



# The Beacon

## August 2021

## Our City, Our Mission

Maybe you saw it on television, heard it on the radio, scrolled by it on social media, or read it on a t-shirt or hoodie while shopping at the grocery store. Chances are, the Erie City Mission's tagline 'Our City, Our Mission' isn't new to you. But the meaning behind the phrase could be.

The Erie City Mission's roots have been grounded in the heart of downtown Erie since its founding in 1911. As part of a national group of 275 gospel rescue missions within the Citygate Network, the Erie City Mission remains one of the older missions in the country located in the heart of the city that we serve. Our Mission is to restore hope and transform lives, and Our City is the mission field.

For the thousands of men, women and families who have partnered with us over the past 110 years, and those who will continue to partner with us into the future, our mission is the same. That is why we say this is, "Our City, Our Mission."

**"The Mission provides hope. But not just hope for food and shelter. They provide spiritual development from a Christian perspective and that's really important to me."** - Rick Walker, GM, Part Owner, Walker Brothers Buick/Chevrolet

**"If the City Mission wasn't there, I wouldn't have a home. I'd still be struggling. I am glad we have the Mission... I am so glad."** - Randy M., Samaritan Care Shelter Guest

**"By donating to the Mission, I have seen first hand where my time and money goes. They are doing so much more than you think, especially for the youth in our community."** - RJ Messenger, Owner, Iron Empire Clothing, Urban University Commerce Collaborator

**"It's people, it's real lives, it's changes, it's a difference, it's love; they love everybody."** - Vicki P., Donor



**August 10, 2021 • 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.**  
**Make Our Mission, Your Mission!**

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



## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Why do I continue to love the Mission? Why am I energized again each day to lead and steward this great organization and to be a part of our passionate team? Why do we continue to ask for your support and partnership—and to communicate real life stories of hope and transformation for our guests and participants?

Because just being a part of the journey is a privilege, for all of us. Because coming together to serve others and restore hope matters, and brings renewal to us as well. Because having a front row seat to daily miracles is witnessing the majestic love of God and the power of Jesus Christ in action.

And I'm not the only who who feels this way...

In this edition of "The Beacon" you'll read about the passionate staff, volunteers, participants and community partners who use their gifts and talents to invest in hope and transformation. From a 100 mile hike along the North Country Trail in the Allegheny Forest; to the packed seats in our Chapel, where friends and family were able to celebrate in person with seven men who chose recovery over active addiction; to two very special volunteers who are remembered for their years of dedicated service--the expressions of love for our city are wide and vast and tireless.

I hope you are as inspired as I am by the stories of our community.

*"Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain." (1 Cor. 15:58)*

—Steve



## 110 Years of Service

Save A Date - October 28 or October 29

We are excited to be back in person for our Annual Banquet--where we will celebrate 110 years of service to the City of Erie. Join us on Thursday or Friday [same program both nights] as we share how the Lord continues to provide for our Mission and our City.



## Erie Insurance Charity Challenge

Proceeds from Erie Insurance's 2020 Charity Challenge benefited the Erie City Mission and nine other nonprofits in May. Due to COVID-19, the company's annual Charity Challenge golf tournament was cancelled, but team captains who participated in the 2019 event voted on ten nonprofits in Erie and Allentown to receive a total of \$100,000 in donations. "It was important for us to continue the Charity Challenge, despite the fact that we couldn't host the annual golf tournament," said Ann Scott, community outreach manager at Erie Insurance. "Even though the past year has looked different in many ways, we remain committed to supporting the communities where we live and work."

The Mission was able to use the funding to continue serving guests in need of food, shelter and recovery.



## Car Show Benefits the Mission

Cheryl Mitchell Insurance hosted their second annual Car Show on June 26th, with proceeds from the event benefiting the Erie City Mission and Emma's Footprints. This fun event included food trucks, face painting for kids and an amazing raffle with items from over 50 local businesses. This year's event raised \$1,600. Thank you Cheryl Mitchell Insurance for supporting Our City, Our Mission!



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## Hiking for the Mission

If you know our Chaplain Andy Kerr, then you know he will do just about anything to help the Mission. In 2018, he stepped into the ring to take on homelessness as a contender in our Knockout Homelessness, Round 11 event, raising almost \$9,000 for the Mission's emergency shelter program.

This year, Andy traded in his boxing gloves for a pair of hiking shoes and set out for a 100 mile hike along the North Country Trail in an effort to raise more money for the Mission, through the annual Allegheny 100 (A-100) Challenge. While this event required far less punches to the face, it was not without its difficulties.

The A-100 challenges hikers to traverse 25, 50, 75 or 100 miles along the North Country Trail through the Allegheny National Forest in 50 hours or less, always beginning at 6:00 p.m. on a Friday and ending at 8:00 p.m. the following Sunday. In 2019, 17 out of 140 hikers accomplished the entire 100 miles.

This year, Andy successfully completed 100 miles in under 50 hours and raised \$13,000 for the Mission's programs and services. Way to go Andy!

