



Media Contact: Taylor Stuart | (607) 857-7370 | pr@19ideas.com

## **Buffalo City Mission Announces \$500,000 Commitment from KeyBank and First Niagara Foundation**

*Gift will support the City Mission's \$15 million campaign for the Alfiero Family Center of Hope and Promise, scheduled to open in the first half of this year*



**BUFFALO, NEW YORK (January 20, 2021)** – The Buffalo City Mission today announced a \$500,000 financial commitment from KeyBank and its partner, First Niagara Foundation.

With today's gift, the City Mission is approaching the \$15 million target of its Next Century Capital Campaign to fund its new one-stop community center, the Alfiero Family Center of Hope and Promise.

"The City Mission is thrilled to have the support of KeyBank and the First Niagara Foundation," said Stuart Harper, CEO and Executive Director of the Buffalo City Mission. "Their generous gift further empowers our organization to serve the poor and homeless throughout Western New York."

"KeyBank, in partnership with the First Niagara Foundation, works to support programs and organizations that address poverty in our community and the needs of the most vulnerable by helping to provide the resources necessary for the disadvantaged and those on the verge of homelessness," said Elizabeth Gurney, Executive Director of the KeyBank and First Niagara Foundations. "The Buffalo City Mission is providing shelter, food, daycare, after school and summer care, medical care as well as continuing education for thousands of homeless men, women and children and veterans. And now,



through the new Alfiero Center of Hope and Promise, innovative and comprehensive recovery programs will be offered to help put individuals on the path to self-sufficiency and inspire lasting change.”

“We are grateful to KeyBank and the First Niagara Foundation for their commitment to the Alfiero Family Center of Hope and Promise,” said Ms. Calhoun. “Our organizations share a dedication to serving this community so that everyone can have an opportunity to prosper. Today’s gift plays an instrumental role in helping reach our \$15 million goal for this new community center. It is also an honor to have them alongside us, as sponsors for the Pathway to Hope and Healing, that is dedicated to the rescue and restoration of individuals and families that face difficult challenges to overcome poverty and homelessness. This new pathway will reside outside the center for generations to come, displaying the many names of donors who represent our City of Good Neighbors through their care and support to help change lives.”

The announcement was part of a ceremonial press photo event held today outside the Alfiero Family Center of Hope and Promise. Notable attendees included Stuart Harper, CEO and Executive Director of the Buffalo City Mission, Aubrey Calhoun, Associate Executive Director of the Buffalo City Mission, and Elizabeth Gurney, Executive Director of the KeyBank Foundation and First Niagara Foundation.

The 75,000 square foot Alfiero Center provides preventative services on the front end to decrease the percentage of homelessness year-over-year for those who are on the brink of homelessness. It delivers more complete care to individuals who already experience homelessness. Notable features include space for social service agencies, case management, mental health services, medical care, the first recuperative care unit in Buffalo, job training, education, food, clothing and more.

The Alfiero Center’s ribbon cutting ceremony is scheduled for March 26, and will include a full announcement on total dollars raised for the Mission’s Next Century Capital Campaign. The building is part of the City Mission’s vision moving into the next century to provide services that help prevent and decrease homelessness in the community.

To engage others with the Center, the City Mission is also continuing its Pick-a-Brick campaign – a dynamic fundraising initiative that provides community individuals and organizations with an opportunity to make a lasting legacy gift to build a “Pathway to Hope” for the next century. To pick your brick today, and to learn more about how you can help pave a pathway to a new life, visit [pickabrick.org](http://pickabrick.org).

To learn more about the campaign and how to donate, visit [nextcenturycampaign.org](http://nextcenturycampaign.org).

### **About the Buffalo City Mission**

The Buffalo City Mission, founded in 1917, is a nonprofit organization providing preventative, emergency, and transitional housing programs to thousands of people who are homeless and impoverished every year. The Mission includes a Women and Children’s Shelter (Cornerstone Manor), the Men’s Community Center, and the Dick Road thrift store to serve the Western New York community. For more information, please visit [buffalocitymission.org](http://buffalocitymission.org) or call (716) 854-8181.



Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BuffaloCityMission>

Follow us on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/CityMission>

### **About KeyBank**

KeyBank's roots trace back 190 years to Albany, New York. Headquartered in Cleveland, Ohio, KeyCorp is one of the nation's largest bank-based financial services companies, with assets of approximately \$170.5 billion at September 30, 2020. Key provides deposit, lending, cash management and investment services to individuals and businesses in 15 states under the name KeyBank National Association through a network of over 1,000 branches and more than 41,000 KeyBank ATMs and Allpoint surcharge free ATMs for many customers when using a KeyBank debit card nationwide. Key also provides a broad range of sophisticated corporate and investment banking products, such as merger and acquisition advice, public and private debt and equity, syndications and derivatives to middle market companies in selected industries throughout the United States under the KeyBanc Capital Markets trade name. For more information, visit <https://www.key.com/>. KeyBank is Member FDIC.

### **About the First Niagara Foundation**

Founded in 1998, the First Niagara Foundation will carry out the philanthropic legacy of First Niagara Bank, which was acquired by KeyBank in 2016. The Foundation, in partnership with KeyBank, supports not for profit organizations dedicated to empowering individuals and neighborhoods primarily in Western New York. For more information, visit <http://www.firstniagarafoundation.org>