HEART Love & SOUL
Serving The Community

939 Ontario Avenue
Niagara Falls, NY 14305

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DEPOSITS FOR FOOD

Our faithful friend, Angelo Sarkees, has been busier than ever collecting cans. As a result, he has donated $3,750 since January. During the same time, Angelo donated an equal amount to Community Missions. We could not be more grateful, thank you, Angelo!

Pictured at right (l-r) Joe Sbarbati from Community Missions, Sr. Beth Brosmer, and Angelo Sarkees.

VINCENTIAN SCHOLARS

The Vincentian Scholars Program at Niagara University offers scholarships to students who have demonstrated proven interest in service during their high school years, and who desire to continue doing service for Niagara University and its surrounding areas. Pictured with Fr. James Maher and Fr. Aidan Rooney are this year's scholars. Heart & Soul welcomes Megan Frawley and Emily Ruh, circled in red, who will serve alongside our staff and volunteers. Hooray for our Vincentian Scholars!

HEART Love & SOUL — FALL 2019

SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR OVER 30 YEARS

MISSION

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

WHAT WE DO

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

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United Way
United Way of Greater Niagara

Feeding those in need—body, mind, and soul—has been keeping us hopping! Since January, and always wrapped in warmth and concern, Heart & Soul has provided 81,140 meals in the dining room and pantry; distributed additional food to 645 households through the Mobile Food Pantry; hosted 60 for cooking classes and 105 for Bible study; assisted 2,272 with hygiene/cleaning items; provided haircuts to 257 people; helped 53 persons through Foot Care Clinics, while 1,204 used the services of our case worker and care coordinator; made it possible for 30 children to enjoy summer camps, and assisted 81 youngsters with school supplies. All this through amazing staff, and our equally amazing volunteers, who donated 4,885 hours in service. What is even more amazing is that all of this is possible through your generous and caring support. God reward you!

Sister Beth

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
HEART, LOVE & SOUL ANNUAL RECOGNITION DINNER

Wednesday, April 22, 2020
5:30 p.m.

Russell J. Salvatore Dining Commons, Niagara University

MISSION MOMENT

A little over six years ago, a young mother from Algiers and her five children came into the dining room. The mother was painfully thin and appeared heavily burdened, not only caring for her children, but also by life.

Over time, this family became regular guests, eating breakfast and lunch. On numerous occasions, we noticed that the mother had marks of abuse. She often came with black eyes and many bruises on her neck and arms. Always, she had an excuse that "she fell" from a ladder or down the stairs. Staff members grew more and more concerned, but she refused assistance for herself or the children.

She arrived one bitter cold day without the children. She finally broke her silence and told us her husband beat her, did not allow her to have food, and locked her out of the house. He took the children to live with his relatives. With her permission, we immediately went into action, called police and other agencies for help. The authorities throughout the city were well aware of her terribly abusive situation, yet they could do nothing if she refused help.

For the next few days, Heart & Soul made it possible to get a room in a downtown hotel, and provided clothing, food, and support. Eventually, her children were returned to her care and a restraining order was put in place against her husband. This brave mother and her five little ones were then sheltered in domestic violence crisis housing and, eventually, they were able to secure an apartment at Carolyn's House. The children flourished in the new, safe environment, were bused to school, and experienced stability for the first time in their young lives. Their mother also started the long road to healing and wholeness, taking advantage of services at Carolyn's House.

After great effort and numerous applications, this brave woman was notified that she got her citizenship papers and will be sworn in as a citizen of the United States in the next month. As a strong, determined woman, she will be a blessing to our country. With your support, she transitioned to a lifetime of hope and strength from what could have been a lifetime of despair. We are so proud of her and thank you for helping us help her.

DAYBREAK DAWNS

We are thrilled to announce that construction has begun at the Daybreak site! The new, one-stop center will provide 6,000 sqare feet of shared space, where multiple agencies will co-locate to deliver employment, education, housing, health, legal, and other services. Make sure to check out our website and Facebook page for regular updates on our progress.

As you know, Heart & Soul launched a capital campaign in February 2019 with a goal of $3.5 million to fund construction, new program costs, and growth of our board-designated investment fund. In June, Heart, Love & Soul asked friends and supporters to consider a gift to the campaign. We mailed a brochure about Daybreak that detailed the program and campaign goals. The response has been very positive, and we are grateful for the commitment that people have made through prayer, volunteering, and financial support. To date, we have raised $3.4 million—the goal line is in sight!

If you have not yet made a gift, please consider investing in the campaign to ensure our ministry to those most in need continues to make a difference. If you have any questions or want more information, please call us at 716-282-5687.

PROJECT CONNECT NIAGARA

In July, nearly 230 Niagara County residents took advantage of the Fourth Annual Project Connect held at Heart & Soul. More than 50 agencies and organizations were able to provide opportunities, resources, and services, and truly improve the quality of life for individuals in our community. A total of 230 individuals (majority of adults) were served. In addition, 103 individuals were provided health services/referrals/resources. Forty-nine participants had access to 17 employers in coordination with Project Connect and the NYS Department of Labor at the job fair.

ARTPARK SUMMER CONCERTS

Sr. Beth Brosmer and Community Missions' Christian Hoffman with Sammy Hagar.

For the 11th year in row, Heart & Soul partnered with Community Missions to collect donations during Tuesday concerts at the entrance to Artpark. With deep gratitude to the Village of Lewiston for granting permission to collect, we raised $14,009.34, $7,004.67 for each organization. It was a banner year, especially because Sammy Hagar, who opened the season with Sammy Hagar's Full Circle Jam Tour, made a donation of $2,500. We were excited to meet Sammy and touched to learn he gives a similar gift to various groups at each of his concerts. His reason? When he was growing up, his family needed to rely on organizations for food assistance, and he always wants to "pay it forward." God bless Sammy, our amazing volunteers, and the many concertgoers who made the season such a success!

SUMMER FUN

Owen, SaraAnne, and Richard

It was busy this summer! In addition to providing meals and services, Heart & Soul was able to send children to camp at Niagara University.

While at camp, the youngsters are able to go swimming each day and participate in a variety of counselor-led activities, such as tie-dying T-shirts, roller skating, and rock climbing. They also received lunch. The weekly camp themes this past summer were Game Show Week and Holiday Week.

Children who are chosen to attend are between 6 and 12 years old and regularly visit Heart, Love & Soul with their family. The camp has been very accommodating over the years and has welcomed children with disabilities and autism. Campers are transported to and from NU by vans, a service that is donated by ARIES transportation. Sr. Diane Bernbeck sees them off each morning at 8:30 a.m. and waits for them to return at 3:30 p.m. each afternoon.

Gillian is a mother of six, and she really appreciates the opportunity to send her children to camp. Her oldest son attended until he was no longer age eligible, and this year, three more of her children, Owen, SaraAnne, and Richard, were selected. While waiting to pick up her children, Gillian shared about the camp: "It's really nice. The kids love it … They always come home and talk about what they did during the day … My older son was sad when he was not able to attend."

WISH LIST

- Men's and women's socks
- Incontinence pads or underwear for men and women
- Size L, XL, and XXL thermal underwear
- Bar soap, body lotion
- All sizes of sheets, blankets, and bed bug covers
- Hats and gloves for women and men
- Precast concrete planters 4' by 3' 5"
- School supplies: filler paper, pencils, erasers, pens, dry erase markers, pencil sharpeners, one inch 3-ring binders, 1½ 3-ring binders, ruled 3X5 index cards, glue sticks, and composition books