



Making a Difference

A new community website is helping Harvest House address the challenges and barriers to job connectivity, economic self-sufficiency and equal access to resources to the most vulnerable populations in our city.

www.NumbersInNeed.org was designed using research collected by The John R. Oishei Foundation's Mobile Safety Net Team and UB's Regional Institute—School of Architecture and Planning.

This new online resource provides data, insights, strategies, and models to help us better understand and address the most pressing issues related to poverty and economic vulnerability in the Buffalo Niagara Region. This site identifies people and places in need and factors that matter such as access to jobs, education, household income, affordable housing and safe neighborhoods.

Number in Need provides valuable information on the neighborhoods we serve in their Community Snapshot titles: City of Buffalo (East)

- 42% of Buffalo's residents live on Buffalo's East Side
- 78% are people of color
- Since 2011, those living in or near poverty in this area increased by 2%, while the population declined by 3%
- Nearly 79,000 residents in this area live in or near poverty, with basic incomes below 200% of the federal poverty line
 - 32% live on incomes below the federal poverty level (based on family size:\$25,750 for a family of 4).
 - 25% live close to federal poverty levels (we typically serve individuals with an average income of \$28,000)
 - 52% are doing poorly or struggling financially

Each year, our small staff of 15 and more than 170 Harvest House volunteers reach out into this high need community to help break down barriers keeping people in poverty by providing integrated and inclusive support services through our four service branches:

The New Hope Education Center: Helps adults living in poverty get training and support to secure living-wage jobs. We collaborate with Erie 2 CC Boces and Buffalo Public Schools Adult Education to provide certificate-based programs that lead to jobs in allied health and construction trades. More than 1,300 students attend tutoring and certificate-based trainings annually. Our students are provided support services that address the disconnectedness of poverty and improving the life chances of individuals living in otherwise uncertain circumstances.. Harvest House support services focus on the complex needs of students who struggle to attain academic/vocational goals and have faced challenges in meeting their own basic needs for shelter, food, clothing, safety, healthcare, and education.

Continued on page 2

Making a difference cont.

Good Neighbors Health Care: Improves access to health care for the uninsured, underinsured, and working poor. As a community-based organization we provide health education, diagnosis, treatments and referrals and outreach to individuals at risk of chronic illness. Services include: health promotion and education, medical care (including primary medical care, physicals and connection to low cost prescriptions), counseling and dental care. In addition to providing routine, non emergent care, clinic staff conduct physicals, screen for chronic conditions such as depression, diabetes and hypertension and assist individuals and families to enroll in health insure plans, including Medicaid, and Child and/or Family Health Plus.

Baby and Children's Ministry: Provides children living in poverty with clothing, safe cribs, car seats and linkage to care. More than 200 community service agencies sent more than 5,000 children living in poverty to our ministry each year for clothing, safe cribs, educational toys and books. *Did you know?* Research shows that young children living in poverty have little access to educational toys and books which leads to subsequent school achievement gap. Harvest House reaches out in the community and to business who provide education books for the children we serve.

Retreat Center: Increases the number of individuals who find their call to community service. Each year High School and College students from around the corner as well as around the country join us for retreats, fellowship and connection to service in our community. Our Retreat Center calls young people to action; developing the next generations of volunteers through outreach and service.

All of our ministries work hand-in-hand utilizing our Core Christian Values: Service, Compassion, Respect, Social Justice, and Collaboration. We invite you to join us!

BOTTLES FOR BABIES™

Thank you to the following churches and organizations who have participated in, or are participating in, our Bottles for Babies™ campaign this quarter, including:

St. Benedicts, Snyder
John Newman Community, Williamsville
Contemporary Club of Clarence
Trinity Hamburg
Lord of Life Church, Depew

Several churches are participating in this campaign during Lent. To all the churches and individuals who support this campaign, thank you for your support. It is your support that allows us to purchase the socks, underwear, coats, boots, pack 'n plays and so forth that we buy for the 5,000 children who use the Baby and Children's Ministry.