**BUY LOCAL**  
#ShopErie

HELP SUPPORT ERIE SMALL BUSINESS

## Support Local, Shop Small

Small Business Saturday, November 27th

Support the Mission this November and buy local during this year's Small Business Saturday. Stop in at one of our two Thrifty Shopper locations on Saturday, November 27th and discover great gift ideas for everyone on your gift list.

When you shop at one of the Mission's thrift stores, you are doing so much more than buying local, you are providing: a nutritious lunch to a family in need; a night of shelter for a man who would otherwise sleep on the street; and a transformed life for a man or woman struggling with addiction. When you shop at our Thrifty Shopper stores, you are restoring hope and transforming lives.

**Visit one of our two locations today!**

Erie - 2064 W 16th St., Girard - 10081 W Ridge Rd.

## ECM Upcoming Events

**August 9** – Erie Gives 2021, Check Donation Deadline

**August 10** – Erie Gives 2021, Online Giving Day

**September 9** – New Life Program, Men's Graduation

**October 28 or 29** – Annual Banquet - "Jireh; The Lord Will Provide"

**November 22** – Thanksgiving Turkey Bag Distribution

**November 24** – Erie City Mission, Public Thanksgiving Lunch

**November 27** – Small Business Saturday

**December 6** – Koinonia Men's Christmas Party

**December 23** – Erie City Mission, Public Christmas Lunch

**February 15, 2022** – Knockout Homelessness 14, Bayfront Convention Center

## In Loving Memory

The Erie City Mission celebrates the life and committed service of two longtime volunteers: Don Dick (May 20) and Char Richards (June 22).

For over eighteen years, Don served the Mission hauling donations for our Kitchen and Donation Center. His kindness, humility, compassion for others and deep love for the Lord was felt throughout the Mission. Don was one of a kind and will be truly missed.

As a charter member of Koinonia of Erie County, Char organized the Erie City Mission's annual Koinonia Men's Christmas Party for thirty-one years. Char dedicated her life to caring for, ministering to and giving to others in need. Her infectious smile and energetic personality impacted thousands of lives here at the Mission.



Join Our Team! We're looking for dedicated, creative and Christ-centered people to join us in making the Erie City Mission even better! Is that you?

When you join the Erie City Mission team, you'll join a diverse and faith-based environment where you are welcomed, engaged and challenged. Interested? We're hiring.

The Girard Thrifty Shopper is seeking candidates for a part-time (20 hours a week) Store Clerk. Duties include maintaining the clothing department: tagging, pricing and hanging clothes on the sales floor. Interested candidates can apply online by visiting [www.eriecitymission.org](http://www.eriecitymission.org) and clicking "Employment Opportunities" from the "Contact Us" drop down menu on the homepage.

# Transformation STARTS WITH YOU

What better way to celebrate the holidays, than by providing hope and healing to those in need. Whether it's serving a meal, filling a food bag, or spreading joy through song, your support this holiday season could be the first step toward a life transformed. Join us in reaching out to those in need this holiday season. **Contact our Main Office at 814/452-4421.**



Help provide turkeys or fill food bags for our annual Thanksgiving Turkey Bag Distribution. The Mission will distribute over 1,200 turkeys and bags of food to those in need on Monday, November 22.

**Contact our Main Office to sign up or to provide a monetary donation toward the purchase of the turkeys.**



Help prepare and serve a meal. During the holiday months, the Mission serves over 24,000 hot meals. It takes hundreds of volunteers to organize, prepare and serve lunches to our guests during the holidays. We encourage you to join our food service team and sign up to serve a meal.

**Contact our Main Office to sign up for one or more dates.**



Brighten our holidays with your musical talents. Spread Christmas cheer to the guests at our public lunch by scheduling a date in December to sing carols or play Christmas music on your favorite instrument.

**Contact our Main Office to sign up.**



Bake your favorite holiday pie or dessert and donate it to be served during our special public Thanksgiving and Christmas meals.

**Drop your holiday food donations off at our Kitchen doors on 11th Street, Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**



## Men's New Life Program Graduates

The Mission celebrated its newest class of New Life Program graduates on Thursday, June 24th. Family and friends gathered in person for the first time since the pandemic began to celebrate seven men who endured and chose recovery over active addiction. Please join us in congratulating our graduates!

*Pictured from left to right: Samuel F., Timothy A., James L., Justin P., Johnny S., Jon L. Missing: John T.*

## Our City, Our Mission Apparel

You, too, can show your support of "Our City, Our Mission" by purchasing one of our Mission t-shirts or hoodies. Our polyester and cotton blend t-shirts are \$20 and our lightweight fleece hoodies are \$30. All proceeds from sales directly support our programs and services.

Purchase your Mission apparel by contacting our Development Department at 814-452-4421 or at [tammyf@eriecymission.org](mailto:tammyf@eriecymission.org).



## Because you gave...

**24,440**

Bagged lunches and meals were prepared and distributed to the public and our residents during our free public lunch.

**71**

Men received rehabilitation, recovery and shelter

**127,920**

Pounds of mixed rag bales sold from our Donation Center for **24,019** in revenue.

## Giving Statistics for April - June 2021

**2,776**

Volunteer hours were contributed.

**2,384**

Safe overnights were provided in our Samaritan Care Shelter for men.