



Founded on Agape

# Thea's Notes

A Newsletter of Thea Bowman House

Winter 2019

## Holiday Assistance Program

Each year our holiday assistance program to needy families seems to grow. Thanks to an increase in the number of people willing to “adopt a family” for Christmas, we were able to provide 81 families with clothing, food, and toys. Thanks to an anonymous donation of \$2,500 from someone who wishes to make the gift in “remembrance of a remarkable man,” each family received a turkey or a ham. We have a current count of 350 children in all of our programs combined and each one of them received a gift from Santa this year. Santa even made a personal visit to the center with Mrs. Claus and his North Pole dogs thanks to our friends at Cornell Cooperative Extension who made sure Thea Bowman House was on his list. Most of the benefactors have requested that their names not be published, so all we can do is tell you that each of you really touched the lives of the people who received those gifts. The love that is lavished on our families at holiday time gives us all so much joy. Please accept our profound gratitude.

## Beating the Winter Blahs!

By the end of February, most of us have had quite enough of Old Man Winter. Parents and teachers dread the daunting task of making sure their children are bundled up to face the ever changing weather patterns, not to mention the eternal search for lost mittens.

During the winter break from school Thea Bowman House kids of all ages embraced the good, old fashioned fun of sledding, fort building, and snowperson making. For many, it was the first time experiencing the thrill of sliding down a hill and the sounds of their delight proved that it was a hit.



Thanks to the John Winter Family Fund, the school agers also got to visit the Wonder Works in Syracuse where they enjoyed indoor activities of the ropes course, laser tag and all kinds of kid friendly amusements. Still others got to experience “Art Alive” at the invitation of our neighbor, the Munson-Williams-Proctor Arts Institute.

The preschool age children visited the Children’s Museum to see the new store front exhibits. It happened to be the opening day for the Jay-K Lumber store, and we had a whole crew of four-year old carpenters on hand.



Find us on the web: [www.theabowmanhouse.org](http://www.theabowmanhouse.org) or [facebook.com/theabowmanhouse](https://facebook.com/theabowmanhouse)

## New Ventures

There has been a great deal of movement at the DeSales Center this fall and winter. The Universal Pre-Kindergarten moved from the ground floor to the first floor in early October making it possible for both school-age children and pre-k children to have their own classrooms. Prior to that they were sharing rooms. Pre-k would leave at 3 p.m., and the school-age program would be coming in a few minutes later. One of the needs that emerged from this move was the need for more age appropriate furniture and equipment. Thanks to another donor-advised grant from the Community Foundation of Herkimer and Oneida Counties through the Utica National Group Foundation Fund in the amount of \$25,000, we have been able to purchase new tables, chairs, cubbies, classroom equipment and supplies.

Everyone is delighted with the new space and more age appropriate furniture. We hope to continue expanding our space as we continue to dream of the continued growth of the DeSales Center. With its nearness to the Utica Public Library and the Munson-Williams-Proctor Arts Institute, we couldn't be in a better location.

## Improving our Food Service

Thea Bowman House is headed for a 33<sup>rd</sup> birthday on October 6, 2019. It has been a journey that began with 30 latchkey children in an after school program, and now we have 350 children in several programs that are available at two sites. Meal service includes breakfast, lunch, snack for full day students and dinner for the after school program. That same stove that prepared meals for those first 30 children finally decided that enough was enough.

Thanks to a donor-advised grant from the Community Foundations of Herkimer and Oneida Counties, Inc. through the fund name of Margaret Gaffney and Van Waes Fund, the Thea Bowman House kitchens received the equipment so badly needed. The grant for \$9,475 made it possible to purchase an industrial stove for the Lafayette Street center and a steam table to keep food warm at the DeSales site. The grant also included a refrigerator and an upgrade to our secure entry system. These will be gifts that keep on giving. Thank you so much.



## Food Pantry Corner

We are deeply grateful for the generosity of our friends at Our Lady of Lourdes and Our Lady of the Rosary Churches for their collection of 100 blankets to meet the needs of so many of our food pantry guests and for the ongoing monthly support of our St. Clare's Cupboard.