How to contact us:

Harvest House
1782 Seneca Street
Buffalo, NY 14210-1895

Retreat Center & Main Office 716-825-0929
ltatu@harvesthousebuffalo.org
admin@harvesthousebuffalo.org

Harvest House Ministry Center
175 Jefferson Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14210-1038

Good Neighbors Health Care 716-856-2400
GoodNeighbors@harvesthousebuffalo.org
Good Neighbors Dental Care 716-856-2400
Goodneighborsdental@harvesthousebuffalo.org
Baby & Children's Ministry 716-824-7818
Babyministry@harvesthousebuffalo.org
New Hope Education Center 716-855-0654
NewHope@harvesthousebuffalo.org
cmurphy@harvesthousebuffalo.org

www.harvesthousebuffalo.org



Baby &
Children's
Ministry

175 Jefferson Avenue
716-824-7818

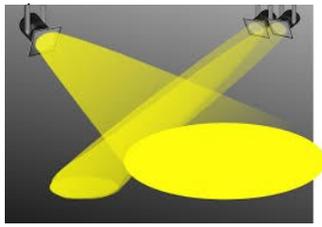


We are sending a huge thank you to all of our Christmas Angels! Harvest House was able to help over 50 families this year due to your generous gifts. Many of these parents would not have anything for their children on Christmas morning. Each one was blessed beyond words. We are so grateful to each one of you for sharing your love with our families.

The Law Offices of William Mattar had quite a good time hand-making ornaments for our Baby & Children's Ministry this Christmas. We were so excited when they brought the ornaments and our clients were doubly excited to be able to choose which to take home with them. The employees also collected clothing for our children.

THANK YOU!!!!





EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

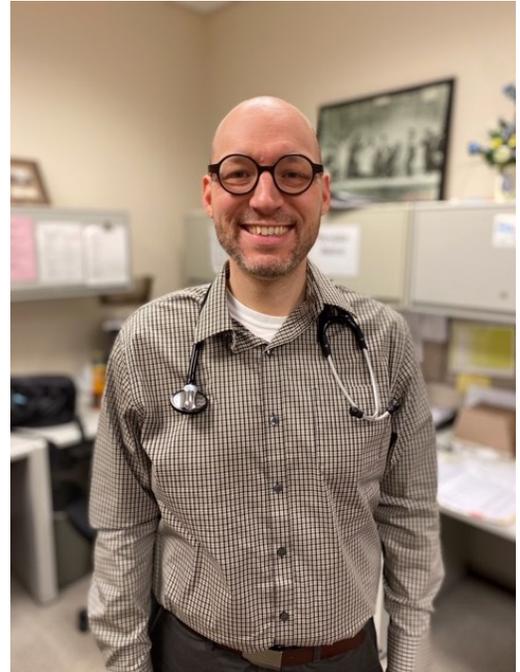


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This month, we salute Beth Dudek. Beth has volunteered in the Baby & Children’s Ministry since she was a little girl before becoming a support staff member in September of 2018. Beth played an integral part in revamping the inventory and stock rotation systems in the ministry. She also prepares for the many volunteer groups that come in, and directs them so their precious time with us is the most beneficial to the ministry. Thank you Beth!

*Always do your best
What you plant now
You will harvest later.*



Jeff Thompson is our newest provider in Good Neighbors Primary Care. He is an emergency medicine physician with an extensive background in both international and domestic mission work. He has a heart for this community and for helping those that fall through the cracks of the healthcare system. He is very active in his church and community and has a desire to use his skills to serve in this capacity. He brings an energetic, "jump right in" attitude to our Thursday evening team and we are so excited to be working with him. Jeff is a wonderful addition to our Good Neighbors family!



New Hope Education & Training Center

175 Jefferson Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14210
716-855-0654

Another New Class!

Harvest House has partnered this past year with Erie 2 CC Boces and the Empire State Work Force Development Program to start a new Phlebotomy program at the New Hope Education Center. Students began the first Phlebotomy class on Monday, February 3rd and will attend the class on Monday and Thursday evenings. We are very excited that the students enrolled in the class will be able to gain clinical experience by performing blood draws for the Good Neighbors Primary Care clinic. Students will be able to use this class and their clinical experience as a great resume builder to help them obtain positions in Phlebotomy or grow their career in the health care industry. The partnership with Good Neighbors will also benefit the patients in the Primary Care Clinic. Patients will be given the option of having their blood drawn for labs that have been ordered right at Good Neighbors instead of being sent to another facility. We are very excited to offer this service to our patients and allow students to gain valuable experience!



175 Jefferson Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14210
716-856-2400



GOOD NEIGHBORS

The Doctor Is In

New Clinic Hours

Monday 5:30-7:30pm
Wednesday 8:30-11:00am
NEW Thursday 5:30-7:30pm

HEALTH CARE

BEFORE THEY HEAR US

Some of the best conversations in the world are with 3 and 4 year olds! Their innocence mixed with brutal honesty can leave the listener staggering under the weight of the message.

Three year old Christy and I were chatting after church one Sunday. The morning had been a busy one, and I just needed to catch up with her on how her time in Sunday school class had gone. I started out by asking who the helper was in her class that day.

