

Going Upscale in Resale

Unique Items Grace Shelves At Angel Bay

Stylish blouses and matching pants hang side by side on sections of white lattice.

Crystal-clear glassware sits among other collectibles, sparkling in the afternoon sunshine that streams through the display windows at Angel Bay.

It could be another merchandiser on upper Peach Street, but it's actually the Erie City Mission's new upscale store.

Located in the former Thrifty Shopper on Pittsburgh Avenue, near West 8th, Angel Bay carries gently used merchandise that's a cut above what's found on shelves of the Mission's Thrifty Shoppers, along with brand-new items.

“These are one-of-a-kind items.”

bargains like everyone else, explained David Sawtelle, director of the Mission's Hope Enterprises ministry.

“We try to put in top-of-the line merchandise -- bedding, clothing, purses and furniture,” said store manager Maria Polanski. Clothing racks feature Talbots, Liz Claiborne, Ralph Lauren, Eddie Bauer and other noted brands.

“And we try to display it in a nice way,” she added.

That's probably the most apparent differences between this store and the more utilitarian Thrifty Shoppers. Simply admiring these attractive displays, and the creativity that went into them, is a bonus to the Angel



Store manager Maria Polanski checks stock in the women's clothing department at the Erie City Mission's Angel Bay shop.



You never know what gems you will find at Angel Bay.

Bay shopping experience.

Polanski said book, linen and shoe inventories were scaled back to make room for the new merchandise.

One of the marketing categories that Angel Bay is poised to satisfy is collectibles. Gold-plated India tea sets may be hard to find, but Angel Bay had one in stock in March, though it's probably gone by now.

“These are one- or two-of-a-kind items. They're very unique,” Sawtelle said.

And like the merchandise itself, prices are extremely attractive. Shoppers will also be enticed with new marketing

ideas.

Serving on the store staff with Polanski are Jean Fries, assistant manger, along with two part-time cashiers. The cast of talented volunteers includes Sally Horner, Jackie McMichael, Roberta Maher and Abby Thompson.

Though there's a different atmosphere in this store, Angel Bay shares a common purpose with the Thrifty Shopper stores: to generate needed revenue for the Erie City Mission. Proceeds from all Angel Bay sales go directly to support the Mission.

The Mission has a three-year goal to raise enough money through its stores to cover their operating costs, which it's already doing, in addition to all administrative expenses at the Mission.

That would enable the Mission to allocate all general donations received throughout the year -- from individuals, businesses and organizations -- into rehabilitation programs that serve their clients.

It's a worthy goal, indeed, one that can be realized with community support.



ERIE CITY MISSION

A Beacon of Hope
Since 1911

The Beacon

1017-1023 French Street • Erie, PA 16501 • www.eriecitymission.org



Erie Remembers The Homeless

Signs that the greater Erie community was engaged in the Erie City Mission's "Help The Homeless Week" in February were everywhere. Nick Evangeliste, a member of Phi Kappa Psi fraternity at Edinboro University, and fellow fraternity brothers lived in a cardboard box outside of the old Boston Store building in downtown Erie to raise awareness of homelessness issues and donations. A sculpture commemorating the homeless and their plight was placed in the lobby at Erie City Hall. Elementary students collected personal care items for clients at the Mission. (See pages 4 and 5 for an article and more photos of "Help The Homeless Week" activities.)

Location:
843 Pittsburgh Ave.

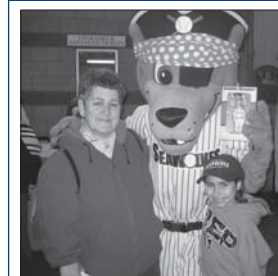
Store Hours:
Monday-Friday
10 - 5:30 p.m.
Saturday
10 - 5 p.m.

