



GOOD NEIGHBORS

Restoring Lives Together in Western New York



SAVED FROM THE STREETS

When Dawn Marie lost her apartment, she faced the scary possibility of homelessness. Instead, you paved the way to a safe haven.



FALL 2024

For more information: (716) 854-8181, ext. 429 • buffalocitymission.org

A Message from Aubrey Calhoun

Because of You, Our Guests Have a Reason to Give Thanks

Dawn Marie, pictured on the cover and whose story appears on page 3, faced a situation no one ever wants to face: The possibility of trying to survive on the streets. But because of compassionate friends like you, that scary scenario did not become a reality: Dawn Marie had a safe place to land here at Buffalo City Mission.

She's hardly alone. Far too many of our neighbors are facing the same possibility ... or they're already out there, struggling to find a way. Many of them end up at the Mission's front door, and when they step inside, they find the love and support they need.

And they're grateful ... and never more so than during the Thanksgiving season, which is almost upon us. This Thanksgiving, our guests will feel the warmth of fellowship and the embrace of community. And, of course, a festive holiday meal.

In the 23rd Psalm, David speaks of the Lord as a Shepherd who "prepares a table" before him, inviting him to be filled not just with food but with love and goodness. When we prepare our Thanksgiving table for our guests, our prayer is that they, too, will experience that kind of comfort.

Thanks to friends like you, I'm confident that prayer will be answered. This holiday season, may God fill you and yours with that same love and goodness.



Aubrey Calhoun
Aubrey Calhoun
CEO and
Executive Director

"You prepare a table before me ... my cup overflows. Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life."
- Psalm 23:5-6



You Can Make This Thanksgiving Memorable for Struggling Neighbors

When you're homeless and hungry, there's not much to celebrate ... or to be grateful for. But this Thanksgiving, you can make a difference.

\$2.40

**provides a hot,
nourishing meal**

We'll need to provide more than 54,000 meals this Thanksgiving season, in addition to shelter, clothing, life-skills training, and spiritual guidance. We need your help to make it all happen.

Please send your gift today. You'll be giving many of our neighbors a reason to give thanks, filled with love, hope, and a warm Thanksgiving meal.



Give Now!



GIVE Thanks
Blessings
Back

Buffalo City Mission Guests Say

Thank You

This is what new hope and gratitude looks like:

"The Mission has been just nothing but blessings. I'm very proud of myself, and I've never felt that before." - Cynthia

"Thank you for your donation because, without your donation, I don't know where I would be. Today, I have hope and a future. This place works." - Maurice

Thank you for inspiring real, permanent change right here in WNY.

"Without the Mission, I'd Be on the Streets"

Dawn Marie's dad died when she was just two, but she says she had a pleasant childhood and a good relationship with her mom. But something soured in that relationship when Dawn was in her mid-20s and started having children of her own ... and that would have dire consequences many years down the road.

In the meantime, Dawn Marie pressed on, working a steady job and raising two girls. In 2010, she suffered a back injury and had to stop working. She was denied disability benefits at first, making life more difficult. She relied on food stamps to feed her family.

Life got even harder. Dawn Marie's mom almost died in 2015 — and would have died had Dawn Marie not rushed her to the emergency room. Still, there was no reconciliation between them. Two months later, her stepfather died, bringing more grief and pain.

Dawn Marie hit rock bottom two years ago when she was evicted from her apartment over a misunderstanding with her landlord. She asked her mother if she could move in temporarily, but the answer was no. Dawn Marie wasn't surprised at the answer, *"but coming from my mom, that hurt,"* she says.

Facing the possibility of life on the streets, Dawn Marie started "freaking out," as she remembers it. Though her daughters were young adults by now, she feared the worst. Fortunately, it never came to that. Someone referred her to Buffalo City Mission, and she walked through our doors with a sense of gratitude . . . and hope.

Discovering God's Love

Thanks to your compassion, Dawn Marie, now 50, found the help she needed at the Mission. Upon arrival, she received the urgent, practical assistance of shelter and meals. And then came other kinds of help — the emotional and spiritual kind. She



"I absolutely love the classes. I'm becoming more spiritual, and I'm reading my Bible more."

- Dawn Marie

was embraced with grace and showered with encouragement. And she came to know God's love.

"I was never really into the Bible before," Dawn Marie says. "But I absolutely love the religion classes. I'm becoming more spiritual, and reading my Bible more."

She's currently in transitional housing, and the Mission is helping in her search for affordable independent housing. Dawn Marie wants you to know she's grateful. *"Thank you for your support!"* she says. *"Without the Mission, I'd be on the streets."*

Because of you, struggling neighbors like Dawn Marie have a place to turn.

We Want to Talk to Your Group

Is your organization, church, or community group interested in having a speaker come to your next meeting to share how Buffalo City Mission is actively serving the homeless and hurting in our region, and how you can be involved in this critical work? Please visit **buffalocitymission.org** to learn more and schedule a BCM representative to attend your next staff meeting, church ministry gathering, or employee giving seminar. You can be an extension of hope to people in need right here in Buffalo.



Volunteers Needed for Thanksgiving

Want to help struggling neighbors this Thanksgiving ... and beyond? Please volunteer with Buffalo City Mission this holiday season!

Our annual **Turkey Express** event delivers Thanksgiving meals to neighbors in need throughout WNY. Volunteers can pitch in by packing and transporting meals from the Mission to people in our community who are elderly, homebound, or shut-ins. We need about 50 volunteers to assist on-site, plus around 175 delivery teams on Thanksgiving morning.

Your help will make a difference in the lives of those who are struggling. Together, we can bring joy and warmth to neighbors who need it the most.

Volunteer registration begins October 7!

Thank you for your willingness to make a positive impact this holiday season.



Contact us today to see how you can help!

Call: Volunteer Department
(716) 854-8181 ext. 419

Email: volunteer@buffalocitymission.org


Visit: buffalocitymission.org/volunteer

Help Us Prepare for Thanksgiving!

The upcoming holiday season could be our busiest ever, and we need your help.

High prices combined with inflation and other challenges have caused a stunning 37% increase in homelessness in WNY since last year, along with a surge in requests for help at the Mission.

You can help! Please consider hosting a donation drive or shop for these critically needed items.



- Turkeys
- Hams
- Sugar
- Sugar Packets
- Condiment Packets
- Pasta Sauces
- Dry Pasta
- Gravy Mix
- Ground Coffee
- Instant Mashed Potatoes
- Peanut Butter
- Macaroni And Cheese
- Rice (White Or Brown)
- Bbq Sauce
- Salad Dressings
- Olive Oil

Please drop any of these items off at

100 E. Tupper St. Buffalo
Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

For more information on how to hold a donation drive, call (716) 854-8181, ext. 419.

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Aubrey, here's my Thanksgiving gift to help our struggling neighbors:

☐ \$100 ☐ \$150 ☐ \$176 ☐ \$201
☐ \$_____ to help as many people as possible.

Donate online now! buffalocitymission.org

Name _____

Address _____

City, State Zip _____

Return this form with your gift in the envelope provided.

☐ **CHECK ENCLOSED** ☐ **BILL MY CREDIT CARD**



CREDIT CARD # _____

EXP. DATE _____

CIV/SEC # _____

PHONE # _____

Email _____



100 E. Tupper St.
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