Christy replied, "Oh, ya know... there was Aunt Sonia, and the lady that you have to touch her before she hears you."

I just stared at my little girl in silence. I had just heard a powerful sermon... in one sentence. Christy had learned that the helper in her class, who was hearing impaired, would "hear" her if she touched her first. This alerted the woman to turn to look at the child, and then she could lip read what they were saying.

We have to touch them before they hear us.

Jesus showed us so perfectly how it's done. As he walked the dusty roads of Galilee and Judea, He met the people right where they were, in their need.... touching them, healing them, feeding them, helping them, listening to them.... and **then** teaching them.

Sometimes we over-complicate the simplicity that God calls us to. It was after Jesus had washed His disciples' feet that He taught them about washing each other's feet. They simply were ready to listen. He said, "I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you." John 13:15

If you have... brought a few cookies to your neighbor who's been sick stopped in the grocery store aisle to hear a lonely elderly shopper tell you their woes... plowed a neighbor's driveway on a snowy morning.... dropped a card in the mail to someone whose heart has been torn by grief.... called someone who has been going through a rough patch – just to cheer them up.... dropped off a coffee to a single mom, who's struggling to see the light at the end of the tunnel.... dragged your weary body out of bed for the ninth time that night to check your child's fever, praying it will break.... placed an arm around a friend, as their tears fell heavy on a grave... held the hand of a stranger who had no place to call 'home'....

.... then you have touched them. Maybe now they'll hear you.

By Ruth P. Verratti

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Family Justice Center

YOU'RE SAFE HERE

Through a partnership with The Family Justice Center, FJC advocate, Jennifer Elliott, is now co-located at Harvest House full time, five days a week, where she meets one-on-one with clients experiencing abuse.

Harvest House serves residents living in poverty who have health care and health education barriers, transportation barriers, lack of educational advancement and little to no employment or income potential due to lack of education and training opportunities. These barriers make it almost impossible to surpass when an individual is also dealing with domestic violence. The FJC and Harvest House have each been addressing some of these barriers individually, however our new partnership will allow the agencies to combine their resources for a more holistic and effective approach for victims of domestic violence.

“The FJC recent partnership with Harvest House has been nothing short of amazing! Harvest House has mirrored our model of the one stop shop for Domestic Violence and applied this to their effort to provide resources to the community. With this partnership the community not only has access to low cost/free medical care, a baby ministry, and educational opportunities (all provided by Harvest House) but Domestic Violence support as well, one of the barriers that prevents potential students and patients from receiving and/or continuing services. Patients and students will be able to speak with me regarding their DV situations and receive a safety plan, information regarding court process and procedures, resources needed to provide a safer environment, etc. Harvest House staff will now have a resource for assistance when confronted with students and/or patients dealing with DV situations including best methods to approach each situation and safety planning tips. Both agencies have expressed extreme gratitude to each other’s work in the community and have confidence that our partnership will increase our positive impact across Erie County”.

- JENNIFER ELLIOTT, FJC ADVOCATE

Retreat Center

Spring is just around the corner and for the retreat center that means Spring Break work trips. So far this year we have St Michaels, Vermont, Villa Nova College, Ontario, and Lifestream Church Michigan, using us as their home base while they go out and work in the community. Spring also means high school confirmation and high school class retreats. Kairos, the prison ministry serving Wende Correctional Facility, uses the retreat center twice a year as their home during the four day event.

After that comes the week long summer work camp/retreats. Our friends from Allentown First Presbyterian Church in Pennsylvania will be back this year and back for their 6th consecutive year are the wonderful youth and adult leaders from Duluth Presbyterian Church near Atlanta, Georgia. A summer regular, Young Neighbors in Action, brings youth and their leaders to Harvest House from all over the United States. The two weeks they are here can bring guests from as many as 10 different states!

BUT Harvest House is not just for retreats. Is your company, church or social club looking for meeting space? The center is available any weekday or evening for your group to enjoy the comfortable and welcoming setting. There is a dining room that seats 75, a fully equipped kitchen, conference room for 18 and meeting rooms that can fit up to 30 people comfortably in living room settings. There is also a carpeted gymnasium for ice breakers and large group activities. For more information or to tour the facility call the office at 825-0929 x 301 or contact us via email at ltatu@harvesthousebuffalo.org. We look forward to being able to welcome you to our wonderful space.



Spotlight on Inter-Community Services Inc.

A Catholic Health Charity of Choice

Friday, April 5, 2019 from 11:00-2:00pm - ARTC Lobby

Every week during Lent we are spotlighting one of the four Charities of Choice Catholic Health has chosen.