Telephone:
459-0440



Daughter Honors Father's Early Support For The Erie City Mission

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SeaWolves' Ticket Sales Deliver Springtime Donations, Cash, Food to the Mission

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Mission Gears Up For New Addiction

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Preparing for the Future

Since the beginning of January, the Executive Leadership Team has been meeting to plan and prepare for the future of the Mission. As an outgrowth of this process, we already know that instead of completing extensive and very costly renovations, we will need to demolish the main facility at 1023 French St. and build a new multi-purpose facility. In addition, because of the extremely poor condition of the Cornerstone facility at 209 E. 9th St., it too, will need to be demolished for a new facility to be constructed on the existing site. What all this means for the Mission, is that we will be embarking upon a major capital campaign in the very near future.

These are truly very exciting times, especially as we see God's plans for a bigger and better Mission, where we can serve and minister to many more individuals in our community who are poor, needy, hungry and homeless. Because most of these individuals feel a real sense of hopelessness, they need to know that God loves them and cares about them. In fact, in 3 John 2, the Holy Spirit is speaking through John:

"Beloved, I wish above all things that you prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers."

And, it is our responsibility to witness to these hurting individuals, and help bring them into a personal relationship with Jesus, so that they can begin to prosper in all aspects of their lives, and receive all the good things that God has for them.

As we continue to "gear up" for our capital building projects, I would ask all of you to keep the Mission in your daily prayers. Believe with us for God's best to be upon the Mission, that the proposed new facilities will be a blessing to the many new individuals and families that the Lord will be bringing to us, and that He, above all, will be glorified by our expanding ministries to those in need of His goodness, grace, and mercy.

To His Glory,
Jack Kovacs, President



Jack Kovacs
President



'The Beacon'

The quarterly newsletter of the Erie City Mission

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Erie Gains Another Thrifty Shopper

Steady flows of donated items into the Erie City Mission have spurred the opening of another Thrifty Shopper.

Ron Ferringer, general manager of the Mission's retail group, has great expectations for the new West Erie Plaza store.

For starters, it's more than twice the size of Girard and downtown Erie Thrifty Shoppers, boasting more than 11,000 square feet of space.

Expect bigger displays and new merchandise lines, such as exercise equipment. You'll also find the same great selection of clothing as the existing Thrifty Shopper locations.

The addition of the new store will help the Erie City Mission toward its goal of funding its administrative and other overhead expenses. That means more of each donated dollar goes directly

to housing the homeless and feeding the hungry.

Terri Clemick brings over 30 years of retail experience to the store as general manager. Her team includes an assistant manager, full-time cashier and two part-time staffers. But volunteers are needed.

"This will be the store that has it all - size, location, plenty of free parking and an experienced staff." *It's going to be a winner.*

This will be the store that has it all - size, location, plenty of free parking and an experienced staff.

It's going to be a winner.

-Ron Ferringer, general manager

said. "It's going to be a winner."

Down the road, Ferringer envisions opening up to two more Thrifty Shoppers as the Mission seeks to serve more areas of the city and county and generate new revenue.

"We feel the Donation Center has enough space to house enough inventory to supply at least six stores, so we're looking (to open a store) on the east side next, and maybe south in the county."

Outpatient Care Begins

Doors opened March 5 for clients in the Erie City Mission's new outpatient drug and alcohol treatment program.

"It will be a steady buildup of clients," reported clinic director Susan Williams. Depending on their needs, many of the men in the Mission's residential treatment program will be transferred to intensive outpatient care after completing that phase of their recovery.

Referrals for new patients from outside of the Mission will follow, she added. And unlike the male-only residential program, the outpatient treatment center will also enroll women.

A license from the Pennsylvania Department of Health for the new program was issued to the Mission in January. Staffed by a counselor and intake coordinator, the program can accommodate up to 35 clients.

"We're looking forward to providing more continuity of care for the clients we serve," Williams explained.

Arloween Todd Lauds Father's Embrace Of The Mission

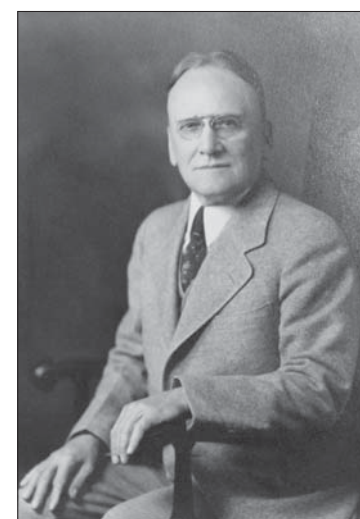
He was known as "The Major." She called him ... father. John Zurn was one of the Erie City Mission's earliest and staunchest supporters.

