A “Cause” For Celebration!

Erie loves to celebrate! With a unique spirit and pride, our city honors its progress and its possibilities. With so many wonderful resources, there is much cause for Erie’s nonprofit organizations to celebrate too.

On Saturday, July 25, the Erie City Mission, in collaboration with the Martin Luther King Center, AmeriHealth Caritas Pennsylvania, LECOM Health, the Neighborhood Resource Organization, Erie Gains and the West Bayfront Neighborhood Watch hosted its first Summer Outreach Celebration.

This family-centered outreach introduced Erie’s inner-city to the many programs and services available through our local non-profit agencies. Focusing on healthy choices while encouraging quality family time outdoors, this outreach was a wonderful celebration of our community’s many resources. This event was free to the public and included a delicious picnic lunch.

Guests interacted with various nonprofits and community organizations represented through fun family activities and crafts, all while learning about the services and programs available to them.

The celebration continued with a family chalk-walk competition, health education presentations on bullying and children’s health and special appearances from the Jolly Jester Clowns, C. Wolf from the Erie Seawolves, the Tooth Fairy and a meet and greet with our local Firemen.

We are grateful to the nonprofit vendors, community businesses, partners and volunteers that aided in the success of this event.

**Join in on the celebration!** As we begin planning for next year, consider joining us as a nonprofit vendor or volunteer. For information contact the Erie City Mission at 814/452-4421 or development@eriecitymission.org.

Children’s Ministry Programs Expand

**Bonkers 4 Jesus Summer Programs**

Our Children’s Ministry Summer Camp Programs, Bonkers 4 Jesus, continues to expand it’s hands-on, career exploratory courses for students, 1st-8th grade, in Erie’s urban community.

This year’s programs reached out to over 130 youth, introducing new courses such as Chemistry Science, Woodworking, Sign Language, Journalism, Photography, Sewing, Golf and Clowning. In addition to maintaining a strong focus on quality mentoring relationships and imparting applicable Christian principles, we continued to offer art, athletic, and academic enriching experiences.

During the two, week-long camps at Pfeiffer-Burleigh and Wayne Schools, students worked on projects like creating a video documentary, writing a newspaper, developing photographic displays, and various other demonstrations.

Urban University After-School Programs

The 2015-2016 Urban University After-School program will kick off its 2nd full year continuing to build mentoring relationships with students at Wayne School and starting this September, Pfeiffer-Burleigh as well.

This growing youth ministry is currently seeking committed volunteers willing to invest one day a week for 8 weeks to middle school students in our fall and winter courses that include, Outdoor Exploration, Tae Kwon Do, Horsemanship, Chorus, Art History, Fashion Design and Merchandising and Leadership.

The goal of all our youth programs is to give students opportunities to discover God-given talents within themselves, build self-confidence and dream above any limiting circumstance.

For more information on how to invest in our programs financially or as a volunteer, please contact RoseMarie Lackey, Director of Women and Children’s Ministries at rmlackey@eriecitymission.org.
You're cordially invited to
The Erie City Mission’s Annual Banquet
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2015

GREAT HALL NORTH / BAYFRONT CONVENTION CENTER
1 SASSAFRAS PIER, ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA

RESERVATIONS AND QUESTIONS:
Contact Erin Layden at Erin.Layden@ErieCityMission.org
5:30 PM: DOORS OPEN
6:00 PM: DINNER
7:00 PM: PROGRAM BEGINS

5:30 PM: DOORS OPEN
HORS D’OEUVRES
6:00 PM: DINNER
7:00 PM: PROGRAM BEGINS

TICKETS: $45  TABLE OF 10: $425
SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE
RSVP BY OCTOBER 8TH
814.452.4421, EXT. 235

RESERVATIONS AND QUESTIONS:
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If you’ve ever spent time by the sea in a tropical place, you’ve probably noticed distinctive trees that rise from a tangle of roots wriggling out of the mud. These are mangroves—shrub and tree species that live along shores, rivers, and estuaries in the tropics and subtropics. Mangroves can be remarkably tough, forming dense barriers against storms, saving lives and producing a source for abundant food (many creatures find food and shelter among the mangrove roots)… and it’s the unusual roots of the mangroves that make it all work.

In a way, the Erie City Mission has become a type of mangrove for many who are living on the margins of our society. When life’s storms seem to threaten those living in poverty or those bound by the stronghold of addiction, the Mission becomes for them a haven of safety—a place of protection and a place for hope to be restored. And just like the mangroves, the Mission’s roots are absolutely critical.

For 104 years the “roots” of the Erie City Mission have been firmly established in the person of Jesus Christ. We are not just another social service agency—we do what we do in the Name of Christ—Restoring Hope and Changing Lives.

Our annual celebration this October is picking up on that idea: ROOTED IN CHRIST. The Apostle Paul speaks about the importance of putting down deep roots in Christ in his letter to the Colossians—“Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.” (Colossians 2:7 NLT).

We hope that you’ll join us this year for our annual celebration and discover afresh the many ways in which God is using the Mission as an instrument in His hands—with “roots” firmly established in Him and hearts overflowing with thankfulness.

Grace and peace to you in the fullest measure,
Hello! My name is Jacie Steinheiser, the Men’s Ministry intern here at the Erie City Mission. I am currently pursuing my Masters in Social Service Administration at Case Western Reserve University and am excited to add this internship to my studies.

