



GOOD NEIGHBORS

Restoring Lives Together in Western New York



Much to Be
Thankful For



Ranko was in desperate need of help when he walked through our doors. See how your compassion helped him land on his feet.



FALL 2025

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

A Message from Marilyn Forcucci

Good Reasons to Give Thanks

In his first letter to the Thessalonians, Paul encourages the people to “give thanks in all circumstances.”

That’s not always easy for any of us, but it’s especially hard for many of our guests. Be thankful? When I’m homeless? When I’m hungry? When I’m hurting?

And yet, we see and experience real gratitude here at the Mission, day after day after day. As our guests find safe shelter, nourishing meals, and warm beds. As they lean into our programs and services. And as they discover God’s unconditional love and grace.

When these things happen, gratitude often overflows! That’s what happened with Ranko, whom you’ll read about on page 3. Upon his release from the hospital, Ranko essentially needed round-the-clock care, and the Mission was able to provide that through our Recuperative Care Unit. “It’s unbelievable!” he says. “Thank you!”

This Thanksgiving season, I join Ranko — and all our guests — in that gratitude. Thank you for being a compassionate neighbor who cares enough to bring help and hope to everyone who walks through our doors.



Marilyn Forcucci

Marilyn Forcucci
Interim CEO and
Executive Director

“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18



You Can Serve Up Heaping Helpings of Hope This Thanksgiving

Neighbors who are homeless and hungry don’t often have much to be grateful for. But you can bring them help and hope this Thanksgiving ... starting with a good meal.



provides a hot, nourishing meal

We’re expecting to serve more than 54,000 meals this Thanksgiving season, in addition to shelter, clothing, life-skills training, and spiritual guidance. **But we can’t do it without you.**

Please give generously today. You’ll be serving up not just a great meal, but life-giving servings of love, hope, and compassion.



Give Now!



GIVE Thanks Blessings Back

Buffalo City Mission Guests Say

Thank You

Words of hope and gratitude:

“I thank God for this place, they do an excellent job helping people. They’re like family. There’s no better place to be. I’m grateful.”

- Marvin

“I had been so lost for so long. The Mission has been amazing. I can’t put into words the hope I’ve found!”

- Montanna

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

A Place That Can Help You With Everything!

Life's biggest concerns for a 14-year-old boy should be things like, *Will I make the soccer team and I hope that cute girl in the lunchroom noticed me today.*

But when Ranko was 14, his biggest worry was whether he'd live to see another day. It was the early 1990s, and his home country of what is now Croatia was at war. Bombs fell near his home; neighbors were killed.

Ranko's family fled Croatia and lived as refugees in Serbia before ultimately coming to the U.S. in 2000, when he was 24. But the trauma of war sticks with him.

"People were dying," he says. "Funerals became normal. You can't get away from it."

In the U.S., Ranko got a job, got married, and had a daughter. But then life hit hard again. He went through a divorce and, more recently, started having serious health issues, complicated by diabetes. *"It's been a disaster,"* Ranko says.

A year ago, his colon became infected, and then ruptured, nearly killing him. He spent more than two months in the hospital.

"I was in bad shape," he says.

"I Needed Full-Time Care."

Shortly after his release from the hospital, Ranko came to Buffalo City Mission. *"I was weak,"* he says, *"and I needed full-time care."*

Ranko checked into our Recuperative Care Unit, which provides comprehensive supportive services for medically complex clients who require specialized care.

"RCU has been amazing," says Ranko, who was



"I still can't believe a place like this exists. It's unbelievable!"

- Ranko

in the unit for two months but is now in a regular guest room. A nurse still checks in on him regularly.

Ranko says the Mission's care has helped him get back on his feet.

"They've helped me with everything," he says. *"A room, bed, and meals. They drive me to Social Security for food stamp benefits. They've helped with Medicaid. They've helped me with housing assistance, and I'm waiting for an opening now."*

Ranko also appreciates the spiritual guidance he's received from our team. And finally, he expresses his gratitude for friends like you, who made this all possible.

"I still can't believe a place like this exists, a place that can help you with everything, you know? It's unbelievable! Thank you!"

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

We Want to Talk ...

Would your organization, church, or community group like to have a speaker from Buffalo City Mission address your next meeting? We'll share how the Mission is serving the homeless and hurting in our region, and how you can be involved in this critical work.

Please visit buffalocitymission.org/speaker-bureau 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.

Sweats Needed For Winter Months

With winter fast approaching, Buffalo City Mission is in immediate need of warm clothing for our guests.

Every resident is given a new sweatsuit when they first arrive at our Emergency Shelter. And we easily go through hundreds during the coldest months of the year.

You can give one or more sweatsuits by ordering through Buffalo City Mission's Amazon Wish List. Or simply scan the QR code to go directly to the list. Every contribution helps keep our guests warm and cared for this winter.



While sweatsuits are our greatest need right now, we're deeply grateful for any support you can offer. Feel free to explore the rest of our Amazon Wish List to help meet other clothing needs for all of our guests. Every item makes a meaningful difference.



Your kindness will not only help keep our guests warm this winter, but will also let them know that their neighbors care. Thank you!

We Need YOU for Thanksgiving Prep!

Our kitchen team needs a LOT of ingredients to serve all those turkey dinners. **And you can help stock our shelves!**

This will likely be our busiest Thanksgiving ever, with so many neighbors facing homelessness. We've got to step up to the plate and have enough meals for them.

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.

15-BCMNY-0925-N

Marilyn, 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 _____

251DNU

Return this form with your gift in the envelope provided.

- CHECK ENCLOSED
 BILL MY CREDIT CARD

- VISA
 AMERICAN EXPRESS
 DISCOVER
 MASTERCARD

CREDIT CARD # _____

EXP. DATE _____

CIV/SEC # _____

PHONE # _____

Email _____



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