At 101 years old, a vibrant and reflective Arloween Zurn Todd remembers a very generous man who devoted his life to family, building his businesses, and the Erie City Mission.

To quote a 1933 article in the Erie Dispatch-Herald, "Shoulder to shoulder behind every constructive activity of Erie City Mission, are many of this city's hard-headed, but humane and Christian business and industrial leaders, who give freely of their time and financial support to the Mission, year in and year out.

"Among these men are D.N. McBrier and John Zurn, who are ardent and constant supporters of the Mission's great work of human salvage and rehabilitation."

By the time the article went to print, Zurn and McBrier both had served as Mission officers or directors for a decade.



John Zurn

In her stylish apartment, Mrs. Todd talks about how giving to the needy is something that her father instilled in his children at a very early age.

She continues her generosity today, keeping the Erie City Mission in her heart. Mrs. Todd says John Zurn liked supporting the Mission because it mixed religion with helping the needy. She says she believes her father would be happy to see the Mission going strong all these years later. "I'm sure he's thinking about it where he is," says Mrs. Todd.

Arloween, or "Ahmie" as she is known by those closest to her, grew up in a very tight knit family, the only girl with two

brothers. She describes her father as quiet, and her mother, Clara Ackerman, as full of life, a lovely lady with a lot of spirit.

She recalls the family going on a lot of day trips together, no doubt in their first car, a 1910 Overland that the family bought



Arloween Todd reflects upon her father and the importance the Erie City Mission held in his life, a priority that he passed along to his children.

used.

"Ahmie" taught kindergarten at Washington Elementary School, where she had attended school before graduating from Academy High School in 1923, and Oberlin College in 1926.

Her only child is Charles Brock, son of husband Ralph Brock who died at the age of 53. She had previously been married to Carl Knobloch, and had gone on to marry Charles Todd.

When it comes to philanthropy, Arloween says, "It comes from the home, it's bred into you." Her father always gave to the church, the Erie City Mission and other social agencies as long as she could remember.

Mrs. Todd says she believes younger folks need to take more responsibility to give to social enterprises.

Arloween "Ahmie" Zurn Todd will celebrate her 102nd birthday on July 17. Happy Birthday, Mrs. Todd, and thank you for keeping your family's spirit alive for the Erie City Mission.

Jug Of Pennies Really Does Add Up At The Mission

We often get letters from Erie City Mission supporters with suggestions on ways to raise money. We thought we'd share this very interesting letter from a donor who chooses to remain anonymous.

A few years ago, I was heading toward my car after getting out of work when I saw two teenage girls throwing a few pennies down and making some scathing remarks about them being 'worthless.'

Well, I was raised on the adage "a penny saved is a penny earned," so I (of course!) went over and scooped them up. I totally disagreed with the young girls and decided to prove it.

I had an old, empty gallon jug at home and that became the recipient of "those worthless pennies." I must admit, it took me several years to fill the jug up -- pennies only, mind you -- but a few weeks ago I was able to haul the jug to a credit union and let their machine do the hard part.

So, here is the fruit of my little experiment.

The old adage still holds true: "A penny saved IS a penny earned."

*Sincerely,
The Penny Saver*

Thank you "Penny Saver" for the donation and inspiration!

Wanted: Donations For Our Silent Auction

It's time to watch for items in your home, garage or attic that could be part of our very popular auction held at the Annual Banquet on October 4, 2007.

Contact **Sue McChesney, 452-4421**, to pitch in and make this event another success.

All Proceeds Benefit The Erie City Mission.

Gambling: New Addiction In Town

City Mission Raises Community Awareness of Gambling Facts & Fiction, Expands Treatment Services

The arrival of Presque Isle Downs & Casino brought hundreds of new jobs, a new tourist attraction and a new form of entertainment. It also brought a new threat of addiction.