This week come and learn about Inter-Community Services Inc. and what services they offer to the community and the possible opportunities to share your gifts, talent and donations with those in need!

Part of the Herd

The Cape buffalo is a huge 1000-2000 pound animal with extremely sharp & lethal horns. These animals live in herds. They include both their young and old; those that are not capable of taking care of themselves. If there is danger or if predators are near, the animals do not leave each other to fend for themselves, they gather together making one powerful group. They have even been known to go after an attacking lion and kill it.

In Hebrews 10:24-25, the writer says “let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another .” This is God’s direction to us as followers of Jesus. We are to meet together, forming a stronger group, to help one another do good works. Unlike the Cape buffalo, our goal is not necessarily survival, but to strive to be more like Jesus as loving and effective servants of God in this world.

At Harvest House, our “herd” includes our Board of Directors, staff, hundreds of volunteers, and now, collaborative agencies who have all been called here by God to form that larger group. Each one person in this “herd” has the privilege and God-given direction to “encourage one another and build each other up.” (1 Thessalonians 5:11) THIS is how we are able to come together as strong advocates for those in our community that are not yet capable of taking care of themselves. Each one of us plays an integral part in caring for, educating, and loving the people that take those first few steps through our doors. Our hope is that each of our clients, patients and students can leave here having seen the light of Christ shine through us. Standing as one big group, we can make a huge impact in these lives, allowing them to live as proud, self-sustaining members of this community.

Lord, thank you for reminding us to encourage one another. Help us to remain focused on the reason we are part of this “herd” you have brought together; our clients, patients and students.

And the Survey Says....

Recently the staff took a survey so we could see how each of us came to be a member of the Harvest House family. The results were fascinating. Most found out about Harvest House through family or a friend. One very interesting question – “Do you come to serve because of your faith, your desire for social justice or a combination of the two?” yielded an overwhelming 75% of the responses for “a combination of both.” Four different denominations were represented. Below are some of the interesting quotes from the survey:

“I would say growth in both myself and how I help others is important to me.”

“Serving people like Jesus did.”

“I gave my life to Christ 12 years ago when I committed my life to ministry. My desire to serve Christ is what led me to Harvest House.”

“I feel God has placed me here to further serve my community and reach out to those in need.”

Volunteer Opportunities



We need your hands and feet!

Are you looking for ways to get involved and give back to your community?

Our work is powered by hundreds of volunteers each year. We are blessed with an amazing team of volunteers who jump right in and help in all of our ministries. Are you willing to step up and join us in making a real difference in people's lives?

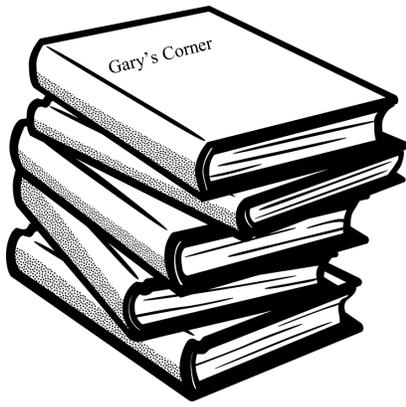
Volunteer as Dentist, dental hygienist, dental assistant, receptionist, Doctor, PA, NP, nurse, pharmacist. Volunteers needed once a week (3 hour shift) or once a month. Contact Kait Gannon at 716-856-2400 x222 goodneighbors@harvesthousebuffalo.org Good Neighbors is open Monday & Thursday 5pm-8pm, and Wednesday 8am-11am.



Volunteer as a tutor in Math or English. Contact Tim Martin 716-855-0655 x211 or newhope@harvesthousebuffalo.org New Hope is open Monday thru Friday 8am-9pm.

Volunteer to help hang and sort donations on a one time, monthly, or as able basis. Volunteer weekly for 3 hour shift when the Baby and Children's Ministry is open; Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Saturday morning. Contact Bridget Lutz at 716-855-0654 x 230 or bookkeeper@harvesthousebuffalo.org





It is here. Gary's Corner the book! This 150 page book is a compilation of 40 experiences and inspirational stories over the years straight from the newsletter. The book costs \$10 to cover the cost of printing and postage. To order a book, send \$10 to Harvest House, 1782 Seneca Street, Buffalo, NY. 14210. If you have any questions, please call the Harvest House office at 716-825-0929.

Next time you shop Amazon please consider using Amazon Smile. By using Amazon Smile, a portion of your purchase goes to the non-profit of your choice (which we hope will be Harvest House.) It costs you nothing extra.

To look into signing up for Amazon Smile go to: <https://smile.amazon.com>, create an Amazon account and follow the prompts from there.

Thank you for considering this fundraising opportunity.

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