

February 2020



# The Beacon

## WE PRESS ON

### The Erie City Mission Celebrates 108 Years

Glimpses of God's glory lit up Hagen Hall during our 2019 Annual Banquet on October 24th and 25th.

Each fall we celebrate lives transformed and hope restored through the programs and ministries of the Erie City Mission. Although our goal is unchanging, the ways in which God shines through the lives of our guests, participants, volunteers and staff vary widely as we press on.

The stories of our New Life Program Associates of the Year Award recipients each illustrated success in recovery differently. The unique transformational victories of recipients Sam Meyer, Richard Young and Madaline Wiggins were highlights of the evening.

Testimonies of young lives impacted through Urban University and needs met through our Donation Center further brightened the event as we reflected on the past year.

Thank you for partnering with us as we continue to press on in 2020.



### Thank You to our Banquet Sponsors!

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“Press on toward the goal to win the prize for which  
God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”  
(Philippians 3: 14)





I can't believe it's 2020! It's not only the beginning of a new year, but the beginning of a new decade. The Erie City Mission begins its 109th year of service to our region, still restoring hope and seeing lives transformed.

Part of our Vision is 'Cultivating a Community of New Life' and I saw that exemplified recently by Phi Kappa Psi, a fraternity at Edinboro University. Each year, several students in this fraternity choose to live outside 24/7 for a period of time to experience some of how the homeless live every day--while raising money and awareness for homelessness. These young men recently came to the Mission to present us with a generous donation. As we talked and gave them a brief tour of our facilities, I realized that their act of kindness and care, for those in need, helped us all move deeper into becoming a larger community of new life and hope. God promises that *"he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed"* (Prov. 11:25). As they brought hope to the Mission and those we serve, they were in turn given hope by God. And the miracle continues on and on. Thanks, Phi Kappa Psi, for your sacrifice and kindness!

Throughout this newsletter, you will see other examples of the Mission and our community cultivating new life and living out the mission God has given us. Let's celebrate together and move forward with hope and possibility.

This is Our City, Our Mission!

—Steve



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## And the Award Goes To...

RoseMarie Lackey, Erie City Mission youth director received the "Youth Worker of the Year" award during UnifiedErie's 6th annual Youth Work Award ceremony this past Fall--and we couldn't be more proud!

Each year, UnifiedErie holds the Youth Work Awards to celebrate and honor youth workers at Erie County, Pennsylvania non-profit organizations. When offered the chance to nominate RoseMarie Lackey for this honor, Urban University students, parents, mentors and co-workers all responded with a resounding 'Yes!'

RoseMarie was chosen among 131 nominees for this honor, having received more nominations than any nominee in the past.

"Working with youth isn't just a job—it's about helping restore the broken, holding hands with those fighting the fight of their life, and being the person who's lifting them up, encouraging them, and cheering them on," explains UnifiedErie. "Youth Workers are critical to providing a safe and healthy community."

Since 2011, RoseMarie has dedicated her life to investing in Erie's inner-city youth, seeking to restore hope and transform the lives of our youngest population through the Erie City Mission's, Urban University program. The after school and summer workshop program has since evolved into a community of student leaders who are finding their God-given passions and learning to be change makers in their communities.

We are proud, as an organization, to have such a spirited leader on staff who's heart is fully invested in the Mission's vision to; cultivate a community of new life, break the cycle of hopelessness and build the Kingdom of God.

Congratulations RoseMarie!



RoseMarie Lackey, Director of Youth Ministries for the Erie City Mission was awarded the "Youth Worker of the Year" Award during UnifiedErie's 6th annual award ceremony in the Fall of 2019. RoseMarie was among 131 nominees and received more nominations than any applicant in the past.



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## Noticed Anything New?

If you have driven down French Street lately or stopped into the Erie City Mission, you may have noticed something new. Our front entrance, chapel entrance and front desk reception area have received a much needed addition--donning our name and logo. Our new signs were installed in January and we think they look pretty great!



## Giving Made Simple

This past September, our Donation Center partnered with Resupply Charity to make giving more simple. This new digital platform allows donors to directly connect with the Erie City Mission to schedule donation pickups and provide a better donor experience. This new platform also provides donors a gift-in-kind tax receipt right to their email at the time of the donation drop-off or pick-up.

