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**MEDIA CONTACT:** Laurie Patsalides, PR Coordinator (716) 348-3143;  
[lpatsalides@buffalocitymission.org](mailto:lpatsalides@buffalocitymission.org)



***Buffalo City Mission Celebrates 10<sup>th</sup> Annual “Ride for the Homeless”  
To Benefit At-Risk Children in the After School Program***



**Buffalo, NY** – Today, the Buffalo City Mission hosted its 10<sup>th</sup> Annual “Ride for the Homeless” with 100 motorcyclists participating in a 50-mile run starting at Gratwick Waterfront Park in Tonawanda, heading to Lockport and back. \$33,406 was raised overall for the Buffalo City Mission’s After School Program, which runs from September through June every year.

“As homeless students often struggle to meet achievement standards, due to economic and social disadvantages, our after-school program plays an integral role in helping them to succeed. Quality afterschool programs such as ours help children become more engaged in school, reduce their likelihood of taking part in at-risk behaviors or acting out in school, and help raise their academic performance.

Yet, the costs of operating after-school programs are substantial and funding like this is essential to the program’s success. The Buffalo City Mission supports more than 50 children every school year, with 85% of them showing an improvement in academic testing. We are committed to making sure the students who come through our program grow substantially academically, and socially. It’s what the program is designed to do, and fundraisers like these support that mission,” said Stuart Harper, Executive Director of the Buffalo City Mission.

The Buffalo City Mission thanks its major corporate sponsor, GEICO, and other supporters, including Five Star Bank, People Inc., Amherst Rotary, Fidelis Care, Anthony Baldi and Associates, Risen Son Foundation, as well as the Niagara County Sheriff's Department for ensuring the safety of all riders during Saturday's event.

"GEICO is proud to continue supporting the Buffalo City Mission's Annual Motorcycle Ride for the Homeless," said Pionne Corbin, Vice President of GEICO's regional operations in Buffalo. "This event, along with the Buffalo City Mission's other programs, have an immeasurable impact and truly help change the lives of the homeless in Western New York."

**About the Buffalo City Mission**

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

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