The Erie City Mission has been proactive in instituting a gambling addiction program as part of Hope Center addiction treatment services. Mission drug and alcohol counselor Bruce Smith has become state certified to treat

gambling addiction problems as well. New counselors will be added as need demands.

The Erie City Mission put itself on the front lines of gambling addiction by hosting a town hall meeting, "When Gambling Comes to Your Town -- Separating Fact from Fiction."

The meeting, held several weeks prior to the casino opening, explored the pros and cons of gambling.

A crowd of people filled Erie City Council chambers to hear from a panel that included representatives of law enforcement, economic development and gambling addiction treatment.

The Erie City Mission offers outpatient treatment for males and females over the age of 18 suffering from gambling addiction.

Please call 452-4421 for more information.

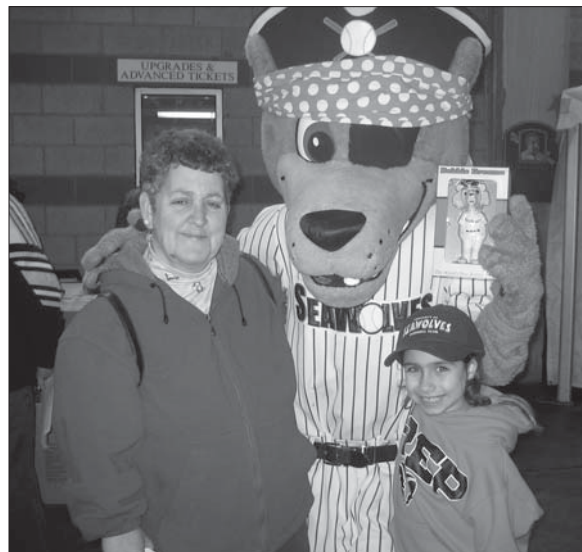
The following is reprinted with permission of Gamblers Anonymous:

Gamblers Anonymous offers the following questions to anyone who may have a gambling problem. These questions are provided to help the individual decide if he or she is a compulsive gambler and wants to stop gambling.

Twenty Questions

1. Did you ever lose time from work or school due to gambling?
2. Has gambling ever made your home life unhappy?
3. Did gambling affect your reputation?
4. Have you ever felt remorse after gambling?
5. Did you ever gamble to get money with which to pay debts or otherwise solve financial difficulties?
6. Did gambling cause a decrease in your ambition or efficiency?
7. After losing did you feel you must return as soon as possible and win back your losses?
8. After a win did you have a strong urge to return and win more?
9. Did you often gamble until your last dollar was gone?
10. Did you ever borrow to finance your gambling?
11. Have you ever sold anything to finance gambling?
12. Were you reluctant to use "gambling money" for normal expenditures?
13. Did gambling make you careless of the welfare of yourself or your family?
14. Did you ever gamble longer than you had planned?
15. Have you ever gambled to escape worry or trouble?
16. Have you ever committed, or considered committing, an illegal act to finance gambling?
17. Did gambling cause you to have difficulty in sleeping?
18. Do arguments, disappointments or frustrations create within you an urge to gamble?
19. Did you ever have an urge to celebrate any good fortune by a few hours of gambling?
20. Have you ever considered self destruction or suicide as a result of your gambling?

Most compulsive gamblers will answer yes to at least seven of these questions.



SeaWolf and his bobblehead meet fans at opening day of ticket sales which greatly benefitted the Erie City Mission.

SeaWolves, Fans Take Mighty Swing To Benefit City Mission, Needy Families

The Erie SeaWolves celebrated the opening day of 2007 ticket sales by helping the Erie City Mission raise much needed cash and food.

March 10th was a chilly, rain-soaked day, but that didn't keep anxious fans away. Hungry for spring and the sights and sounds of baseball at Jerry Uht Park, they came with boxes of cereal in hand to feed the hungry. And they came ready to become "City Mission Sluggers."

Baseball fans exchanged boxes of cereal for free home-opener tickets. That meant cereal for the tables of 150 needy families that week.