Our Donation Center, located at 16th and Pittsburgh Avenue in Erie is the central hub for all donated goods. Donations of gently used clothing, linens, shoes, household items and furniture are sorted and sent to the Mission's two thrift stores for customers to purchase at a low cost or are provided to those experiencing a crisis. Items sold in our stores generate monies that allow the Mission's core programs--feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless and reaching those who are lost--to continue.

Your gently used items are saving lives--and for that we are most grateful.

**Have items that you need picked up?**  
**You can now schedule a donation pick-up by visiting our website at [www.eriecitymission.org](http://www.eriecitymission.org), or through your smart phone by dialing 814-487-8189.**

## ECM Upcoming Events

**February 18** -- Knockout Homelessness 13, Bayfront Convention Center  
**March 5** -- New Life Program, Men's Graduation  
**August 11** -- Erie Gives 2020  
**October 22** -- Erie City Mission, Annual Banquet 2020  
**October 23** -- Erie City Mission, Annual Banquet 2020



## We're Going for A Million!

### Lacing Up Our Gloves for Knockout Homelessness, Round 13

The Erie City Mission and the legendary Bizzarro Family, are setting the stage for another "knock-out" evening of exhibition boxing in this year's Knockout Homelessness event. Round 13 will be held at the Bayfront Convention Center on Tuesday, February 18 and will feature another round of fighters brave enough to step into the ring and take-on homelessness head on.

Over twelve rounds, Knockout Homelessness has raised over \$600,000 in revenue to support the Mission's Samaritan Care Shelter--and we are going for a Million!

This year's fight card features exhibition fights between, "John Boy" Bizzarro and Aaron Hertel, PT, Cert. MDT, Co-Founder of Hertel & Brown Physical & Aquatic Therapy and Lou Bizzarro, Jr. and Patrick Fisher, Executive Director at Erie Arts & Culture. The main event, sponsored by Erie Federal Credit Union, Marquette Savings Bank, Northwest and Presque Isle Downs & Casino features, Lou Bizzarro, Sr. and Paul Vojtek, CEO/CFO Erie Water Works.

## JOIN US IN THE FIGHT!

Support our efforts to "knock-out" homelessness by donating to your favorite celebrity boxer's crowdfunding campaign. Visit our Website or Facebook page, click on your favorite boxer and donate using this unique fundraising page. All funds donated through crowdfunding directly support the Erie City Mission.





# YOUR GIFT

of \$2.15 helped save lives  
during the holiday season and  
cold winter months

## Here's how you helped Erie's hurting and homeless during the holiday season

Your help over the holiday season and your continued support during Erie's cold winter months has transformed thousands of lives. Your financial giving, your time and your resources provided more than just a warm, safe place to sleep, a hot, filling meal and hope for a better tomorrow--it gave each of our guests a reason to celebrate during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays!

With your help, the men, women and children that walked through our doors over the past several months were provided with a warm bed, a hot meal, free nutritious food to take home, a turkey with all the fixings for a Thanksgiving meal, crisis support through our Thrift Stores, and a place to escape from the cold.

For many of our guests, receiving that helping hand--through temporary refuge and a free meal--was what they needed to just make it through the holidays. For others, your kindness and compassion encouraged them to seek long-term support for their battle against addiction to drugs and alcohol. Your gifts are where life-transformation begins.

## Thank you for helping us serve our city this holiday season

## Each gift of \$2.15 you gave helped save a life this holiday by offering:

**1,500** turkeys and bags filled with all the fixings for a Thanksgiving dinner.

**25,652** hot, nutritious meals served to men, women and children visiting our free public lunch.

**40,000** pounds of perishable and non-perishable goods were distributed to our public lunch guests to take home in December.

**Countless** opportunities for our staff and volunteers to share the love of Jesus Christ to each of our guests during the holiday season.

## Because you gave...

### Giving Statistics for November - December 2019

**7**

Women received rehabilitation, recovery and shelter at Grace House.

**25,652**

Meals prepared and served during our free public lunch.

**188**

Men received rehabilitation, recovery and shelter.

**40,000**

Pounds of perishable & non-perishable goods distributed during our public lunch in December.

**8**

Crisis requests fulfilled through our Thrift Stores for a value of **\$1,230**

**2,998**

Safe overnights in our Samaritan Care Shelter for men.