



The Beacon

May 2022

Go Erie, Go!

Fuel the Erie City Mission with the Charity Pump

The Erie City Mission is **PUMPED** to announce that it has been chosen for this year's Country Fair Cares Pump for Charity! When you pump your gas at the designated charity pump at any Country Fair, 2¢ from every gallon sold will go directly to support the Erie City Mission and four other amazing Erie nonprofits.

Created in 2019, the Country Fair Cares (CFC) program was created to assist local nonprofit organizations. Over the past three years, CFC has raised \$423,857 with the program increasing each year.

Five nonprofits are chosen each year as CFC partners. This year's partners include the Erie City Mission, ANNA Shelter, Grady's Decision, Women's Care Center of Erie and the Multicultural Community Resource Center. Country Fair is committing a pooled fund of at least \$50,000 with each nonprofit receiving a minimum of \$10,000. These funds are tracked through the Country Fair Charity Pumps.

Here's How it Works!

- ♥ Program runs from May 1 through October 31, 2022
- ♥ Use the Pump for Charity pumps located at 37 local Country Fairs. Charity pumps are decorated with special artwork so they are easy to spot! (*artwork on pump is below*)
- ♥ Spread the word! Stop by the pump and tag us in your photos and stories so we can share the fun.
Use @eriecitymission, #cofaircares #pumpforcharity.



Fuel up your car to fuel our Food Service Program!

PUMP for CHARITY

2¢/gal.
donated
to five local
charities



A Message from the CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

God's Word to weary souls from Psalms 107 (which I've dubbed 'the Mission chapter'):

- 4 **"Some** wandered in desert wastelands,
finding no way to a city where they could settle.
5 They were hungry and thirsty,
and their lives ebbed away.
6 **Then** they cried out to the LORD in their trouble,
and he delivered them from their distress.
7 He led them by a straight way
to a city [Mission] where they could settle.
8 **Let them give thanks to the LORD** for his unfailing love
and his wonderful deeds for mankind,
9 for he satisfies the thirsty
and fills the hungry with good things." (Psalms 107:4-9, NIV)

Hundreds upon thousands of weary souls (**some**) still come to the Mission every year. Hope is initially restored as their practical needs of hunger, homelessness and addictions are met with food, shelter and recovery programming. **"Then"** they, and we on their behalf, cry out to the Lord asking that He would deliver them from their distress and begin His transforming work in their lives. Our only response left is to **"give thanks to the Lord for His unfailing love."**

We are also grateful for God's stewards. In this issue of The Beacon, you will see the generosity of Country Fair, ERIE Insurance and many others; see hope restored by the expansion of our food service to now include Public Breakfast; and see life transformation through the smiles of our latest group of five graduates from our New Life Program.

—Steve



CONTACT INFO:

Administrative Office Mailing Address
1017 French Street P.O. Box 407
Erie, PA 16501 Erie, PA 16512

Email - contact@eriecitymission.org
Phone - 814/452-4421
www.eriecitymission.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Benjamin Wilson, Ed. D., Chairman
Marsha Marsh, Vice-Chairman
Greg Paulding, CPA, Treasurer
Kathy Griffith, Secretary
Malcolm Beall, Jr.
Albert Ganzer, Jr.
Alan Hamilton
Leo Heintz
Joseph Kuvshinikov
Lori Pickens
Dr. D. Rick Prokop
Matthew Sahlmann



Upcoming Events

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 & 28 — Erie City Mission, Annual Banquet 2022

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

VOLUNTEERS



ALONE WE CAN DO SO LITTLE
TOGETHER
WE CAN DO SO MUCH
- HELEN KELLER

Our volunteers give hope to the hopeless, meals to the hungry and smiles to the hurting. It is because of them that we are able to change lives every single day. Thank you!

hope IN THE HEAT

As the temperatures begin to rise in Erie, so does the need for items to help the homeless beat the heat. You can help Erie's homeless receive hope by donating these summer needs:

Bottled Water	*New Underwear
Freezies (ex: Fla-Vor-Ice)	*New Undershirts
Ice Cream Sandwiches	*Men's Flip Flops
	*Men's size large & up

For donation drop-offs:

1017 French Street, Erie, PA 16501

Open: Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

FOLLOW
US ON
SOCIAL
MEDIA:





Sort. Purge. Give.

