



## *Bethany Outreach Center*

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February 2013

Dear Friend of Bethany,

On behalf of the board of directors, and all those who use the services of the Bethany Outreach Center, I would like to thank you for your donation in 2012.

There are so many people in our neighborhood and the surrounding community that need the help – of material, vocational and spiritual support – that Bethany provides. Glance through the following pages to see more details about what Diane and her wonderful group of 45 volunteers have been providing the needy in our neighborhood. From food pantry and clothes closet to basic job readiness and apprenticeships, the Bethany Outreach Center is working hard to fulfill the goal on our logo:

*"Helping to Restore Hope Through Life Change"*

In 2012, our services expanded:

- 10% increase in avg. no. of families coming to food pantry (now 165/week)
- 40% increase in avg. no. of families coming to clothes closet (now 140/week)
- We improved Job-Readiness class offerings, helping 38 of 40 to find jobs!

**None of this would have been possible in 2012 without the generous gifts of caring friends like you.**

For 2013 we are expecting some operating expenses will increase significantly such as the rent and the cost of insurance, but we will meet these challenges with your help. *Our mission continues as the need continues.* We hope that you will continue to support our mission with your time, talents, or treasures.

Thanks again for blessing this ministry with your gifts.

Sincerely,

Eric Hedlund  
Board Chairman

## ***Our Mission Statement***

*The Bethany Outreach Center is a volunteer driven Christian organization, rooted in Erie's East side, reaching out to ALL people who need a hand up and hope for life change. Our broad based ministries address the material, vocational and spiritual needs for people on the edge.*

### ***OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS***

**Chair**            Eric Hedlund  
**Vice Chair**     Bryan A. Lee  
**Treasurer**     Mark Howell  
**Secretary**     Rev. Bill Coleman

### ***MEMBERS***

**Rev. Evan Clendenin**  
**Douglas Massey**  
**James Reese**  
**Rev. Robin Swope**

### ***Administration***

*Our Executive Director*



*Diane Giannelli*

### **Our Volunteers and Support Team from the GECAC Senior Aide Program** *(who gave us a total of 80 hours each week)*



Duane, Food Pantry Supervisor     Mark,



Gladys, supervisor of the Clothes Closet

# Volunteer Worth \$147,700 each year

## ***PARTNERSHIPS AND INTERACTION***

**GECAC – Career Link:** Providing volunteers that enable us to operate the Food Pantry, Clothes Closet and provide classes to serve the needs of our neighborhood

**Opportunities Unlimited:** Provide volunteers to serve in various capacities so that we may provide soft skill training and assessments for future employment opportunities

**Department of Corrections & Gaudenzia:** Provide volunteers to help keep our programming going. We provide soft skill training and provide classes for building self esteem and encourage learning skills to enable them to give them hope for life change.

**Gannon and Mercyhurst:** Provide volunteers for various extracurricular activities

**Safenet:** Provide volunteers  
We provide classes and material needs through our clothes closet and food pantry

## ***Volunteers from the neighborhood and surrounding area***

*“Volunteers are unpaid, not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless”*



*Recently released from prison, Bethany Outreach affords me the opportunity to re-acclimate myself into society at a slow, comfortable pace. Bethany took me in as a family of warm, loving, caring people. I have been fed, I have been clothed, I have begun to put the needs of others before the needs of my own. I am trusted. I am safe. I am hope. To me, Bethany means FAMILY.*

*From the neighborhood, Jeff joined the Bethany Staff in 2012, serving 5 days a week, 7 hours each day. Jeff oversees the cleaning help, teaches computer classes, and helps at the desk answering phones.*



*"Bethany was there for me and my family through hard times and tragedies and I want to give back. Bethany is a Christian friend to the community and I want to give back and I want to be a part of it."*

*Our neighborhood volunteer, Venola, has been volunteering her services for three years. She unloads the truck on Tuesday, passes out food on Wednesday and stops by during the week to see if we need help.*



Joyce has been a member of the support team for five years. She has been to Bethany every Tuesday and teaches sewing, knitting and crafts.

***Check out our webpage for a video of how we have helped others in building Self Esteem***

# **ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND BLESSINGS IN 2012**

*Thank you so much for continuing to support our Mission of Love to the neighborhood of Bethany Outreach.*

*As we enter our third year of incorporation, we have made great strides to keep our expenses at a bare minimum so that we can keep our mission going. All programming is available without charge to a neighborhood of highest poverty and many races and creeds.*

*You will note that many of our volunteers come from backgrounds of disabilities and halfway houses. We do our best to build self esteem, to encourage and give a "hands up" to each and every one to recognize and develop their own strengths and values. I am touched by the number of volunteers who pass through our entrance each week to "give back" what they have been given. I have been touched by many, who come to fulfill service hours, yet continue to come back on a day off or on vacation to help. I am sure that you will also be touched by the video on our website.*

*We continue in an era of financial woes and cannot give as much as we would like to give to non-profits; however, it only takes a spark to keep the candle glowing and each and every \$1 is used wisely and helps immensely. Please continue to be a team member in our Christian endeavor and keep us in your prayers."*

*God Bless,  
Diane Giannelli, Director*

The center is operated by one paid staff and 45 volunteers each week who served our center for **9,679** hours in 2012. Volunteer Services were provided by, not only our neighborhood and friends from the community, but a large part from: Careerlink/Sr. Aide Program, Dept. of Corrections, Gaudenzia, and Opportunities Unlimited.

