

August 2019



# The Beacon

## Women's Education Program Transforms Helping Today Grant Provides Opportunity

The Erie City Mission is blessed to be the recent recipient of a grant, awarded through the Erie Community Foundation, for its Grace House Program--a Christ-centered recovery community for Women struggling with drugs and alcohol.

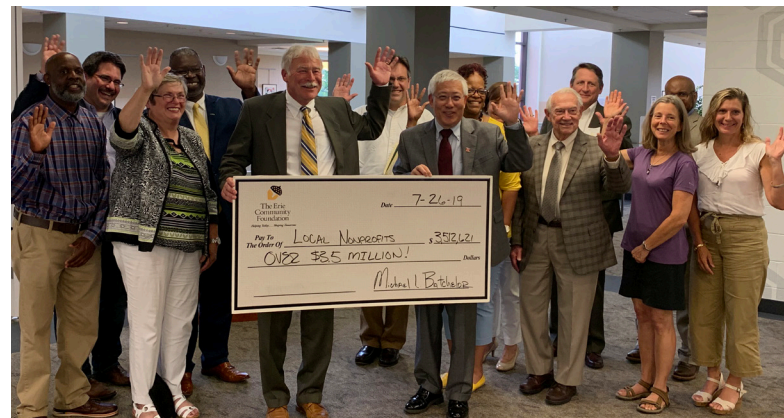
The \$15,000 Helping Today grant, will allow the Mission to evolve the program's addiction recovery curriculum to an online education platform; accommodating Grace House participants as they are active in the workforce and participating in other activities aimed towards self-sufficiency.

This project is at the core of what the Mission stands for; taking a step beyond restoring an individual's current situation and seeking to transform their life. And that transformation begins with engaging participants in our educational curriculum exploring issues relevant to addiction and recovery.

The Erie City Mission, will partner with Community Access Media (CAM) to shoot, produce and upload the program's core classes to a cloud-based platform that will be accessible to participants entering the Grace House program. "We are thrilled to be partnering with the Erie City Mission on this project," said Jacob Bartko, Executive Director of CAM. "Our goal is to assist the Mission with transforming the lives of women in Erie with the creation of these online training videos. The

*tremendous impact being made from this project on the community has the potential to last for generations."*

With a digital education platform made available to its participants, the Erie City Mission believes the addictions curriculum at Grace House can grow to support higher level learning and more specialized content. The Mission also recognizes the opportunity to collaborate with other local social service organizations to provide their participants access to the curriculum.



*The Erie City Mission was one of several local non-profits to receive a Helping Today grant. Awardees gathered together in recognition at Edinboro University on Friday, July 26.*



**August 13, 2019 • 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.**

Consider a gift to the Erie City Mission  
this Erie Gives Day!

[www.eriecitymission.org](http://www.eriecitymission.org)



## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



The Erie City Mission was honored to host Representative Mike Kelly and his staff for lunch and a tour of the newly finished campus.

It's summertime at the Mission--a busy time of the year for sure with added sunlight and better temperatures that add to the hope-filled atmosphere on the corner of French & 11th.

In this issue of the Beacon, you'll be reminded of the continued need so many among us still experience; and our efforts to meet those needs with enhanced programming, greater community collaboration and the love of Jesus Christ.

We invite you to attend or volunteer at some of our upcoming events: our Annual Banquet, Thanksgiving Turkey Bag Distribution, our Designer Bag Bingo for Grace House, and many other special meals and celebrations. We also ask for your prayers and continued support as we enter the most important season of giving for the Mission.

With your partnership, we will take our Mission into the future, bringing hope and promise to Erie. "[We] PRESS ON toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called [us] heavenward in Christ Jesus." (Phil. 3:14)

This is Our City, Our Mission!

—Steve

**Save A Date - Annual Banquet**  
**October 24 or October 25** (same program both nights)  
**Erie City Mission, Dining Hall**



## Volunteer Appreciation Get Together

August 23, 4:30 pm

Volunteers are the heartbeat of the Mission! And to thank you for all that you do for us, we are planning a summer picnic in your honor. Active volunteers across all departments are invited to join us for an indoor picnic in the Mission's Dining Hall.

Volunteers must RSVP to  
Patty White by August 16th  
814/452-4421

## Hard Work Pays Off! Congratulations to Our Recent Graduates

Recovery is a "we" thing--and the Mission is blessed to be able to celebrate with the 14 men and women who endured and held steadfast on their journey towards recovery. We hope you will join us as part of that "we", as we recognize the following graduates of our New Life Programs for Men and Women:

**Graduated May 2** - Aaron B., Lewis H., Terrance R. and Ricky W.

**Graduated May 16** - Cassie Jo K., Tammy S., Sylvia S. and Shyan S.

**Graduated July 17** - Drew B., James B., Richard H., Sean M., William M., Bryan S.



### CONTACT INFO:

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### BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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## Upcoming Events

