hirt as a humble humanitarian, always giving and never accepting any public praise.

Countless numbers of homeless people have found shelter, countless hungry people have been fed, and countless lost souls have been rescued, thanks in large part to Mr. Hirt's generous nature and heart for helping the Erie City Mission.

Mr. Bill Hirt died July 13, 2007 at the age of 81. His life will always be honored at the Erie City Mission.

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“The Beacon” is the quarterly newsletter of the Erie City Mission.

A Legacy of Caring...

The Erie City Mission will forever be grateful to the following people and their families, for the bequests, trusts and life insurance policies recently donated to the Mission. Thank you so much for helping the homeless, hungry and lost.

Estate of Donna Pancerev
Estate of Isabel Sourwine
Estate of Betti Jane Pennock
Estate of Bertille R. Detzel
Esther Patton Trust
Estate of Martha B. Carter

Estate of James K. Brydon
Estate of Mildred Bowers
Estate of Elizabeth J. Clemens
Virginia D. Ragen
Estate of Virtue E. Robinson
Estate of Agnes Bauer

Detzel Irrevocable Trust
Estate of Patricia M. Bast
Estate of Francis D. Garrison
Estate of Mabel Crum
Estate of Joseph M. Allen

For more information on how to leave a legacy of caring and love for those less fortunate, please call the Erie City Mission at (814) 452-4421 or e-mail lisa.nietupski@eriecymission.org



Jack Kovacs talks with the media covering the grand opening of the newest Thrifty Shopper store, located in the West Erie Plaza.



Shoppers rush to get the bargains at the new West Erie Thrifty Shopper store.



Cutting the ribbon on “Angel Bay Finer Used & Specialty Goods”, another successful Erie City Mission social enterprise! L to R: Ron Ferringer-Thrifty Shopper stores GM, Jack Kovacs-Mission President & CEO, Maria Polanski-Angel Bay Manager, Dale McBrier-McBrier Properties, David Sawtelle-Director of Hope Enterprises.

Erie City Mission Upcoming Events

- Aug. 11 Erie Federal Credit Union Member Day
11 AM- 2 PM
5500 Zuck Road collecting money and non-perishable food
- Aug. 21 “At Your Service” WJET 1400 radio show
10:30-11:00 a.m.
- Aug. 26 Squizly Scramble Golf tournament- Riverside
- Sept. 7 & 8 Spa Day
- Sept. 18 “At Your Service” WJET 1400 radio show, 10:30-11:00 a.m.
- Sept. 30 Splash for Cash – Splash Lagoon
- Oct. 4 Annual Banquet-Ambassador Hotel & Conference Center
- Oct. 16 “At Your Service” WJET 1400 radio show, 10:30-11:00 a.m.