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Niagara Falls, NY 14305

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MAKING AN IMPACT: NIAGARA UNIVERSITY TRANSFORMS ITS APPROACH TO SERVICE LEARNING

Niagara University - the only Western New York college or university that has been named to the President's Honor Roll for Community Service every year since 2006 - is strategically transforming its approach to service learning and student engagement in the community.

The Catholic and Vincentian university's flagship service program, Learn and Serve Niagara, was established in 1994 through a grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service. Its success prompted Niagara University to make the program a permanent fixture. Data illustrates that NU students currently perform 1,000 hours of service to the community every week through Learn and Serve Niagara.

Moving forward, NU's service learning program will be known as IMPACT, a rebrand that reflects its measured approach to instilling a model of collective impact that creates systemic change through project-based experiential learning. The transformation of Learn and Serve allows for a more comprehensive and individualized service program, which places more emphasis on professional and personal growth versus a model that highlights hours of service.

At the heart of IMPACT's mission is the advancement of the culture of civic and community engagement that exists at NU through closer alignment with the university's Vincentian mission and Strategic Vision Commitments. Application of the model will accentuate career preparation and workforce development through service.

SUMMER PROGRAMS GALORE

Children here, children there, children everywhere! It was a busy summer at Heart & Soul, with a total of six offerings for children. Children ages 7 to 12 participated in Art & Soul and Fun with Music, artistically creative centered programs. Niagara University Day Camp and Niagara University STEM Camp, specifically for girls, focused on developing their communication, leadership, and etiquette skills. Finally, we offered Summer Fun, a two-week educational experience with guest speakers and a field trip to the Splash Pad at Oppenheim Park. A total of 62 children participated in the various summer programs.



At the end of summer, we were also pleased to help provide 70 students with back-to-school supplies. Thank you for your generous support in helping make this a successful summer for all these children of God!

HEART Love & SOUL

FALL 2017



SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR OVER 30 YEARS

MISSION

Heart, Love & Soul is dedicated to feeding those in need – body, mind and soul.



As we say goodbye to summer months and prepare ourselves for the upcoming holiday season, I am heartened with the work that Heart, Love & Soul continues to do and how it is able to provide for those in need. I am often reminded of a passage in the book of John where Jesus declares, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me shall never go hungry, and those who believe in me shall never be thirsty." It brings me great joy to know that here at Heart, Love & Soul we live out these words of Christ, nourishing everybody who comes through our doors.

WHAT WE DO

- Food Pantry
- Dining Room
- Holiday Food Distribution
- Haircuts
- Case Worker Services
- Community Care Services
- Nutrition/Cooking Classes
- Summer Programs for Children

As we continue to serve our sisters and brothers in need, it is with great excitement that I am able to provide an update on our Daybreak program. God's providence is abundant and we look forward to the opportunities that lie ahead for us all.

Your belief and support in this ministry allows us to continue to provide basic needs for our guests, and I am forever grateful for the role you have played. Your generous donations of time and treasure enable us to open our doors day after day. Thank you for your hard work and continued dedication. God bless you each one.

Sister Beth

CONTACT INFORMATION

939 Ontario Avenue
Niagara Falls, NY 14305

Main: 716.282.5687
Pantry: 716.282.5681
Fax: 716.285.3966

www.heartloveandsoul.org



ANNUAL RECOGNITION DINNER

We are heading to Purple Eagle territory! Heart, Love & Soul's Annual Recognition Dinner will take place at Niagara University in the new Dining Commons on Wed., April 11, 2018, 5:30 p.m.

With gratitude to Fr. James Maher and his team, we look forward to holding our annual event in the midst of Purple Eagles. Metz Culinary Management has graciously opened its doors to professor Scott Beahen and his hospitality and tourism students, who will prepare and serve the meal. Co-chairs Beth Ieraci and Mary Montani have already begun to plan for the dinner. Guests can be dropped off at the entrance and vans will be available to transport to and from the parking lots. Heart & Soul could safely seat 225; the Dining Commons can seat 250. Though we will have the dinner at Niagara, some things never change--each table will still have our famous homemade cookies! You won't want to miss this enjoyable evening!



MISSION MOMENT

Heart, Love & Soul touches its guests in more ways than just providing nourishment. We share the following Mission Moment with you:

Every day, I am thankful for the volunteers who walk through our doors to help make this operation function. They put in countless hours of work, engage with our guests, and help to make Heart & Soul a positive experience for all. Each of them is unique and use their personality and skill set to help in the areas that fits them best.

However, there is one volunteer who goes above and beyond his duties here at Heart & Soul. Kenny Conklin has been volunteering at Heart & Soul for two years. Every morning, he arrives bright and early, earlier than most staff, and spends the entire work day helping with any and all tasks that need to be done. His dedication to Heart & Soul is inspiring and heartwarming to me. When I asked him what brings him here day after day, he said, "This place keeps me out of trouble. I like the people here; they've come to be my friends."

