



The Beacon

August 2022

Finding Hope In An Unexpected Place

Lucille never believed that at her age she would have to start over. It wasn't her plan, but when an electrical fire took everything she had, only a year after the death of her husband, Lucille sought comfort and healing in the most unlikely of places—a thrift store.

"...when you lose so much in such a short amount of time, you know who is in charge [God]," Lucille shares. Unable to return to the home she had shared with her husband for over 61 years, Lucille moved into a new place and began to rebuild her life. She was safe, warm and fed—but this place wasn't home.

In the Summer of 2020, Lucille entered the Erie City Mission's Thrifty Shopper store for the first time looking to buy things for her new house. Having never been thrift shopping, she had assumed the store would be chaotic and unorganized. *"I think there is a perception that thrift stores are junk stores. That*

is not the case," she said. She was surprised and excited to see that the store was clean, nicely laid out and that the items for sale were of quality.

Over the next five months, Lucille was a frequent visitor at the Thrifty Shopper. Every purchase played a role in making her new house a home. *"I don't think the City Mission has any clue how their merchandise impacted my life, particularly after the fire. It saved my life in terms of comfort and essentials,"* Lucille explains. From the basics needed in every home—dishes, linens and furniture—to the items that allowed her to display the memories of her past, they each had an important purpose.

"...when you are in your eighties you really don't think about replacing every spoon, dish, bowl and pan that you had for years," Lucille said. *"That was huge...and I felt it was time to let them know what that meant to me, and how it gave me*

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August 9 • 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.
www.eriegives.org

A Great Day to Help the Erie City Mission!

A Message from the CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

It's the **stories** at the Erie City Mission that best reflect our calling to restore hope and transform lives--in the name of Jesus Christ! We pray that nothing we do ever deviates or drifts from this critical mission.

One example is our amazing thrift stores and donation center, which represent the social enterprise component of our operations. The intent is first to effectively run this business, ultimately producing a profit/surplus (revenues over expenses) that will help support the Mission's core programs and services. But in the stores and donation center, the staff's focus is also on seeking ways to restore hope and transform the lives of our customers. This issue's cover story beautifully describes what can happen when we seek to provide excellence and care to customers and let God orchestrate the rest. God bless you, Lucille, for sharing your touching story with us and may your life continue to reflect hope and transformation to others!

Another example is the faithful service of our departing Food Service Manager, Sue Jepson, which exemplifies her story of raising the standard in our food operations and providing 8 years of loving care and excellent food to those we serve--restoring hope to our guests by addressing their hunger.

Then there is the amazing story of our annual Knockout Homelessness event which continues with Round 14 coming in February 2023. Please enjoy all the other exciting stories in this newsletter.

God Bless You,

—Steve

Our City. Our Mission. Our Stories.

The Erie City Mission Annual Banquet Save A Date - October 27 or October 28

Join us on our campus on Thursday, October 27 or Friday, October 28 [same program both nights] as we share **our stories** of restored hope and transformed lives.

Interested in sponsoring this event? Contact Tammy Fenno in Development to learn how you can support the event through sponsorship and advertisement opportunities. **Call 814-452-4421 x262 or email tammyf@eriecitymission.org**



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Upcoming Events

August 8 — Erie Gives 2022, Check Donation Deadline

August 9 — Erie Gives 2022, Online Giving Day

October 6 — New Life Program, Men's Graduation

October 27 & 28 — Erie City Mission, Annual Banquet 2022

November 21 — Erie City Mission, Thanksgiving Turkey Bag Distribution

November 23 — Erie City Mission, Public Thanksgiving Lunch

November 26 — Small Business Saturday at the Thrifty Shopper

December 5 — Koinonia Men's Christmas Party

December 23 — Erie City Mission, Public Christmas Lunch

February 21, 2023 — Knockout Homelessness 14, Bayfront Convention Center



The Mission Fleet Gets a New Look

Have you spotted one of our vehicles around Erie? Keep your eyes open, because some of them are sporting a new look--displaying our logo and mission statement.

The Erie City Mission's fleet currently consists of 12 vehicles. Many of these vehicles are used daily, providing transportation for our guests and participants, food pickups for our Kitchen, donations for our stores, and maintenance for our various campus locations.



