



The Beacon

May 2023

Growing with Grace

Grace House—the residential location for women who are participating in the Mission’s drug and alcohol recovery program—has experienced several new developments over the past couple of years.

With a pause in programming due to the pandemic, Grace House used the time to refresh its campus before returning to full capacity. Since 2021, the facility has paved the off-street driveway and parking lot; renovated the residential facility, expanding bed capacity from 11 to 15; upgraded and modernized the education center with a mobile computer lab; and installed external wayfinding signs.

Along with renewing the campus, Grace House leadership focused its efforts on growing the curriculum, allowing for hybrid teaching and collaboration with other local recovery programs to provide counseling and education.

In March, Grace House welcomed three new residents to its campus.



Building a new life.

Women at Grace House are offered a Christian faith-based, long-term addiction recovery program that helps them develop tools to make realistic, achievable changes that lead to a better quality of life. Focusing on the whole person—physical, mental, spiritual, emotional, and social—through teaching, counseling, and discipleship, the program helps participants rebuild their lives in a safe, nurturing, and Christ-centered environment.

If you or someone you know could benefit from this program, please call 814-452-4421.



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Darrell A. Smith
Chief Executive Officer

Greetings and Blessings,

As our thoughts turn to spring and the gloom of winter begins to fade, possibility is in the air and hope springs eternal. Spring is a season marked by renewal and reawakening—a season where the old is passing away and all things become new again. The very definition of spring suggests that we are moving upward and forward. A hopefulness fills our

senses and we begin to think of the possibilities of what can be. We are encouraged by these possibilities and are invigorated by the newness of the season.

Those whom we serve at the Erie City Mission come with an expectation that hope will be renewed and that which seems impossible can be made possible.

We are reminded that “...with God all things are possible.” (Matthew 19:26b New American Standard).

One example of those possibilities being met can be seen in the reopening of the Grace House for women. Another is in the upcoming men’s New Life Program graduation where we celebrate men breaking the bonds of addiction. It is our faith in what is possible that is at the core of the Erie City Mission, and it is why we serve. We cannot grow weary of doing good and we cannot be discouraged by the gravity of the work. We must spring forward in hope and certainty, and with your help, we can make a difference.

There is always much to look forward to in this season and it is our great joy to share these stories of hope and victory with you.

In His service,



Young Philanthropists

Students from West Grandview Elementary donated boxes of cereal for the Mission’s public meal ministry. Food Service Manager, Eli Chadsey, filled his truck with over 300 boxes of cereal. The Erie City Mission is so grateful for its young donors. Thank you, West Grandview Elementary students, for helping to restore hope and transform lives!



ERIE CITY MISSION

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Upcoming Events

May 25 – New Life Program, Men’s Graduation

August 7 – Erie Gives 2023, Check Donation Deadline

August 8 – Erie Gives 2023, Online Giving Day

August 10 – New Life Program, Men’s Graduation

October 26 or 27 – Erie City Mission, Annual Banquet 2023

February 13, 2024 – Knockout Homelessness 15, Bayfront Convention Center



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

A Great Day to Help the Erie City Mission!



The Heart of the Mission

At the Erie City Mission, we partner with thousands of volunteers each year who show compassion, love, and kindness to our neighbors in need. April was Volunteer Appreciation Month, and the Erie City Mission is thankful for the many men and women who give their time and skills to serve guests at the Mission. From sorting in our warehouse, cooking in our kitchen, or mentoring our men, women, and youth, these selfless groups and individuals are the hands and feet of the Mission.

Thank You, Volunteers!

Thank you for bridging the gap and helping to connect people in need to the resources that will help to restore their hope and transform their lives. We appreciate you!

Summer Needs

These essentials are in high demand for the Erie City Mission this summer, and you can help by donating any—or all—of these items.

1. Bottled water
2. Cereal
3. Eggs
4. Meat (beef, pork, chicken)
5. Kleenex

You can deliver your summer donations to our main campus at 1017 French St., Erie. Thank you for restoring hope during the summer months!



Investing in Our Future Leaders

Like many of the Mission's community partners, Erie Insurance believes in investing in the community and the lives of others—including our future leaders.

In April, the Erie Insurance Giving Network awarded a grant to the Erie City Mission's Youth Ministry program. The Urban University youth leadership program was selected by Erie Insurance as one of 22 education nonprofits to receive a portion of the \$824,000 in funding designated for 2023 through Pennsylvania's Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program. Thank you, Erie Insurance, for investing in our youth!

Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC)

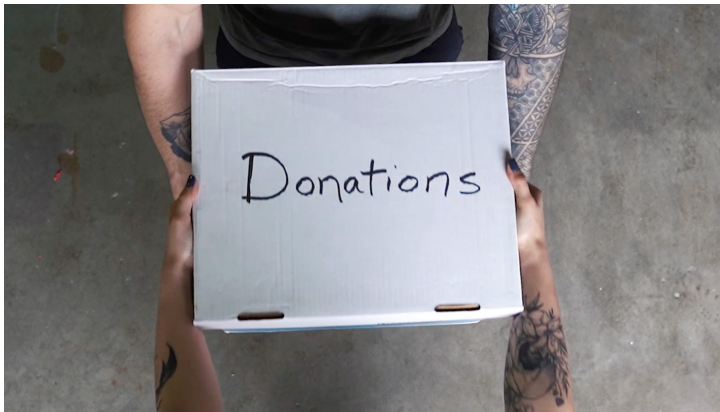
The EITC program allows businesses and individuals to lower their tax bills by donating to private schools, scholarship organizations, pre-K programs, and other educational enrichment initiatives. Those approved by the program can receive a tax credit of up to 75% of the contribution made in a one-year commitment or up to 90% of the contributions made in a two-year commitment.

If you or your business have been approved to make EITC contributions, or are interested in applying, contact Erin Layden, director of development at erin.layden@eriestymission.org or 814-452-4421, ext. 234.



Subaru Loves to Help

Subaru loves to help Erie and the Erie City Mission. Representatives from New Motors Subaru blessed the Mission in April during their "Subaru Loves to Help" month by donating 1,000 pairs of socks for their shelter. Thank you, Subaru!



Sort. Purge. Give.

Spring is finally here! Now is a great time to pack up clothing, accessories, and household items that you no longer use, and take them to the Erie City Mission's Donation Center where they will be given to people in need or sold in one of the Mission's two Thrifty Shopper stores.

Your donations restore hope and transform lives!

For a list of accepted donations, visit:
erocitymission.org/our-programs/stores-and-donations

Donations can be dropped off at our warehouse, located at 2064 W. 16th St., Erie. Do you have some bulkier items that you want to donate but are unable to drop off at the donation center? Call 814-487-8189 to schedule an appointment for an easy and hassle-free donation pickup!

Your monthly gift makes a **HUGE** impact!

When you set up ongoing support as a monthly Bread and Life partner, the Erie City Mission can be ready to help anyone who comes through its doors. That's because your partnership provides reliable, steady income to care for our homeless and hungry neighbors all year long.

For someone like Mike, that generosity transformed his life.

"The Mission is more than a shelter, it's a place of healing, a place you can heal your soul."

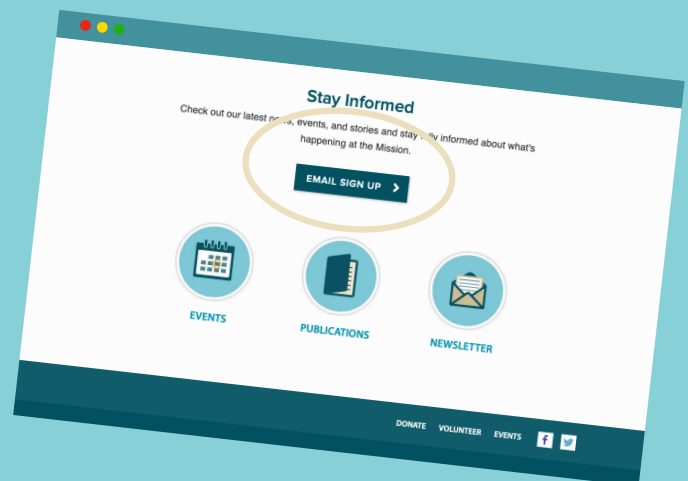
If you feel led to become a monthly or quarterly pledge partner, visit www.erocitymission.org/partner to join, or call (814) 452-4421.

Stories of *hope*

Delivered right to your inbox

As a faithful supporter of the Erie City Mission, you deserve to know what's happening here. Sign up on our website (at the bottom of the homepage) and we'll deliver stories of hope from guests, words of wisdom from volunteers, and updates on needs, directly to your inbox.

Go to erocitymission.org to sign up today!



Because you gave...

Giving Statistics for January - March 2023

33,884

Meals were prepared and served to the public and our residents during our free public lunch.

50

Men received rehabilitation, recovery, and shelter.

27

Crisis requests were fulfilled through our thrift stores.

2,388

Volunteer hours were contributed.

4,300

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