For so many, Heart & Soul is a place where community is created and companionship happens and we are proud to foster such relationships. This organization cannot exist without the help of selfless individuals like Kenny. We are honored to have you on our team Kenny, thank you for your hard work and dedication.

DAYBREAK IS COMING

For more than 30 years, Heart, Love, & Soul has been committed to supporting its community members, providing access to resources for thousands of individuals and families. It is because of our continued dedication and love for our community that we are pleased to update you about Daybreak, a program of Heart, Love & Soul.

Daybreak will specialize in human services support, utilizing resources in the community to empower individuals to reach their full potential while overcoming obstacles and challenges they may face. It is our hope that Daybreak will allow our clients easy access to support and services to help them achieve their personal goals.

Located right behind Heart & Soul at 924 Niagara Ave., Daybreak will include on-site access to case management, medical consultation, showers, laundry, haircuts, mailboxes, computers, printers, phones, and voicemail. It will also provide referrals to other programs, such as job readiness, resume building, financial counseling, mental health, substance abuse, peer support, and healthy lifestyle programs.

Currently, the Daybreak location is being stabilized and design plans are in progress. We hope to provide building updates in the spring. Thank you in advance for your support and encouragement on such a big endeavor.



Good friends gathered on April 6 for the 2017 Annual Recognition Dinner. Through everyone's kindness and generosity, over \$67,000 was raised in support of Heart, Love & Soul's ministry. God bless you each one!



At left, dinner co-chair Donna Forsyth with her husband, Dan.

At right, Brian Bennett, with dinner co-chair Beth Ieraci, Patrick Ieraci, Donna Bennett, and Father Joe Hubbert, C.M.



HIS EYES WERE OPENED

Imagine living your life in total darkness, unable to see the beauty of the world around you that God has so perfectly made. Imagine not having the freedom to travel, even if a short distance. Imagine not being able to care for yourself properly because you can't see what is right in front of you.

For one of our most loyal guests, this is what his world was like, living legally blind, having to be escorted to our facility every day to have access to basic needs, bumping into things, and not knowing

where to go. The severity of the situation was real, and we so desperately wanted to help. But how do you build enough trust to make such big promises to someone who can't see who you are, let alone imagine the world in front of him?

Yet, this is what Heart, Love & Soul does. We provide safety and security for those who might not find it elsewhere. It took a long time, hours upon hours of time, weekdays, weekends, phone calls, paperwork, and we were able to open one man's eyes to the world around him. A double cornea transplant and two cataract surgeries later, a blind man can now see. His story is a miraculous testimony to God's healing power. Thanks to case worker Liz Dixon and all the caregivers she mobilized, Steve Snyder will forever live a changed life.

FAREWELL AND WELCOME

Sr. Mary Kay Tyrell, our Community Care coordinator, left Heart, Love & Soul in June to take over as provincial secretary for the Daughters of Charity in St. Louis, Mo. Her presence is missed, but we wish her all the best in her new position. We hope Sr. Mary Kay will visit when she's in the area!

Sr. Theresa Schneider, our administrative assistant, left Heart & Soul to return to her roots in Columbus, Ohio. We are so thankful for her service. Sandie Tonellato has assumed this vital position. We are grateful Sandie has become a part of our team; she fits in perfectly!

Michael Daloia, our amazing assistant director, leaves us this month to take on a new position as agency services manager at the Food Bank of Western New York. We are sad to see him go, but wish him the best of luck in this new and exciting opportunity. Luckily, he won't be too far away!

And, we are pleased to welcome Pam Dixon, our newly installed assistant director. Pam comes with a background in management and administration, and we look forward to her presence among us. Welcome aboard, Pam!

We are also pleased to welcome Megan Johnson, project management director. Megan will oversee the development of Daybreak, a program of Heart, Love & Soul. Megan dedicated a year of service to the Niagara Falls community as a member of AmeriCorps Vista working on Daybreak, and we are excited to have her on board!

AND HERE THEY COME

'Tis the season, the holidays are here! Our busiest time of year is upon us, and Heart & Soul continues to play a key part in ensuring that families are able to enjoy this special time of year. In 2016, we gave away holiday meals to a combined total of 563 households, which fed more than 1,200 individuals. Christmas toys were also distributed to over a hundred children. Thanksgiving and Christmas sign-ups for this holiday season are now under way and, with your continued support, we look forward to another successful year.

WISH LIST

- Suitcases on wheels (to transport groceries)
- Pasta (all types)
- Canned chicken
- Canned pasta
- Cooking oil
- Sugar (1-lb containers)
- Ramen noodles
- Reusable shopping bags
- Winter hats and warm gloves
- White rice
- Socks (adult, white or black tube)
- Laundry detergent (40 oz. or more)
- Toilet paper (two and four packs)
- Small bottles of dish soap (14 oz. or less)
- Deodorant (men's and women's)
- Body wash
- Toothbrushes, toothpaste
- Shampoo and conditioner (full-size bottles)
- Razors, shaving cream
- Body lotion (full size)
- Bleach (gallon size)