

Good NEIGHBORS



THIS IS YOUR CITY. THIS IS YOUR MISSION.

HOLIDAY 2018

.....“
Everyone's Got a
Second Chance
Somewhere
.....”

Your gifts bring joy to hurting people like
Romex at Christmas and all year round.

*On Page 3: Read how your partnership and prayers helped
him find the purpose God intended for him!*

For more information: (716) 854-8181, ext. 429 • buffalocitymission.org

Don't miss...

2 The Blessings of
Year-End Giving

3 "I'm doing the
right thing."

4 Mission Possible

Romex stood at the front door of the Mission, gathering his courage to come in the first time...

"I just wanted to get away from friends who were doing things they shouldn't be doing and start over. Do things the right way," Romex says.

For as long as he could remember, Romex had done things the wrong way. He grew up with a single mom who moved around a lot and had a string of abusive boyfriends, so he learned early on not to trust anyone. One of his bad decisions led to five years in jail in his early 20s, so he was determined not to go back to prison when he "ran on tough times, got laid off from my job and couldn't afford to pay rent or bills."

A friend told Romex about the Mission, and he knew it was his best chance to escape a life wasted on the streets or in prison. He entered the DREAM Transitional Housing Program and found a peace and purpose for his life he never could have imagined.

Here, through your gifts, he was blessed with the essentials of safe shelter... nutritious meals... and everything he needed to feel comfortable and at home.

Coming to the Mission restored his faith in God, and Romex dedicated himself to improving his life and building a better future. "When you come to the Mission, everyone's got a second chance somewhere. You just got to pay it forward."

"I just knew if I kept on the way I was going, I would end up in trouble again, and I didn't want to give away any more time."

Today, Romex goes to school for medical coding and billing. By the time he graduates from the DREAM program, he will be state certified and can go anywhere he wants to find work. He is thankful that the Lord has softened his heart and provided friends at the Mission, as well as a church and school family he's come to rely on for support.

This Christmas, as Romex celebrates Christ's birth, he'll also celebrate the joyous new life he found inside our doors... because of your kind compassion.

"Now I'm more peaceful, less angry, more patient and slow to speak. I'm at a point in my life now where I'm doing the right thing. I have people in my life who care about me and want to see me do good."

"I'm chasing a new lifestyle... a new structure for peace."





Your gifts
bring *joy*
to
hurting people.

Your generous contributions are not only blessings in themselves, but they're multiplied exponentially by the countless gifts they allow the Mission to share with those who are hungry, hurting and homeless.

The food, shelter and clothing we provide are gifts that fulfill the most basic human needs. Guidance, education and job training are gifts too – and when accepted with commitment and dedication, they can lead to lives filled with promise and purpose.

Yet the greatest gift we offer inside our doors is the message of God's love and grace, which can transform lives for eternity!

This issue of *Good NEIGHBORS* is all about sharing gifts – a subject that's especially appropriate during the holiday season as we prepare to celebrate Christ's birth. Yet God's work, the Mission's outreach and our partnership with friends like you is focused on giving all year long!

Of course, none of our ministries would be possible without the gifts you first give to us. And I'm so very grateful for your selfless giving, which brings joy to our hurting guests at Christmas and every day of the year. God bless you this holiday season and always.

Stuart L. Harper
Executive Director

P.S. Once again we'll be holding our Hambone Express event to provide holiday dinners to less fortunate families, seniors and others right here in Buffalo, and we need volunteers to help deliver! If you can help, please contact Sue Cervi at **(716) 854-8181, ext. 408.**

end **HUNGER...**
offer **HOPE**

11,780 MEALS BY
CHRISTMAS

A single nutritious meal is often the first step toward a new beginning for those who are hungry, homeless and struggling with life's challenges. Most importantly, it's an opportunity to share God's love – the greatest gift you can give!

It costs only \$1.98 to provide one meal for a hungry person, at the holidays and all year round!

✉ **GIVE NOW** using the enclosed reply card and envelope.

💻 **GIVE ONLINE** anytime at **buffalocitymission.org.**



**THE *Blessings* OF
YEAR-END GIVING**

Many Mission partners choose to make an extra financial gift by December 31 to maximize their tax deduction for the current calendar year, while helping the Mission assist those in need well into the year ahead. Your generosity will touch countless lives!

✉ Add your special holiday gift to the reply card and send it today!



KIDS MAKING AN IMPACT

Calling all agents to alleviate hunger! Do you know a local student – at school, church or in your community – who's eager to accept this mission? We're inviting local students to join this year's Mission Possible food-drive challenge and help us reach our goal of 35,000 canned goods raised!

Last year, agents raised over 32,000 canned goods, feeding over 8,000 individuals in our community. As they collect goods and compete for prizes and the title of ultimate agent, teams will learn about the struggles those touched by homelessness face. As an agent from last year shares, "The best part is seeing how much we're giving and how much our school cares."

For more information on joining in on this year's Mission Possible, visit bcmpossible.org or contact Heather Mattiuzzo ☎ (716) 348-3112
✉ hmattiuzzo@buffalocitymission.org.



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Make your #GivingTuesday gift now by shopping our Christmas Gift Catalog. It's full of ways to bring the joy of help and hope to people in need.



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📱 Shop online at buffalocitymission.org/GiftCatalog.

✉ Or, add your special holiday gift to the enclosed reply card.

These Christmas gifts are representative of the needs of those we serve. Donations may be used to support the area of our ministry with the greatest need.