Eight Years of Faithful Service

It is with great sadness that the Erie City Mission family says farewell to Sue Jepson the food service manager. Sue started as a volunteer at the Mission before being hired in 2014 as the food service manager. Sue's culinary talent, love for our guests and participants, and heart for the Mission will be deeply missed. On behalf of the board of directors, staff, volunteers, participants and guests--thank you, Sue, for eight years of faithful service to restore hope and transform lives!



It just keeps getting bigger and better! We're talking about Round 14 of the Erie City Mission's signature fundraiser, Knockout Homelessness, scheduled for Tuesday, February 21, 2023 at the Bayfront Convention Center in Erie.

Round 14 has been a long time coming since its postponement in 2021, and we are more excited than ever to get back into the ring and fight homelessness head-on.

Do not wait until February to get involved in this year's event! You can support our efforts to eliminate homelessness now by sponsoring the event, placing an advertisement in our program book, donating to a boxer's crowdfunding campaign or providing an item or basket for our raffle.

To get involved, contact Tammy Fenno in Development at 814-452-4421 x 262 or by email at tammyf@eriecitymission.org.

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comfort." Not looking for any fanfare, Lucille left a letter on the cashier counter on her way out of the store. The letter explained how the Erie City Mission's Thrifty Shopper had helped her to find comfort during a very traumatic and difficult time in her life. The Thrifty Shopper had made her new house a home.

"I am a walking advertisement for the Thrifty Shopper because I am always telling people to go there," she laughed. "Whenever I had any doubt as to why I was buying things there as opposed to someplace else, it was because I always felt that the money was going to help the people who really needed it. That was key to me being there. There is nothing like helping other people...and I am so glad I am in a place now where I can do that."



To hear Lucille's full story, visit the "Stories of Hope" page on our website.

The Erie City Mission's Thrifty Shopper stores offer low-cost quality merchandise in both Erie and Girard. For those in need of assistance, the Thrifty Shopper also fulfills crisis requests. With every dollar spent at one of our two thrift stores, the Mission is able to restore hope through food and shelter, and transform the lives of countless men, women and youth participating in our programs. We invite you to visit one of our two stores.

Erie: 2064 W 16th
Mon - Fri 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sat 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Girard: 10081 W Ridge Rd
Mon - Fri 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sat 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

In 2022, the Erie City Mission has fulfilled 44 crisis requests totaling \$5,925. If you or someone you know is experiencing a crisis and is in need of clothing, small household items, or furniture, please call the Erie Thrifty Shopper at 814-464-8884.



No one should go hungry at Thanksgiving and Christmas

A hot meal brings a glimmer of hope to a person enduring hunger and homelessness during the holidays. Join us as we share the love of Christ with our guests this holiday season.

- Fill one of our food bags for our annual Thanksgiving Turkey Bag Distribution or provide a monetary donation to cover the cost for turkeys.
- Prepare and serve a breakfast, lunch or dinner meal for our guests and residents during the holiday months.
- Schedule your singing or musical group in December to share Christmas carols during our public lunch.
- Bake your favorite holiday pie or dessert and donate it to be served during one of our special holiday meals. **Food donations can be dropped off at our kitchen doors on 11th Street, Monday - Friday from 8:30 am - 4:30 pm**

"I greatly appreciate everything the Mission has done for me and everyone in the city. Their help has been a blessing."

- Resident of the Mission

"This [meal] is really helpful for me. It is a good time to give thanks and to appreciate everyone that is helping."

- Turkey Bag Recipient

"Winter was coming, so to be able to sleep on a bed, take a shower, being able to go get something to eat...it was beautiful. They helped me out a lot."

- Shelter and Food Ministry Guest

Contact our main office at 814-452-4421 for more information on how to get involved during the holidays.

PUMP for CHARITY



2¢/gal.
donated
to five local
charities



PUMP for CHARITY pumps are conveniently located at 37 Country Fair Stores. May 1–October 31, 2022.



Because you gave...

Giving Statistics for April - June 2022

32,761

Breakfast and lunch meals were prepared and distributed to the public and our residents.

55

Men received rehabilitation, recovery and shelter.

21

Crisis requests were fulfilled through our thrift stores.

1,829

Volunteer hours were contributed.

2,815

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