## NEEDS LIST

- Replacement for playhouse and caterpillar playground piece destroyed in wind storm
- Food pantry could use plastic bags, non-perishable food items, shampoo, soap and toilet paper
- Socks and underwear for children ages 2-7
- Radiator covers for DeSales center or carpenters to help build them
- Sweat pants for children sizes 3-6

Please contact Jane or Cindy at 315-797-0748 or [info@theabowmanhouse.org](mailto:info@theabowmanhouse.org)



Thea Bowman House

### St. Patrick's Day Happy Hour

Thursday, March 14, 2019  
5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Chophouse by Chesterfield at Double Tree by Hilton Hotel Utica  
109 Lafayette Street, Utica

Tickets - \$15 in Advance \$20 at the Door - Include:

- two free beer tickets
  - drink specials
  - free appetizers

Live Entertainment—"Utica Date Night" Basket Raffle

Tickets Available at <https://theabowmanhappyhour.eventbrite.com>

For more information contact Alyssa Spina at  
[Alyssa@theabowmanhouse.org](mailto:Alyssa@theabowmanhouse.org) or 315-731-7010.

I can't attend but would like to make a donation in support of the event.

Donor: \_\_\_\_\_ Gift Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Thea Bowman House

### St. Patrick's Day Parade Party

Saturday, March 16, 2019  
8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
DeSales Center Auditorium

Food and Drinks, Karen Food, Souvenirs, Homemade Baked Goods and Irish Soda Bread  
Face and Nail Painting, Photo Booth, Free Arts and Crafts  
Indoor Viewing of Parade, Warming Station

Entertainment After the Parade:  
Butler-Sheehan Academy of Irish Dance & Johnston School of Irish Dance



## Thea Bowman House

731 Lafayette Street  
Utica, NY 13502  
Phone: 315-797-0748  
Fax: 315-735-6991  
info@theabowmanhouse.org  
www.theabowmanhouse.org

### Mission Statement

The mission of Thea Bowman House, Inc. is to provide a safe, nurturing environment.

To enable culturally diverse children and families achieve their full potential.

The foundation on which Thea Bowman House is built is agape, "unconditional love."

Jane Domingue  
Executive Director  
Sandy Wright  
School-age Program Director

### Board of Directors

#### Officers:

Darby O'Brien, President  
Michael Brennan, Vice-President  
Emily Tracy, Secretary  
William Ryan, Treasurer

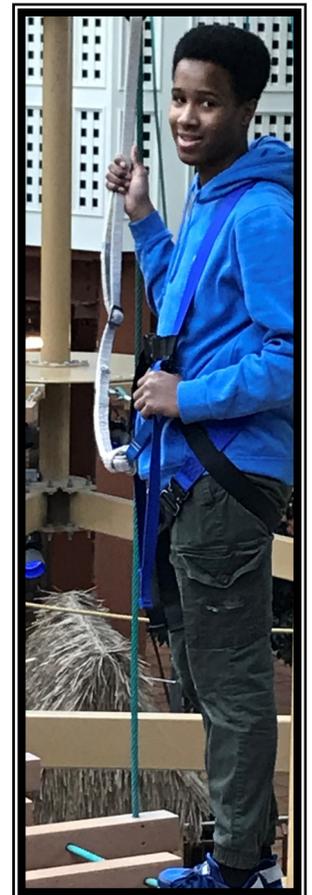
#### Members:

Katherine Poupart  
Martha DuMont  
Heather Beebe  
F. Christopher Giruzzi, Esq.

#### Ex Officio:

William Taft

## Fun Times During a Utica Winter



United Way of  
the Valley and  
Greater Utica Area

### PLEASE SUPPORT THE UNITED WAY

United Way of the Valley and Greater Utica helps to support four Thea Bowman House programs. These are the Child Care for low income families, the DOVE program (Domestic Violence Ended), the Kids with Promise Teen Program, and our food pantry called St. Clare's Cupboard. They also fund many of our collaborating partners. Our local United Way works tirelessly on behalf of our community through advocacy and volunteerism. They have recently helped start a valuable resource called 211 so that people in need can connect with appropriate services. They deserve our support.