

May 2019

ECM

ERIE CITY MISSION

The Beacon

Expanding Kingdom Territory

"For where two or three gather in My name, there I am with them" - Matthew 18:20 (NIV)

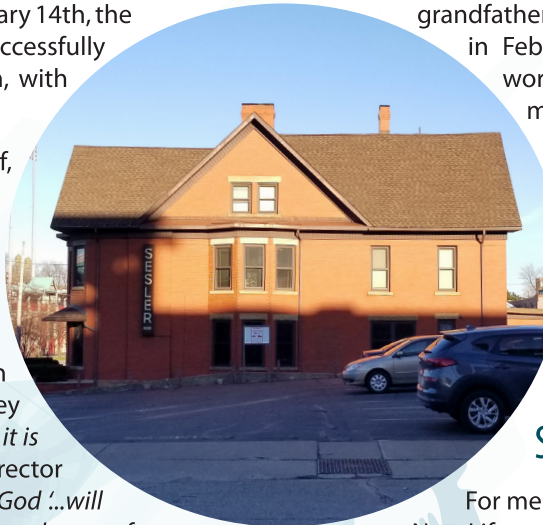
Cheers and applause reverberated off the walls of the brand new Mission Chapel as family, friends and mentors gathered in celebration of our New Life Program graduates. On February 14th, the Mission had the privilege of presenting six men, who successfully completed the 12-month residential recovery program, with their certificate of completion.

Nick Kerner, Kenneth Clark, Martin Johnson, Donald Staaf, Mike Amboyer and Andrew Stepp, were commemorated for their commitment to recovery, through music, fellowship, Bible readings, and a word of encouragement and advice from 2014 NLP graduate, Sam Meyer.

Graduations at the Erie City Mission are held every 10-weeks, and celebrate the accomplishments each graduate has made, with God's help, during their journey to long-term recovery. *"Every time we hold a graduation, it is a testimony to God's unfailing love,"* said Darrell Smith, Director of Men's Ministries. *"In Deuteronomy, Joshua is told that God '...will never leave you, nor forsake you;' God has intervened in each one of these men's lives to fulfill that promise. That is why we gather to celebrate*

with family and friends as they enter this new season of recovery and restoration."

The New Life Program truly is a transformational program--men are being restored to loving fathers, sons, brothers, uncles, nephews and grandfathers. Nick Kerner, who graduated in February, says its hard to put into words what the program really means to him. *"The Mission gave me the opportunity and the tools to grow my faith and dive into my recovery,"* he explains. *"They gave me a future that I once believed was never possible, and I am so grateful for that."*



Expanding Aftercare Support

For men graduating from the Mission's New Life recovery program, the restoration and transformation doesn't stop at the ceremony. For some time now, the Erie City Mission has worked to assist our NLP men to find housing following their graduation. Currently, graduates are offered continued housing at the Mission, for up to 90 days, as they look for employment and a long-term residence. Alternative housing options would open up beds and the opportunity for new men to enter into our recovery program more quickly. To this aim, the Mission recently entered into a lease agreement for a 6 bedroom apartment, located at the Sesler building next door, allowing us to offer housing for up to 8 men who have graduated our program.

"The Sesler house will enable us to provide a safe transitional environment for our participants--a true blessing for those we serve!" said Darrell Smith. The expansion of the Mission's aftercare support, is a great benefit to our graduates; allowing our men to maintain close proximity to the Mission, while moving toward independence and integrating back into the community.



Nick Kerner, Kenneth Clark, Donald Staaf, Andrew Stepp, Mike Amboyer and Martin Johnson, graduated on February 14, 2019.

The WORD on the Street

a message from the Chief Executive Officer

Spring reminds us of new life – the central reason that the Erie City Mission exists. We believe in hope and new life for everyone we serve – made possible in Jesus Christ.

There is also new life and revitalization being breathed into our City. The winds of change and renewal are in the air and I'm excited to see transformation in our community.

As I work each day in the City, I'm encouraged by City residents and friends of the Mission like Andre' Horton. As both a County Councilman and community leader, he shares a deep desire to see our City experience opportunity and hope. This picture with Andre' reminds me of not only the importance of friendship and trust, but also of the partnerships needed to take on the challenges and opportunities that await us.

Individuals like Andre', and other community partners you'll read about in this issue of The Beacon, give me hope that our efforts to bring renewal and transformation are not in vain - that God will stay true to his promise of Jeremiah 29:11; *"For I know the plans I have for you...plans to prosper you and give you hope and a future."* Ultimately, God is the only source that can truly bring the hope and transformation that we need in ourselves, our neighbors and our City.

May God bless you – this is Our City, Our Mission!

—Steve



Steve with friend of the Mission and County Councilman, Andre' Horton during the 2018 Erie Community Foundation, Annual Meeting at the Bayfront Convention Center.



Saint Vincent Mobile Medical Unit, Services the Mission

The Erie City Mission is delighted to be partnering with Saint Vincent Hospital, AHN to provide our public lunch and emergency shelter guests with access to their mobile medical unit.

Saint Vincent introduced its exclusive Mobile Medical Unit in August of 2013. The 40-foot medical-office-on-wheels delivers corporate wellness programs "on the go" to organizations throughout our community.

The Mobile Medical Unit visits the Mission multiple times a month [parking on 11th Street] to provide the following on-site services to our guests: physical examinations and preventative health exams; on-site dietician services; blood pressure screenings; and diabetes management education. The Mission is grateful to community partners like Saint Vincent Hospital, AHN, for offering valuable resources to help those who come to the Mission daily.