## ***Services Provided***

We are in a very diverse neighborhood including refugees from Nepal, Somalia, Iraq, Ukraine, Bhutan, Sudan, Burma, Russia, Burundi and the Congo.

- Food Pantry served a total of 8498 families with 16,892 bags of groceries, an increase of 1,052 families from 2012.
- Clothes Closet served 7,242 families with 14,484 bags of clothes distributed this year. This figure is an increase of 2,235.
- SEW WHAT: Under the supervision of a professional seamstress provided by Career Link's Senior Aide Program, have served 93 clients and mended 279 garments.

## *Classes offered*

- Sewing/Knitting Classes.
- Computer Classes and Job Readiness Classes – **95% job success rate**
- Money Management Classes and one-on-one – daytime and evening classes
- Tailoring Job Apprentice Program presently has two students. The program also offers mending services to the public for a donation.



Cheryl, also a GECAC Senior Aide Volunteer is the supervisor of The Sew What Apprentice Program



Ansumana Komba Gbembo, known to Bethany as Komba has been a part of our Apprentice Program in “Sew What” since January, 2011. Komba, from Sierra Leone, has found employment but has remained in the Apprentice Program and volunteers in mending projects for Sew What.

# *Blessings*



- **SOURCES OF INCOME:**

**20% GRANTS:** CWS/ERIE CROPWALK, ELCA, ERIE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION AND THRIVENT

**35% GRANTS:** FOOD PANTRY FEDERAL AND STATE GRANTS

**14 % CHURCH SUPPORT:** Cathedral of St. Paul, East Erie Cluster of Lutheran Churches, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Luther Memorial, Messiah Lutheran Church, St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception

**3% CORPORATE MATCH:** Erie Gives, Erie Indemnity (Erie Insurance), GE United Way Campaign

**6% SMALL GROUPS AND BUSINESS:** Business and Professional Women of Erie, Champion Cheer Central, East Erie Cluster of Churches, GFWC Presque Isle Woman's Club, Lakewood UM Women, LCBA Branch 49, Lord Employees Good Neighbor Fund, Red Hot Mamas of Erie, Sue's Notary, VASA, Whipple Allen Realty, Women of the ELCA (Holy Trinity, Elkins, West VA)

**22% INDIVIDUALS**

- **ORGANIZATION GIFTS:**

1. A Grant from the Erie Community Foundation enabling us to purchase a new cooler for the Food Pantry
2. Toilet paper and toiletries from the Millcreek and East Erie Kiwanis
3. Clothing donations from our various churches: Luther Memorial, Lakewood United Methodist, St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception and Trinity Lutheran. West Ridge Fire Auxiliary, LCBA Branch 49 and many – many individuals
4. LCBA Branch 49 provided Valentines/Candy for our various volunteers

LCBA also provided socks for “Sock Day” in March. Representative, Pat Harkins, came to greet our food pantry clients and gave everyone a pair of socks.



5. A special Thanks to our sponsors who donated to our online auction this summer: A Great Massage, Allburn Florist, Barbato's Pizza, Bayfront Sheraton, Bianchi Honda, BrewErie, Calamari's Cappabianca Travel, Erie Playhouse, Evelyn's Hallmark, Junior's Last Laugh, Kraus Department Store, Molly Branegan's, Pennbriar, Plymoth Tavern, Polished by Time, Ricardo's, Rick Weaver, Sanner Office Supply, SMS Golf Enterprises and the Tap House. Also to Bethany's Sew What for pillows and those who gave anonymous donations.
6. Christmas Gifts:  
Hats and Gloves from Immanuel Lutheran Church and Luther Memorial  
10 Baskets from the Millcreek Kiwanis  
10 Bags of Toys from the Sunshine Group
7. Neighborhood Christmas Party for Children sponsored by LCBA Branch 49. The Erie Business Women provided gifts for Moms



