



MEDIA RELEASE

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Buffalo City Mission Thanks the Community: Announces Meeting 2017 Fall Campaign Goal

BUFFALO, NEW YORK— Today, the Buffalo City Mission announces its gratitude to the entire Western New York community for helping to raise \$2.39 Million toward the 2017 Annual Fall Campaign, which comprises 31.6% of its annual operating budget. From October to December, the Buffalo City Mission launched its Annual Fall Campaign to help provide the finances necessary to sustain the Mission's critical preventative, emergency, and transitional housing programs to homeless men, women, and children of Buffalo. The Mission is grateful to this community for rallying together to raise critical funds toward these essential programs for the region's homeless.

"Western New Yorkers have been compassionate to those in dire circumstances seeking refuge at the Buffalo City Mission for the past hundred years, and they've done it again," said Stuart Harper, Executive Director and CEO of the Buffalo City Mission. "Meeting and surpassing this campaign goal in just 4 days before 2017 closed, after a projected shortfall of over \$200,000, shows how much this community appreciates what we do at the Mission and understands that we cannot do it without them."

Every year, thousands of people in the Buffalo area are homeless. Last year the homeless population increased by 9% and expected to rise even higher this year, according to the Homeless Alliance of Western New York. Not only this, 31% of people were living below the poverty line in Buffalo. Extreme poverty is the strongest predictor of homelessness for individuals and families. Deepening poverty is linked with increased levels of homelessness due to a lack of education, certified educational programming, employment services, and life skills for many Buffalonians and the Buffalo City Mission addresses these primary needs upon entry.

"The Mission operates 365 days a year, and the need remains great for assistance during the long winter months and remaining year," said Harper. "While the Mission runs at capacity, it foresees the need to expand to a larger facility with the capability of providing more preventative services on the front-end to help decrease the percentage of homelessness increasing year over year." This new facility will help provide and meet the need of homeless men by providing programs to ensure a pathway toward a stable life and the opportunity to build a better tomorrow. "There will be more exciting news coming over the next few months about this must-needed building expansion and how the community can get involved."

As the Mission is in its centennial year of caring for the homeless, last year it provided 170,000 meals, over 73,000 nights of safe shelter, and linked 544 individuals to reliable and affordable housing, with hundreds more waiting for the opportunity to rebuild their lives. "As the area's largest homeless shelter,

the Mission welcomes every broken soul at the point of entry to help begin the process of restoration through a hot meal, warm bed, and effective programming with a future goal of self-sufficiency.”

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 Women and Children’s Shelter (Cornerstone Manor); the Men’s Community Center; and our Dick Road thrift store to best serve our community. For more information, please visit www.buffalocitymission.org or call (716) 854-8181.

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