I have worked in Social Services for a long time and am constantly challenged by the limitations set by the secular organizations and programs. Working closely with Darrell Smith and the Men’s Ministry staff, I am genuinely impressed by the biblical teachings and principals incorporated into their shelter and recovery programs.

Since the start of my internship in January, I have been learning the ins and outs of the shelter and New Life Program. Some of my experiences thus far have been working at the Men’s Desk, interviewing prospective clients for the New Life Program and assisting Dr. Tim and Mary with their classes on Cognitive Renewal and Relapse Prevention. I have even been given the opportunity to provide individual counseling to some of the men.

Having never worked with individuals affected by homelessness, my involvement with the Mission’s shelter program has given me an opportunity to explore new areas of my degree. I recently finished a research assignment highlighting homeless men in the city of Erie and had the privilege of interviewing several men residing in the Samaritan Care Shelter. I spoke with them about the many barriers that aid in them remaining homeless. I was certain their biggest barrier would be the struggle to find permanent housing/shelter. I was wrong. The greatest problem was transportation.

My research with this topic has opened a door to the possibility of an independent study surrounding transportation and Erie’s homeless. This study would explore a partnership with the Erie Metropolitan Transit Authority (EMTA) in providing free transportation (through grants or fundraising) to the homeless.

The Men’s Ministry team does a wonderful job in working together for the overall well being of the men they serve. I am truly grateful that I am able to be a part of this team and am able to finally incorporate my faith along with the social work that I love to do.

Thank you Darrell, Dr. Tim and Mary!
The Fundraising Road, Less Traveled

More and more, fundraising is becoming a “Global” challenge for organizations. With the continued growth of the internet, what used to be a local marketplace for non-profits to compete in, has quickly grown into a worldwide phenomenon. Non-Profit organizations in the USA are competing for donations with other organizations all around the world.

As a non-profit organization, the Erie City Mission is constantly looking for new ways to become more efficient with our fundraising. In an effort to engage our seasoned donors and attract new ones, the Mission is excited to announce a new partnership with OurGV.org.

OurGV.org is the #1 source for alternative fundraising tools in the world today; providing internet search fundraising, internet shopping fundraising, coupon promotion fundraising and much, much more.

OurGV.org makes it easy for donors to raise money for the Mission by encouraging them to streamline their normal online activity. “i.e. online shopping, search engine optimization, etc”.

Here’s how it works: the Erie City Mission has been issued a Branded Fundraising Page. The features on this page are specifically designed to help ECM raise funds. There is no cost involved and it works with all browsers. All you need to do is make this page your homepage and participate in the same activities you are already doing.

To begin fundraising for the Mission, follow the step-by-step instructions below.

1. Type the following address into your web browser - http://client.benefitbar.com/a2436
2. Click on the “make us your home page” button and follow the very simple directions provided.
3. Explore the various ways to raise money for the Mission by clicking on the “Activity” drop down menu. Use some or all of the seven activities daily or at least three times a week. The more you use the more you help.
4. Search the internet using the Yahoo!-powered search engine at the bottom of the page. Each time you do a search, roughly a penny is raised for the Erie City Mission. Put simply: you search, we get!

We hope you will join us in taking the fundraising road, less traveled and making our cause to restore hope and change lives all the better for it! Please share this information with your family, friends and networks, so they too can help make a difference.

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A Harvest of Giving

Start with a few dollars, a few pounds of food or a few hours of volunteering. That’s all it takes to make a difference this holiday season.

And with so many opportunities to partner with the Mission this Thanksgiving and Christmas, why not consider joining our team? We make it easy and fun to get involved. Just choose what works best for you, depending on your interests, time and resources.

Fill a bag to bless a family in need this Thanksgiving. The Mission will continue its tradition of distributing Thanksgiving turkey bags to over 1,200 families. Help us fill these bags!

Bags can be picked up at the Mission’s Main Office, 1017 French Street, beginning September 1. Each bag will have an attached list of groceries that are needed. Filled bags should be returned to the Mission no later than November 13.

Due to limited storage, monetary donations to purchase turkeys in bulk quantities is suggested and preferred.

Participate and make a difference. Gather your family, friends and colleagues to have fun and support the Mission at the same time through the following volunteer opportunities:

Prep and serve one of our holiday meals during the months of November, December and January. Visit our website for current openings. Kitchen experience preferred.

Spread some cheer for all to hear! Schedule your singing or musical group, for a day in December, to ring in the sounds of the Christmas season to our Public Meal guests.

Our Christmas 4 Kids program is scheduled for Saturday, December 12 at our Family Care Center. Get involved! Donate towards the event or join our volunteer team that day.

Our annual Christmas fundraiser, “#PartoftheSolution Radio-thon” with NASH-FM, is scheduled for Thursday, December 17 at the Millcreek Mall. Many hands are needed to help set-up, answer phones, take pledges and tear down.

To register/sign-up for any of the above opportunities or to learn more, contact the Mission at 814/452-4421 or visit our website at www.eriecitymission.org.

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Did You Know?

Your monthly giving can be done online through the secure donation page on our website. Visit us at www.eriecitymission.org and click on the donate button located at the top right. Donations can be made using a credit card or electronic check. Your giving receipt will be emailed directly to you.

Because you gave...

42 Men/Women received rehabilitation, recovery and shelter
5,292 Emergency shelter bed nights
37,069 Hot, nutritious meals prepared and served
19,095 Individuals served through Family Care Center
1,542 Households served through Kings Kloset
130 Children/youth served in ECM’s Summer Camps (B4J)

Giving Statistics for April-June 2015