



Bethany Outreach Center

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January – June 2014

WHO WE SERVE

CLIENTS

Our clients consist of neighbors in our area of which, 52-56% are below poverty. (*Erie Times News, June 20, 2013, "Focus on Poverty" based on 2012 data). Approximately 400-500 immigrants will be arriving in our area this year of which 60% would be from Nepal and do not speak English.

We also provide emergency food for those in need and act as a Hub for referral to various agencies who can assist them in their personal needs. We pride ourselves in taking time to "listen" to our neighbors.

OUR VOLUNTEERS

- Senior Aides from a program through GECAC (Greater Erie Community Action Committee state and federally funded). Each of our three volunteers serve us with 20 hours each week as our Instructor, Food Pantry Manager and Seamstress.
- Neighbors help in the food pantry distribution and the clothes closet. Two neighbors donate 20 hours each week managing the Clothes Closet.
- Ex offenders from The Department of Corrections give us service hours. If it wasn't for this group, we would not be able to unload trucks or set up the food pantry and distribute food in an efficient manner.

- Volunteers, who have special needs through the Opportunities Program of Stairways, volunteer for us 8 hours each week for 60 days cleaning. They are then evaluated as to whether they can become employable in today's market.

SERVICES PROVIDED

FOOD PANTRY

Our Food Pantry served a total of 7,879 families in 2013 with over 22,000 bags of groceries. 399 Turkeys complete with dinner items were donated by Erie Insurance, through Second Harvest, and distributed by 55 faithful volunteers on a Saturday in November. In spite of the fact that we had a bad winter, in the past six months we served 2,439 families.

Our Boundaries were recently changed in April with a reduction in one area, however; due to the closing of another food pantry in our area, we have increased our total area.

Our Food Pantry boundaries: 8th to 12th from State to Reed and 12th to 18th from State to Parade from 13th to Parade. The Neighborhood Watch Group "Snoops" covers 12th to 18th from Parade to Reed.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

- **Volunteer** on Tuesday 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM to unload the truck and Setup Distribute Food on Wednesday 8:30 AM – noon.

- *Provide a food drive through your church or social group or choose a special week in your congregation for funding for Bethany*
- *Needed: Commercial banquet tables (strong enough to hold food) to replace broken tables. Cost: \$107 each*

Costs of the food pantry include

- * Thanks to the Second Harvest Food Bank and Federal and State grants, the estimated cost for each bag of groceries is approximately \$7.00 per bag or \$14 per week for each family. We find that providing cereal, tuna, shampoo and toilet paper are premium items which our budget allows once every few months. The Millcreek Kiwanis, through their "toilet paper brigade" provides us with a toilet paper delivery twice each year with cases of toilet paper.
- * * truck rental of \$50 per week
- * rental of the pantry is \$74.58 per month (\$894.96 per year)
- * commercial banquet (strong enough to hold food) replacement tables are always needed at a cost of \$107 each

CLOTHES CLOSET

Our Clothes Closet is growing. In 2013, we served 6,033 families with 12,066 bags of clothes and 2,458 families in the past six months. Extra racks and shelves were donated by "The Gap" which provided an important upgrade! Northwest Savings at 8th and State provides a box for clothing donations.



ALL OF OUR CLOTHES ARE FREE

- We serve families from the East Side on Tuesday and Wednesday from 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM. We are also available daily for emergency services.
- Rental of the Clothes Closet is \$578 each month (\$6,936 per year)
- Our Clothes Closet Manager is a volunteer from the neighborhood and works 20 hours each week!

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- * **A New Dehumidifier is urgently needed.**
- * By providing clothes for each season, especially children's clothes.
- * Household Items are a necessity since a large number of our clients are homeless from abused shelters and those in half-way houses who are starting over from scratch. With the high cost of rent, they particularly need help with dishes, silverware, pots and pans, bedding (sheets, bedspreads), towels and curtains.
- * Unfortunately, we do not have room for furniture storage, but if you would like to donate, we will post a sign.
- * Cloth Bags \$1.00 each
- * Consider a box for clothing at your place of work or at your church for a short period of time or bring the remains of your household/garage sale
- * 900 refugees will be coming to Erie this year and approximately 400 will be in our area. 60% are expected to come from Nepal with very little English. Translators are also needed for two days per week at \$40 an hour. Up to this point, we are unable to accommodate this need.
- *Traveling in the near future? Shampoo, conditioner and other products from hotels would be greatly appreciated.

OUR CLASSES



Our Students: The clients who use these programs, not only include the neighborhood, but our volunteers from The Dept. of Corrections (CC Center) (Gaudenzia) and clients from abused shelters in our area. Our computers are donated from businesses, and Erie Insurance recently blessed us with six used computers when they updated their equipment!

COMPUTER CLASS: Basic Microsoft skills relate to each student individually to improve their computer skills.

JOB SEARCH AND RESUME BUILDING: Offering one-on-one help with job search and resumes.

JOB READINESS: We are providing skills in work-readiness, creating resumes, cover letters, and proper attire and demeanor skills during an interview. Clients also gain experience interview skills with mock interviews.

HOME BUDGETING: Financial Planning and Money Management Class. Our clients learn how to budget for basic necessities and set financial goals for future growth and stability. For our neighbors with various needs, we offer: One-on-one help with personal finances.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Our volunteer instructor will be leaving in September having finished his assignment through The Senior Aide Program through GECAC. We will need a volunteer who is state certified to replace him or pay an instructor. Our budget cannot support this benefit at this time.

