



The Beacon

March 2022

Hope *for* Tomorrow

How your support gave new life

Over the past several months, we have had the privilege of witnessing your generosity and commitment in serving those who were in need of hope during the holidays. You gave of your time, talents and finances to show each man, woman and family we served that the Erie City Mission is a place of hope.

Whatever their need: clean clothes, a hot meal, groceries for the week, a safe night of shelter, a reprieve from the harsh weather, because of you, we are here to help.

Your support over the holiday season helped so many people transform their lives through the Mission's ministry and programs. Men and women overcame addictions, reconciled with loved ones and found permanent housing. Families received hot nutritious meals, groceries to fill their cupboards and essential clothing and household items. Youth grew in leadership and learned new things. Most importantly, each of them heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and lives were transformed for eternity.

Thank you for providing hope this holiday season and throughout the winter months.

Lives *you* Have Transformed

2021 Holidays

	Daily Avg	Monthly
Meals Served	327	9,977
Shelter Bed Nights	28	872
Crisis Requests Filled		5
Pounds of Food	790	24,101
Counseling Hours	2	90
Turkeys with Food Bags	900	

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

When we say "Our City, Our Mission"--we mean *our* Mission. This organization has been sustained for over 111 years by the incredible generosity of our donors. So far, 2022 is no exception.

In addition to the continued generosity from our donors, several community partners chose to give. Gannon University kindly donated the proceeds from their "Pop-Up-Business" project and the Erie Otters collected and donated much-needed clothing items through their inaugural "Charity Sock Toss."

In this issue of The Beacon, you'll also see the story of Chuck and Kayla--who saw a need and started 'Share a Meal, Erie,' providing dinner for our Shelter guests at the Mission for over two years now. What a blessing!

And recently, the Mission was honored, along with two other nonprofits in Erie, during the 10-year celebration of Elevate Church, and was given an incredible gift of \$10,000. This is a church that already supports our Mission on a regular basis.

We are grateful for your consistent generosity, and want you to know that it's restoring hope to so many in our City. God Bless you.

—Steve



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Upcoming Events

May 5 – New Life Program, Men's Graduation

July 21 – New Life Program, Men's Graduation

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 or 28 – Erie City Mission, Annual Banquet 2022

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



Knockout Homelessness 2022

Knockout Homelessness 2022 was postponed due to the current state of the pandemic, but you can still help us knock out homelessness as our fighters prepare for Round 14 on Tuesday, February 21, 2023.

The Mission is actively seeking event sponsors, advertising sponsors and auction sponsors. Contact Tammy Fenno at tammyf@eriecitymission.org or 814/452-4421 x262 for sponsorship information.

★ ★ Thank You 2022 Sponsors! ★ ★

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Celebrating 14 Years!

On January 20th, the Mission celebrated MaryKay Nies and her retirement. MaryKay has dedicated 14 years to the Erie City Mission as the human resources and benefits manager. The Mission has been blessed to have her on our team for so many years and will miss her deeply.

From everyone here at the Mission, congratulations MaryKay!



Otters Sock Toss Benefits Mission

The Erie Otters held their inaugural charity sock toss during their game on Saturday, January 22. Fans were encouraged to bring new, packaged socks to throw on the ice during the second intermission. A total of 1,591 pairs of socks, 46 winter hats, 45 pairs of underwear, 35 pairs of gloves and three scarves were thrown, collected and donated to the Erie City Mission. These winter essentials are being distributed to guests staying in the Samaritan Care Shelter and offered to the hundreds of men, women and children who attend the Mission's free public lunch. Thank you Erie Otters and all those who participated in the sock toss.



Homeless But Not Helpless

Senior business students from Gannon University donated the proceeds from their "Pop-Up Business" project to the Erie City Mission on January 28th.

Madison M., Jacob D., Duaa A., Fatimah A. and Albert T. (from left to right in photo), senior business students, worked together as a team to create an idea and a business model over a six-week period. The "Homeless But Not Helpless" team opened, ran and closed their pop-up business in a two week time frame generating over \$700 in revenue. The Erie City Mission was chosen to receive the proceeds made through their project to further our mission of restoring hope and transforming lives of those in Erie.

"I am very proud of how hard the students worked during the semester," said Kurt Hersch, Assistant Teaching Professor for Gannon University's Dahlkemper School of Business. "I know they were excited to have the opportunity to donate their proceeds to such a worthy cause."

Thank you team "Homeless But Not Helpless"!

Celebrating our Graduates!

The Mission celebrated its newest New Life Program graduates, Michael B. on Thursday, September 9th, Joseph P. on Tuesday, November 23rd and Wray C., Jeret D., Brandon L., David N. and Trent T. on Thursday, February 17th.

Please join us in congratulating our graduates!

Join us for our next graduation on May 5th.

New Life Program graduations are held every 11 weeks in the Mary Jane Surgala Chapel. Graduations can also be streamed live from our Facebook page.





Share a Meal - Erie

Meet Chuck and Kayla

Chuck and Kayla were just a couple of friends who wanted to bring some cheeseburgers to the Mission on a Sunday evening and share a meal with those staying in our shelter. They never imagined that their desire to give back would develop into a city-wide effort to share a meal with the homeless.

Where did the idea to provide Sunday dinners to our shelter guests come from? [Chuck]

I always see guys in need on the street and I try to help them out by buying them some food or giving them some money. I wondered how we could serve a group of these guys all at the same time. I got a hold of Darrell Smith at the Mission and found out they don't serve a Sunday dinner, so I figured maybe we could help provide that every so often.

What was that first Sunday dinner like? [Kayla]

It started in February [2020] with Chuck and I rallying on our personal Facebook pages. We created a GoFundMe and got a ton of support with lots of people donating. We brought McDonalds cheeseburgers the first time. We went and got the food, brought it to the shelter, got it all set up and just talked to the guys and hung out. They were super appreciative, and we decided we wanted to try and keep

doing this. That April I started a separate Facebook page and gave it the name "Share a Meal - Erie".

How does Share a Meal work? [Kayla]

People go to our Facebook page [Share a Meal - Erie] and send us a message and I respond with dates that are available. You pick a day, prepare a meal in disposable pans and drop it off at the Mission. It is really easy.

Why is this important to you? [Chuck]

I was a lot like these guys back in my early twenties. I wasn't in the best shape or position in life and I really wish someone would have been willing to share a meal with me.

Why do you commit your time to this every single week? [Kayla]

We are all human and people need to know that we care. Everybody goes through stuff and the kind of support we need looks different for each person.

Share a Meal - Erie has served Sunday dinner to the guests in our Samaritan Care Shelter for two years now. If you are interested in cooking a meal or donating toward a meal, please contact Share a Meal - Erie on Facebook. **To hear Chuck and Kayla's full story, visit the "Stories of Hope" page on our website.**

Because you gave...

Giving Statistics for November - December 2021

19,955

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

55

Men received rehabilitation, recovery and shelter

88,900

Pounds of mixed rag bales were sold from our Donation Center for **\$19,991** in revenue.

1,348

Volunteer hours were contributed.

1,744

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