The SeaWolves also generously offered a one-day special City Mission Slugger package that included four club seats, four SeaWolves t-shirts and four SeaWolves hats -- a \$168 value -- for a \$40 donation to the City Mission.

That \$40 buys lunch for 13 people or provides a Family Care Center visit for groceries, clothing and other basic necessities for three families.

In all, \$1,735 was raised to help the City Mission house the homeless and feed the hungry.

Baseball fans gave enough cereal to feed 150 families for a full week.

Spring Cleaning Sweep

Our Donation Center Welcomes Those Unwanted Clothes



Erie City Mission employee Judy Smith begins to sort through a large pile of donated clothing.

If spring cleaning has unearthed clothes your family no longer needs, and you don't know what to do with them, the Erie City Mission has a handy solution.

Visit the Mission's Donation Center, where your unwanted clothes will be recycled and sold to raise revenue to fund Mission rehabilitation services.

The Donation Center welcomes all clean, gently used items.

"We get a lot of women's clothing, but that's the biggest demand in the stores, so we need to keep it coming," said David Sawtelle, director of the Mission's Hope Enterprises ministry. "And we are always in need of useable children's and men's clothing."

After being sorted and tagged at the Donation Center, clothing is shipped to the Mission's Thrifty Shopper and Angel Bay stores for resale. For example, those skirts, shirts or tops that sold for \$20 or \$30 in stores usually go for \$3 to \$5 at the second-hand stores. Blazers and 2-piece suits fetch \$5 to \$7. That may seem like pocket change, but it all adds up to benefit the Mission.

What's not deemed saleable at the retail level is sold on the recycling market.

How much clothing is given to the Mission? It typically ranges from 54,000 to 70,000 pounds each month, but that steady flow is needed to keep the shelves stocked at the Mission's Thrifty Shopper and Angel Bay stores.

Dropping off clothes at the Donation Center takes the hassle out of holding a yard sale. You know the clothing is getting to people who really need it, and you're also helping the Mission raise money to fund rehabilitation programs.

Donation Center

1105 W. 12th Street

Business Hours:

Monday-Friday
8:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Telephone:

454-6212

Call for special spring & summer hours and drop off locations

Mission Establishes New Charitable Giving Levels

The Erie City Mission has been part of the fabric of the Erie community since 1911. In order for the Mission to continue into the future, we need your help.

We know that each and every dollar donated to the Erie City Mission comes from a place in your heart that cares for the homeless and needy. Only you can know the level at which you can give. Every donation, regardless of the amount, is received as a treasure, and helps us to serve the poor, homeless, and needy in our community.

For those of you who are able to donate at a higher level, we have established Charitable

Giving Levels that will enable you to become a part of our legacy, as we partner together.

We are eternally grateful to our current top donor, who wishes to remain anonymous. He is our first President's Circle Gold member, donating \$25,000 a quarter, for a yearly total of \$100,000. Sent to us from God above, this generous donor has set the bar high for others who are in a position to donate as he has.

Charitable Giving Levels established to take the Erie City Mission into its second century of serving our community are listed at the right:

President's Circle

Gold

\$100,000 and above.

Silver

\$50,000 and above.

Bronze

\$25,000 and above.

Director's Circle

\$10,000 to \$24,999

Partner's Circle

\$5,000 to \$9,999

Friend's Circle

\$1,000 to \$4,999

Donor's Circle

\$100 to \$999

Donations to the Erie City Mission Support These Essential Ministries Throughout The Year

Samaritan Care

Emergency shelter for men

New Life Program

Long term residential recovery program

Hope Enterprises

Work therapy, vocational rehabilitation and job placement assistance

Food Service

Free hot lunch daily to anyone who needs it, plus special holiday meals

Hope Center Addiction Treatment

Residential and outpatient drug, alcohol and gambling recovery programs; Individual counseling, group therapy, relapse prevention, education and support

Family Care Services

Emergency food, clothing and household items; spiritual support and referrals

Donation Center

Accepts gently used items at 1105 W. 12th Street, pickup is available
Thrifty Shopper and Angel Bay Stores
Retail sales at 914 State St,
West Erie Plaza, 843 Pittsburgh Ave
and 10081 Ridge Road, Girard

'Help The Homeless Week' Raises Awareness, Items For The Needy



Rita Wood (left) of Marquette Savings Bank presents the Erie City Mission's Sue McChesney with a \$2,500 donation for Help The Homeless Week.