**August 10** – Designer Bag BINGO, Grace House fundraiser

**August 13** – Erie Gives 2019

**August 23** – Volunteer Appreciation Get-Together

**October 24 or 25** – Annual Banquet - "Press On"

**November 25** – Thanksgiving Turkey Bag Distribution

**November 27** – Erie City Mission, Thanksgiving Lunch

**November 30** – Small Business Saturday

**December 2** – Koinonia Men's Christmas Party

**December 23** – Erie City Mission, Christmas Lunch

**February 18** – Knockout Homelessness 13, Bayfront Convention Center

# BUY LOCAL

#ShopErie

HELP SUPPORT ERIE SMALL BUSINESS

**Saturday, November 30th, 2019**

## Thrifty Shopper

Every Dollar Spent Helps Rescue a Life

Discover **great hidden treasures** of gently used items at a fraction of the retail price

- Clothing for Men, Women and Children
- Shoes
- Jewelry
- Accessories
- Household Items
- Furniture
- Seasonal Gifts
- And much more



- ERIE -

2064 W 16th Street  
(814) 464-8884

Mon-Fri, 10am-6pm  
Saturday, 10am-5pm

- GIRARD -

10081 W Ridge Road  
(814) 774-4256

Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm  
Saturday, 9am-4pm

a Social Enterprise division of the



Your **heart** of Thanksgiving brings a **harvest** of joy!

Our guests may never meet you, but their hearts are filled with joy and thanksgiving for the hope and opportunity you could provide during the holidays. Open your heart this Thanksgiving and Christmas to the thousands of men, women and children who will spend the holidays at the Erie City Mission.

Open your **heart** and lend a hand by:



**Filling a bag for our Thanksgiving Turkey Bag Distribution.**

On Monday, November 25th, the Erie City Mission will distribute Thanksgiving turkeys and bags, filled with all the fixings for a Thanksgiving meal. Help us fill 1,200 bags, starting September 2.

**Contact our main office to sign up. \*Monetary donations to cover the cost of purchasing the turkeys in bulk are welcomed and encouraged.**



**Prepping and serving one of our holiday meals**

It takes careful planning and organizing - and many caring volunteers - to bring a meaningful holiday to thousands of homeless and hurting people. With over 24,000 meals served at the Mission during the holiday months, we would love for you to join our volunteer team as we serve those who are hungry.

**Contact our main office to sign up for one or more open dates, (814)452-4421. Volunteers must be registered and confirmed before serving.**



**Spreading joy through song**

Brighten our guests holidays during lunch time through the sound of music. Schedule your small group, or just yourself, to sing Christmas carols during the month of December. **Contact the main office to sign up (814)452-4421.**

## Holiday Needs List

Add our shopping list to yours! Donations are welcome at 1017 French Street during regular business hours.

- Holiday Pies (Pumpkin, Apple, Pecan, etc.)
- Hams
- Turkeys
- Cereal
- Large Winter Coats (Men's 3xl+)
- Winter Hats, Scarves, Gloves, Boots







## Grace House, B-I-N-G-O!

**Saturday, August 10th - Perry Hi-Way Hose Company**

Ladies! Gather your mothers, sisters, friends and co-workers, and join us for another great night of BINGO fun. On **Saturday, August 10th**, the Erie City Mission will host a Designer Bag BINGO fundraiser for its women's recovery program at Grace House.

Tickets are \$30 a person and include 16 rounds of BINGO with a bag winner each round. Refreshments, door prizes and raffles will also be available. So grab some cash, your favorite food and drinks and meet us at the Perry Hi-Way Hose Company off of Oliver Road for an evening of fun and fundraising!

*Guests must be 21 to attend. Tickets and reserved tables of 8 are available for purchase online at [www.eriecitymission.org](http://www.eriecitymission.org). Join the Facebook event page for additional details and for exclusive sneak peeks of those designer bags.*

## When Community Comes Together, Great Things Happen

The Erie City Mission is truly blessed by the support of the community, who go above and beyond to serve our guests. This year, during the Spring and Summer holidays, volunteers stepped out to bless our lunch guests:

**On Good Friday...** Greater Calvary Full Gospel Baptist Church hosted their annual "A Really Good Friday" Easter lunch-preparing and serving food and providing a worship experience in the Mission's dining hall. Volunteers from the church have hosted Easter lunch at the Mission since 2014.



**On Memorial Day...** Long-time volunteer Paula Vega, Kelsie & Brenda Pytlarz and a team of volunteers from various churches served our lunch guests with a summer cookout; complete with hotdogs and desserts.



When community comes together, we all take part in something wonderful--working as a family of friends to help those who are hurting, hungry and in need of God's love. Thank you!



## GIVE THE GIFT OF HOPE

consider a year-end charitable gift

Will you consider being a part of the Erie City Mission's efforts to help the homeless and hurting by making a year-end gift? It's an investment in our community that makes a difference in many lives.

Simply use the enclosed response card to return your year-end gift, and you'll be giving life-saving hope to those in need. Or you can make an online gift at [www.eriecitymission.org](http://www.eriecitymission.org).

### Because you gave...

**33,216**

Meals prepared and served during our free public lunch.

**10**

Men and **4** Women graduated from our Drug and Alcohol Recovery Programs.

**164,380**

Pounds of mixed rag bale sold from our Donation Center for **\$24,424** in revenue.

**11,217**

Volunteer hours contributed.

**4,238**

Safe overnights in our Samaritan Care Shelter for men.

**34**

Urban University students served during the Summer.

### Giving Statistics for April - June 2019