SEWING CLASSES

Our clients can improve their skills to make clothing for our client's family and also gain experience for a job resume. Students learn basic sewing skills, alterations, mending and creating an outfit from scratch. We also offer an Opportunity in Apprenticeship, under the supervision of a professional seamstress provided by the Senior Aide Program of GECAC.

We also provide "**Sew What**" which provides mending and alterations services for clients who cannot find the right fit in the "Clothes Closet". We ask for a donation, however, most of our clients cannot afford to pay at all. We also have individuals from the general area who bring in items for mending and make donations to help toward our room rental.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

We will be losing our instructor in August and will need a replacement. A replacement will be needed for either instructing or providing mending services. If you could offer a few hours each week, please let us know.

UPCOMING EVENTS: MORE WAYS THAT YOU CAN HELP:

PARTICIPATE IN ERIE GIVES: AUGUST 12, 2014

Erie Gives is a one-day fundraiser hosted by the Erie Community Foundation. The local Foundation provides a protracted match to each nonprofit. In 2013 over \$1.7 million dollars was raised for nonprofits with a total of \$150,000 in matching funds donated by The Erie Community Foundation and GE Transportation. The more donations made to Bethany Outreach, the more of the matching grant Bethany will receive. In 2013, BETHANY received \$3,192.13.



SEPTEMBER 13th: “Biking for Bethany” at the Peninsula. Everyone is invited to join our Bethany Board of Directors as we attempt to Bike or WALK six miles on the Peninsula, starting at Beach One at 1:00 PM. Each participant is encouraged to solicit sponsor donations. More details will appear on our website and Facebook.

ANOTHER IMPORTANT WAY THAT YOU CAN HELP

***Consider serving as a committee volunteer
or serve on our Board of Directors***

ACTIVITIES PROVIDED

Valentine’s Day: Thanks to LCBA Branch 49, 125 gifts of socks, candy and a valentine were assembled for delivery to those “unloved” at Erie Community Corrections Center.

Bingo: was provided in March and April for our clients to get to know one another and open communication gaps. Our refugees had a great time concentrating on letters and numbers.

The Saint Vincent Van: The St. Vincent Medical Unit Van began providing service every other week beginning on March 26th during Food Pantry hours. They welcome clients who need blood pressure screening, medication management and offer aid in minor health concerns.



Sock Day: State Representative, Pat Harkins, was on hand to help distribute socks to all clients who attended the Food Pantry on March 26th.

April 2nd: A representative from State Senator, Sean Wiley's, office was on hand during food pantry hours to distribute material on new services being provided through the State.

May 31st: A Neighborhood Sole Search Fund Raiser was held for Bethany. A walk through the neighborhood was held, discovering the history and businesses who serve our clients. A lunch, DJ with music and raffles were enjoyed by all who attended.

"I was born and raised in Erie by a single parent, we moved from place to place and we struggled. As an adult, I found myself caring for my invalid mother and reached out to Bethany Outreach. The staff gave me a helping hand when I needed it most.

Seeing the things that Bethany does for the community made me want to give back and I volunteer in the clothes closet Monday - Friday. I can talk to them about almost anything. They listen and help keep my life on the straight and narrow.

They are my second family filling me with Love and Hope!"

- Reuben

**THANK YOU TO INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED
DIRECTLY AND THROUGH MEMORIALS TO PROVIDE US TO
CONTINUE TO GIVE A "HANDS UP" TO OUR
NEIGHBORHOOD**

**Thank You to Our Mid Year Corporate and
Business Sponsors**

Small Business: Champion Cheer Central, Holt Web Design and Cornerstone Construction.

Church Support: Cathedral of St. Paul Episcopal Church, Luther Memorial, Messiah Lutheran, St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception and St. Peter's Lutheran Church

Matching Funds through GE and Thrivent Financial

Choice Dollars through United Way and Thrivent Financial

50/50 Profit through Champion Cheer Central's Cheerleading Challenge at the Erie Insurance Arena which raised \$780

Erie Crop Hunger Walk granted \$500 from the Crop Hunger Walk in 2013



SPONSORS

- **FINANCIAL:** Erie Insurance and Erie County Chapter of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Better Baked Foods, Doug Cornelius/State Farm Insurance, Country Fair, Courtyard Winery, Kerr Tires, Lee J. Simon, D.D.S., Marquette Savings Bank, Shell at 6th and Parade
- **OUR GRAND PRIZE** was provided by: The Bayfront Sheraton, 1201 Restaurant and The Erie Playhouse
- **FOOD DONATIONS** were provided by: La Bella Restaurant and Subway

GIFTS FOR OUR CHINESE AND SILENT AUCTION were provided by: Abbey's Hallmark, Allburn Florist, Beechwood Golf Course, Brew Erie, Calamari's, Cappabianca Travel, Carpet Town, Champion Ford, Chipper's Tavern, Chucky Cheese, Dairy Queen on Pine, Denny's Ice Cream, Erie Philharmonic, Erie Regional Chamber & Growth Partnership, General Exterminating, Giant Eagle, General Exterminating, Giant Eagle, Johnson & Flick, Juniors Last Laugh, Lakeside Auto, Les Fobes Interiors, McDonalds, Meeker Marshall, Nunzi's Restaurant, Pennbriar, Presque Isle Downs, Red Hot Mamas of Erie, Ricardo's, Rick Weaver Buick GMC, Sara's Restaurant, Stan's Garden Center, Sue's Notary, Sharon Swanson, Tap House, Karen Torney, Valerio's, Kathy Weaver and Wegmann's