*Blessings from those Individuals  
Who Make it Happen*

William Allamon	Sami and Rachelle Eskelin
Lynn Ackerman	Annabelle Fisher
Bill Alamon	Jeffrey Flatley
Arlene Allen	Gary and Ann Flick
Sheryl Allen	Richard and Barbara Flock
Diana Alvaro	Les and Lois Fobes
Helen Anderson	Suzanne Franks
Paul and Janice Baker	James Fried
Joseph and Sandra Barbaro	Margaret Fuhrman
Kathleen Becker	Walt and Jeanne Gaber
Robert and Nancy Benacci	William and Debra Galloway
Richard and Sheila Bradley	Rev. Albert and Edwina Gesler
Richard Braendel	Bob and Diane Giannelli
Robert and Emma Braine	Peter and Jane Gilewicz
Jean Brewer and Jack Bell	Geza Gruenwald
Sandra Brindle	Fr. Jim Gutting
Cheryl Brown	Larry and Pamela Gutting
Jim and Shirley Brown	Thomas and Susan Hagen
Carol Cacchione	Jude Harrison
Shirley Teed Cameron	Dr. Daniel Hedlund
William Carney	Eric and Cindy Hedlund
Robert Case	Beverly Held
Carl and Deborah Cesnick	Naida Hernandez
Douglas and Kristin Chaffee	Helen Hitchcock
James and Karol Clement	Robert and Bette Hoffman
Rev. Evan Clendenin	Lorianne Holt
William and Amy Coleman	Marion Howell
Ron Colicchio	Mark Howell
Montie and Shirley Collier	Martin and Catherine Jaskiewicz
Mary Conboy	Harry and Marjorie Johnson
Joyce Crishock	Sylvia Johnson
Mary Ann D'Annibale	Jean Joyce
Joanne Dahlstrand	Sheryl Kern
Rita Daub	Joyce Kieklak
Sharon Davenport	James Kiel
Mildred Delinski	Ron and Denise King
Christopher and Christine DiNicola	David and Jane Kinzig
Leroy and Charlotte Doehrel	Thomas and Marth Klomp
TJ and Ruth Dombrowski	James Koenig
Angela Eagle	Rev. J. Kenneth Laber
Albert and Marilyn Eelman	Robert and Dolores Lasher

*Blessings From Those Individuals Who Make It Happen*

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John and Mary Laver III

Marian Lundgren

Donald and Janice MacInnes

Cynthia Manna

Leo and Nancy Marzka

Betty May

Philip and Sally McAfee

Ron and Corinne McCarty

Mr. and Mrs. Carter McCune

Jack and Judy McKibben

Erik and Anna Meyer

Evelyn Michael

Robert and Karen Michel

Jennie Miller

Marjorie and Todd Miller

M. Gene Minor

Patricia Mitchell

Barbara Montgomery

Kathy Morey

J. David and Mary Mumford

James Ochrang

Thomas and Nettie Ohmer

Dorothy Overberg

Joann Perry

Bob Peterson

Betty Pletz

Michael and Karen Pretz

Sarah Prylinski

Sara Rager

Mark and Erin Rater

Randy and Marion Rater

Rita Reichard

Dorothy Respecki

Martin and Karen Rogers

Marilyn Rositer

Mary Alice Ross

Joseph and Christina Rowane

Tim and Laura Salamonson

William Schaal, Jr.

William and Carol Schaal Sr.

James Schlabach

Michael and Lauree Schloss

Amy Scott

Christine Sedgwick

John Segrest

Bonnie Silvis

Mary Jane Sinicki

Carol Smith

Lois Smith

Connie Soder

Carter and Rosemari Solt

William and Elizabeth Steen

John and Judith Steff

Nancy Baldwin Stutevant

Roger and Nancy Sturtevant

Jeffrey and Linda Swanson

Sharon Swanson

John and Jane Tell

Brett and Shannon Visalle

Barbara Walk

Kenneth and Beverly Warnick

Nancy Way

Signe Webb

Joseph and Natalie Weber

Maribeth Whitehall

Kenneth and Alice Winkelman

Caroline Wolf

Helen and Susan Wright

June Yentes

Robert and Patricia Young

Mark and Carol Zamperini

David and Barbara Zurn

ANONYMOUS



# HOW YOU CAN HELP

- **MAKE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS**
  - Checks to “Bethany Outreach Center”
  - On-line at our Website: [www.bethanyoutreachcenter.org](http://www.bethanyoutreachcenter.org)
  - Designate Bethany Outreach in your donation to United Way
  - Matching your Gift: Your gift can be matched by many corporations, locally and nationwide, including the GE and Erie Insurance. If your employer has a Matching Gifts Program, please send us the completed form available through your company’s human resources or administration office
  
- **BRING CLOTHING TO OUR FACILITY at 254 East 10<sup>th</sup> Street**
  - Monday – Friday                      9:00 AM – Noon
  
- **VOLUNTEER BY CALLING 456-6254**
  - Help unload the food truck and do set-up
  - Help distribute food or clothing
  - Teach a class in computer, job readiness, home budgeting
  
- **SUPPORT OUR CAUSE**
  - Sign up for a newsletter and join our team
  - Tell neighbors and co-workers about the good work we do
  - Send e-mails to friends with a link to our website
  - Pray for those who need our services
  - Pray for the volunteers who serve
  - Visit us on Facebook