Springtime means cleaning time. As you sort through your closets and cupboards determining what to purge and what to keep, consider giving your unwanted items new purpose by donating them to the Erie City Mission.

Your donations can change lives!

When you drop off clothing, accessories and household items at our Donation Center, they are sorted and either given to people in need or sold in one of our two Thrifty Shopper stores to help support our life-saving programs.

For donation drop-offs: 2064 W 16th Street, Erie

Open: Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

For donation pick-ups:

Call: (814) 487-8189

Youth Leadership Program

Recipient of Erie Insurance Funding

The Erie City Mission's youth leadership program, Urban University, was selected by Erie Insurance as one of 23 education nonprofits to receive a portion of the \$824,000 in funding designated for 2022 through Pennsylvania's Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program.

Funding for Urban University directly supports the program's mission to develop emerging student leaders among Erie's inner-city youth. RoseMarie Croce, director of youth ministries, shared in a press release in April, "[this funding] gives us the opportunity to provide excellent experiences to our students. With EITC support from Erie Insurance and other companies, we're able to create a standard of excellence that our future student leaders rise to meet."

Thank you, Erie Insurance!

Donations We Accept

All clothing*, in any condition (Yes! Even if it is ripped, stained or unwearable), jewelry and accessories, linens*, household items, gently used toys, electronics and small appliances, furniture in good condition, seasonal decorations, home decor, luggage and books.

Donations We Do Not Accept

Televisions, computer equipment, large appliances, infant furniture or strollers, pianos, pool tables, water beds, blinds, fire extinguishers, encyclopedias or textbooks, cassette tapes, large entertainment centers, furniture that is dirty, torn or broken.

***We ask that all clothing and linens be clean and dry before donating.**



Graduation Day!

The Erie City Mission recently celebrated the accomplishments of five men who completed our 10-month residential recovery program. New Life Program participants, Christopher B., Lou H., Michael B., Michael O. and Oleg P., graduated on May 5th. Congratulations, graduates!

Join us for our next graduation on July 21st.

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.

Public Breakfast at the Mission

Providing food to the hungry is one of the Erie City Mission's core services to the Erie community--one of the central reasons we exist. So, when St. Martin Center announced that they were no longer able to continue their Bishop's Breakfast Program, and asked if the Mission would be interested in providing public breakfast, we said, "Yes!"

On Tuesday, March 1, 2022, the Mission began serving a free breakfast meal to the public starting at 7 a.m. Monday through Friday. Public Breakfast is served in addition to the Mission's regular Public Lunch.

Since opening our doors for public breakfast, the Mission has served a hot breakfast to over 1,500 guests per month. We are grateful for the opportunity to expand our food service program to include breakfast, filling a need in our community.



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

A Great Day to Help the Erie City Mission!

Leave a Legacy

Since our doors opened in 1911, thousands of individuals of every background credit their days at the Erie City Mission with saving their lives. For over 111 years, the Mission has served as a beacon of hope for those in our city.

With a planned gift or a legacy to the Erie City Mission, you join a very special group of supporters who want to make sure the life-changing programs of the Mission are here for our community. But most of all--your goodwill and generosity ensure that we remain a beacon of hope for generations to come.

For more information about creating a lasting gift to the Mission, please call 814-452-4421.

Give Today

- Become a Bread & Life Partner with a recurring, monthly gift.
- IRA Charitable Rollover: If you are 70 1/2 or older, you can provide a tax-free gift to the Mission with a direct transfer of funds from your IRA.
- Charitable Gift Annuities: A gift today of cash or securities provides the Mission with immediate resources and provides you an immediate tax deduction and a lifetime fixed income stream (after age 65 or later).
- Donations of Stocks or Securities.

Give Tomorrow

- Will, Bequest or Trust.
- Beneficiary: Add the Mission as a beneficiary on your life insurance policy, Individual Retirement Account (IRA), employee sponsored retirement plan or other asset. You can name the Mission as a full, partial or contingent beneficiary.

Because you gave...

Giving Statistics for January - March 2022

27,345

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

60

Men received rehabilitation, recovery and shelter.

23

Crisis requests were fulfilled through our thrift stores.

2,010

Volunteer hours were contributed.

2,341

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