

# Buffalo Cares

A publication of Buffalo City Mission



News of lives transformed—*thanks to you!*

## God has shown me how He will provide

Nathalie felt completely out of place when she first came to Cornerstone. Never before burdened by financial concerns, she could not comprehend how she had ended up in a shelter. “This was the first time in my life I had lived like this.”

Nathalie and her now-ex-husband grew up together in the Congo, and she had always trusted him. Before the couple moved to America, she made arrangements to open her own bakery here, but she soon learned that her husband had stolen her savings for it. Meanwhile, he was drinking uncontrollably and became violent toward Nathalie and her daughter, Malkia. To protect herself and her child, Nathalie came to Buffalo and soon found her way to Buffalo City Mission.

### Reconciled with the Lord

After Nathalie got past the initial shock of being in a shelter, she was able to truly embrace the healing and hope being offered to her here. About her faith journey, Nathalie says, “I was a Christian already when I came here, but I was heartsick. I needed healing and support, teaching and new revelation for God to help me through this moment. I had lost trust. When I arrived here and heard the word of God regularly, I learned to see, little by little, that I could trust God again.”

**“While living at Cornerstone, I have discovered a strength I never knew I had.”**

—NATHALIE, DREAM ACADEMY RESIDENT



Along with spiritual support, she has also benefited from the day care services. This gives Nathalie the ability to focus on how to improve their circumstances. “Everything that I do is to build a future for my daughter and myself,” she says.

She will be graduating from the DREAM program in a few short months and has already solidified plans to finally open her bakery. “While living at Cornerstone, I have discovered a strength I never knew I had,” she says.

### Home for the holidays

During their time at the Mission, Nathalie and Malkia have greatly appreciated their holiday experience. “My memories of Christmas were the amount of volunteers that came here and the churches that brought gifts,” says Nathalie. “Christmas was really special here.”

After all she has been through in her remarkable life journey, Nathalie is truly thankful for the compassionate support of friends like you. “I want to thank the donors and ask them to keep caring for City Mission,” she says. “Buffalo City Mission is not just a place to sleep, but the Mission helps women get an education, a job, an apartment, etc. Thank you for all that you have done to care for us.”

*Your support is helping women like Nathalie make happy memories and find hope for the future. God bless you!*



**Our Savior's birth**



**He had mercy on me**



**Christmas in the air**



# Christmas in the air

Christmas is just a few weeks away. With each passing day, the joy and excitement grows. We want to thank you for the role you play in making this special season. You give in so many ways—from volunteering your time, to providing gifts for the men, women and children who live at the Mission, to donating food or funds. We couldn't provide a home for the holidays to people like Nathalie and Michael without you, so we thought you might like a quick preview of some of the events you help make possible...



**Christmas Community Meal:** On Wednesday, December , we'll be serving Christmas dinner with all the trimmings to men, women and children right here in our Mission dining room. We will create a homey, comfortable atmosphere where each of them will feel loved and welcomed as an honored guest.

**Hambone Express:** Every year, volunteers like Michael come out on Christmas Day to help us deliver food to families and others who can't afford to buy the trimmings for Christmas dinner. More than teams will be delivering over meals throughout Western New York. As they feed the hungry, the love and warmth of our teams will touch hurting people with God's life-changing hope.

*Thank you again for sharing joy and hope this holiday season. Your compassion is a gift to struggling neighbors—and to us!*



## Become a monthly giver today!

As a supporter of Buffalo City Mission, you know better than most that breaking the cycle of poverty and homelessness does not happen overnight. It is an ongoing battle and it demands a holistic approach that acknowledges every aspect of the individual's situation. That's why we hope you'll prayerfully consider becoming a monthly donor today.

Monthly donations help us budget more effectively and keep our services running all year long. A simple, hot meal can be the first step to a changed life. And every provides a meal and care for a neighbor in need. With a monthly gift of just , you will provide meals each month. Thank you for considering blessing the Mission in this way.

To learn more about the benefits of becoming a monthly giver, please visit our website or contact us at 716-854-8181, ext. 429.

## BY THE NUMBERS

January–November

It's been another great year of ministry, thanks to your support. So far in you've helped provide:

- 161,536 meals
- 79,411 nights of shelter
- Over 1,640 bags filled with nutritious groceries
- Over 16,830 articles of clothing

### Stay connected!



To see the latest updates and stories, follow us on social media or visit us at [buffalocitymission.org](http://buffalocitymission.org). **Look for the "Join Our Email List" box** on our home page to receive our e-newsletter. Tell your friends how much you care about Buffalo City Mission!

### Start a winter needs collection drive!



Are you searching for a meaningful way to involve your family, friends, church group, organization or company in helping those less fortunate? Start a "Winter Needs Drive" to collect warm clothing for our homeless neighbors. We're headed into the coldest months, and for people living on the streets, warm clothing can make a life-or-death difference.

For more information on organizing a "Winter Needs Drive," call Sue Cervi at 716-854-8181, ext. 408. Thank you!

## Yes, Stuart! I'll help provide meals, care and life-changing hope for neighbors in need this winter.

\$15    \$30    \$50    \$150    \$\_\_\_\_\_

I'd like to give monthly. My first gift of \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

Please include me in your weekly email updates.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ APT. \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ XXXXXXX

To give a gift by credit card, visit us online at [buffalocitymission.org](http://buffalocitymission.org) or call 716-854-8181, ext. 429.



Your gift is tax deductible to the full extent of the law. We will send a receipt for your records.

Please make your check payable to:  
BUFFALO CITY MISSION  
P.O. Box  
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**THANK YOU!**