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August 13, 2019 • 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
A great day to help the Erie City Mission.

www.eriecitymission.org

Designer Bag BINGO Benefits Grace House

Celebrate Mom this month, with a special evening of BINGO fun, in support of our Grace House program. On Friday, May 10th, the Erie City Mission will host a special evening event filled with food, fun and fund-raising with the chance to win an authentic designer handbag.

Proceeds from this event will directly support the Grace House program, a Christ-centered recovery community for women.

The Erie City Mission, extends a special thank you to the event title sponsor, M' Cafe for their support of this evening and their continued support of the women we serve.

Tickets and VIP tables are available for purchase online at www.eriecitymission.org. Join the Facebook event page for more details.



A Special Mother's Day

Designer BINGO

Friday, May 10, 2019
Doors open at 5:00pm * First Game at 6:00pm
Perry Hi-Way Hose Company
8281 Oliver Road, Erie, PA 16509

Tickets are \$30.00 per person Special Thank You to Our Title Sponsor
VIP Tables are \$300.00 seat 8 & include:
* Appetizers
* Bingo Dauber
* Name Recognition

Side auctions and door prizes available
BYO snacks and beverages
Must be at least 21 to attend! Please bring ID



M' CAFE

All proceeds benefit the Erie City Mission, Grace House



Knockout Homelessness, Round 12 - Another "Knock-Out"

Take three professional boxers, three local fighters and an enthusiastic crowd and what do you get? Knockout Homelessness, Round 12.

This annual event--a favorite for both fans and non-fans of the sport--was held on Tuesday, February 19 at the Bayfront Convention Center. The evening included a delicious Italian dinner, a live and silent auction, a large raffle, and three exhibition fights. The co-feature bouts of the night included: Colby Atkins, Lead Pastor at Elevate Church against former KOH, Round 6 boxer, John Rogala Evanoff; and Matt Pribonic, Vice-President of Level Red Boxing against, Lou Bizzarro, Jr. This year's main event welcomed back Mayor Joe Schember, for a rematch against Lou Bizzarro, Sr.

The evening concluded with a special tribute to Susan McChesney, the co-founder of KOH and the Mission's community liaison, for her years of dedication to the event and its decade of success.

Over \$55,000 was raised for the Samaritan Care Emergency Shelter; bringing the 12-year event total across the \$600,000 plateau--and the Mission fully supports Lou Bizzarro, Sr's, goal to "go for a million!"

2030 District Partner



The Erie City Mission is proud to be one of nine founding partners in the Erie 2030 District along with UPMC Hamot, the Benedictine Sisters of Erie, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania, Emmaus Ministries, First Presbyterian Church of The Covenant, Mercyhurst University, the City of Erie and Erie County. The Erie 2030 District has been meeting monthly since June 2017 and achieved Emerging Status in March 2018.



Upcoming Events

May 10 -- Mother's Day, Designer Bag BINGO, Grace House fundraiser

August 10 -- Designer Bag BINGO, Grace House fundraiser

August 13 -- Erie Gives 2019

October 24 -- Annual Banquet

October 25 -- Annual Banquet

Building A Legacy - Together

Since being founded in 1911, the Erie City Mission continues expanding to meet the countless needs of hurting individuals in all walks of life. We are passionate about seeing people freed from physical and spiritual struggles--inspired and transformed by the powerful love of Christ. As we continue to restore hope and transform lives, we invite you to join your legacy with ours; allowing us to serve Erie for another 100 years. A legacy gift through your estate can ensure your personal legacy changes lives for generations to come.

How A Gift In Your Will, Changes Lives

Many of the people we serve are in desperate need with no one to turn to, and unfortunately the number of people we serve grows each year. When you leave a gift in your Will to the Erie City Mission, you can be sure it will positively impact lives, meet needs and restore hope for years to come.

A gift in your Will doesn't have to be large to make a difference. Just a small percentage of what's left after you provide for your loved ones can make an eternal impact for the cause of Christ. By choosing to bless the Mission, you're paving the way for lives to be changed and setting a powerful example for your family.



We Want to Help You Get Started!

We want to help you in the process of starting that conversation, learning about our legacy giving options, and more! Contact me today for more information or to start a confidential conversation: Erin Layden at (814)452-4421 X234 or Erin.Layden@eriecitymission.org.



Erie Insurance Grant Funds Urban University Summer Workshops and After-School Program

Urban University students, from East Middle School, accepted a \$29,000 grant from Erie Insurance, during their Leadership in Action class. The much needed funds, will directly support the Erie City Mission's Youth Ministry during the summer and throughout the school year.

We are grateful for the continued support of our neighbors, like Erie Insurance, who continually invest in our inner-city youth through our UU program.

EITC Contributions - Urban University

Urban University (UU), is an approved program under the PA Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program (EITC) for the 2019 calendar year. Through this program, businesses and other pass-through entities who make a tax-deductible contribution to the Erie City Mission, UU program are eligible to receive a tax credit. Gifts received through the EITC program allow the Erie City Mission to continue developing and equipping emerging student leaders in Erie's inner-city schools.

If you or your business is approved to make EITC contributions, or is interested in applying to receive EITC tax credits, and would like to support the UU program, let us know. Email Erin Layden, Director of Development at Erin.Layden@eriecitymission.org.



FOLLOW US ON
Instagram

@ErieCityMission #ECM #OurCityOurMission



We love seeing our guests, volunteers and donors connect with us over social media. Follow us and share your favorite mission moments through Instagram.

Because you gave...

32,880

Meals prepared and served during the free public lunch ministry.

3,859

Number of emergency shelter bed nights.

67

Urban University students served during the 2018-2019 school year.

7

Women received safe housing, food and recovery services at Grace House.

\$55,000

Amount raised for the Samaritan Care Shelter, during Knockout Homelessness, Round 12.

Giving Statistics for January - March 2019