



Mission Celebrates 100th Year Centennial and Launches 2017 Annual Fall Campaign

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BUFFALO, NY – September 20, 2017 – Today, the Buffalo City Mission announced 100 years of serving Buffalo’s homeless community.

Operating since 1917, the Buffalo City Mission has a rich history. Billy Sunday, noticing the numerous homeless men living on the streets of Buffalo led a revival before a crowd of more than 12,000 in an outfield of the International League baseball park at Ferry Street and Michigan Avenue back in 1917. People in the audience gave a generous offering totaling \$8,400 to the Buffalo Evangelistic Association, which Sunday directed to be used to open a rescue mission.

For a short period, the Mission utilized Calvary Presbyterian Church to provide meals to the homeless. In 1922, the City Mission Society’s Board of Directors purchased Fenton Pekin Cabaret, a former nightclub, for less than \$60,000 using Billy Sunday’s gift as a down payment. The Mission opened its doors on June 11th to provide meals and chapel services to the homeless.

For 62 years, the City Mission operated at that location, 85 Broadway in Buffalo, before moving to the current location at 100 East Tupper Avenue. That site was torn down to make way for the new Kensington Expressway.

“Western New Yorkers have been compassionate to those seeking refuge at the Buffalo City Mission for the past hundred years,” said Harper. “This 100th anniversary is a milestone for the Mission to celebrate and say, thank you, for your support for the generous community we live in. We invite the community to partake in a tour, learn about our services and programs, as well as get a glimpse into the lives being rescued, changed, and transformed through its support.”

As the Mission celebrates a century of helping rebuild lives, the work is far from over. Last year alone, the Mission served over 171,724 meals and provided over 79,443 safe nights of sleep shelter. All of this is provided at no cost to guests and is made possible through the generosity of donors. With the Mission 2017 Annual Fall Campaign vastly approaching, the Mission in need of community support to raise over 2.3 million dollars between October and December 2017. This annual campaign helps provide the finances and resources necessary to sustain the Mission’s critical programs and services for the homeless of Buffalo. This amount reflects 31.6% of its yearly operating budget.

“The Mission is so crucial to the success of this city’s growth. Their programs and services help those who are struggling by helping them transform their lives to achieve independence, pursue personal goals, and integrate back into the community. That is how change is made and how our city can grow and prosper for everyone. They will need this community’s continued support to help transform even more lives and prepare tomorrow’s leaders to be ready to serve the community that once served them,” said Honorable Barbara-Miller Williams, District 1, Erie County Legislature.

To help restore a life of a fellow Buffalonian and continue the legacy for the next century, visit buffalocitymission.org to contribute to the fall campaign, today.

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 every year. The Mission includes a Women and Children’s Shelter (Cornerstone Manor); the Men’s Community Center; and Dick Road thrift store to serve the Western New York community. For more information, please visit www.buffalocitymission.org or call (716) 854-8181.

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