Thanks to so many of you, the first annual Help the Homeless Week accomplished its goal. People all over Erie County and beyond spent time talking and thinking about topics that are too easily ignored ... homelessness and poverty right in our own community.

The week of Feb. 17-23 kicked off with a half-hour special television report, generously underwritten and aired by WSEE-TV and Lilly Broadcasting. The show, "Mission Possible," got to the heart of why people are homeless, and why some choose to stay out on the streets even though many believe there are enough shelter beds in Erie to keep everyone under a roof.

Thanks also to Millcreek Government Access channel 17 for airing the show throughout Help the Homeless Week and the weeks that followed.

Area social service agencies that house the homeless were represented in "Mission Possible," as was Erie County,

through housing specialist Mark Alexa. Alexa says there are 2,000 people homeless in Erie County at any given time.

How can you help? Many of those who deal with housing the homeless say the biggest obstacle to solving the homeless problem is the lack of affordable housing.

Alexa suggests that anyone with available housing consider renting to service providers for less than market value.

If each landlord and church congregation was able to offer just one unit to rent to low-income residents, it could go far to solve the homeless problem. For those who are able to help, there are also income tax credits and other incentives available through the city and county of Erie.

Help the Homeless Week also raised

thousands of dollars and mountains of food, clothing and personal care items needed to support Erie City Mission programs for the homeless and needy.

Kudos to the schools, businesses and groups that took part in the challenge. Some sold "Mission Possible"

bars of delicious Pulakos chocolates. Others held "drives" to

collect desperately needed food, clothing and household goods.

Here are some of the more creative ideas that your neighbors implemented:

✓ American Tinning & Galvanizing, 552 W. 12th St., Erie, set out to collect \$552 and 552 pounds of food, clothing and personal care items. Congratulations and thank you to them for reaching their goals.

✓ Penn Lakes Girl Scouts Service Unit 23, Albion and Springfield, held a

"sock hop" where the Girl Scouts had a big party and collected more than 200 pairs of new socks for homeless men, women and children.

✓ East Erie Turners held a week's worth of bowling tournaments to benefit the Erie City Mission.

✓ Erie City Hall employees donated money for the opportunity to "dress down" during the four Fridays of February.

✓ Walnut Creek Middle School organized a benefit girls vs. boys basketball game that included a half-time show put on by teachers.

✓ Edinboro University's Phi Kappa Psi fraternity organized what was perhaps the most poignant of all events ... a week's worth of sleeping in a cardboard shelter in front of the former Boston Store and collecting hundreds of dollars for homeless programs.

Mark your calendars for Feb. 23-29 for next year's Help The Homeless Week.



American Tinning & Galvanizing staff collected \$552 and 552 pounds of food and clothing.



General Electric's James Garlick presents a \$500 check from the Elfun Society of GE to the City Mission's Lisa Nietupski.



Artist and longtime City Mission volunteer Kevin Hovis with his sculpture depicting the face of homelessness.



Girl Scout Service Unit No. 23 members (from left): Courtney Traut, Eleanor Thorpe, Emily Sawyer and Megan Sawyer held a "sock hop" to raise money and more than 200 pairs of new socks for the homeless.



Scott Enterprises group delivers mountains of donated items.



LECOM student volunteers during Help the Homeless Week.



J.S. Wilson 8th grade Family Consumer Science classes made and donated hand-tied quilts.



Mrs. Jessie Vogt and 5th graders at Vernondale School celebrate "Hat Day" after collecting a shelter full of personal care items for the City Mission.



Girl Scout troop 893 delivers collected items and supermarket gift cards to the Family Care Center.



Asbury School Service Committee members Madison Myers, Madison Saraceno and Rachel Bailey show some of the many personal care items their group helped collect.



Steve Tessmer and employees of Tri-State Rail Federal Credit Union sold plenty of 'Mission Possible' chocolate bars.