



Founded on Agape

# Thea's Notes

A Newsletter of Thea Bowman House

November 2013

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### Cleophas' Closet

We will be accepting good used winter clothing effective November 4 as we reopen our pantry. Please bring items to our Lafayette Street site between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m.

## We Give Thanks

Dear Benefactors,

The month of November is filled with time honored traditions. Thanksgiving is one of them. Soon we will gather around tables abounding with reminders of a rich harvest. The faith community also will recall those who have gone before us on the day of "all souls." We would like to dedicate this newsletter in gratitude for you, our benefactors, who help keep our doors open each day through your generosity. We remember with thankful hearts the men and women who were so dedicated to the mission of Thea Bowman House as volunteers, board members, and generous donors.

The early summer rains wreaked havoc at all three Thea Bowman House buildings. Agape House on Summit Place, which is home to two foster parents and the children in their care, needed a new pitched roof to stop an endless cycle of leaks that destroyed the ceilings in the children's bedrooms. Two smaller roofs had to be replaced at our DeSales Center. Our Lafayette Street site, which houses our youngest children who are 18 months through 5 years of age, is also home to St. Clare's Cupboard, the emergency food pantry that serves 150-200 families and over 500 people each month. The inclement weather caused basement flooding that destroyed all the dry wall and made it necessary to "gut" the entire area and rebuild the pantry at a total cost of \$9,990. The pantry and clothing shop were temporarily displaced and have been operating out of the garage at St. Joseph's-St. Patrick's Church.

You might wonder how such a series of events could lead to thoughts of gratitude. While it continues to be a very challenging year financially, you continue to reach out to our poorest citizens, our children, elderly, unemployed and homeless. It is for this reason that we want to express our sincere thanks for your unbounded generosity.

*Please See Thanks, page 2*

**In Memoriam** We remember two friends who have recently died. They are Rosemary Kelly, Christ Child Society member and avid supporter of Thea Bowman House, and Marie Ferro who had great devotion to helping children succeed. We also recall our deceased board presidents, Oreatha Bowens and Jane Fraser, whose legacies of dedication to our mission continue to guide us.

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

## Thanks, Community Foundation

Thank you, Community Foundation of Herkimer and Oneida Counties

This wonderful foundation has been integral to the development of Thea Bowman House. Reminders of the miracles created by incredible generosity are everywhere. They are seen each day as children enjoy their beautiful playground. Each morning, the Pre-Kindergarten children get to board the 36 passenger mini-bus received through a 2012 Community Foundation grant. If we look into our 27 year history, the Community Foundation of Herkimer and Oneida Counties is written on every page. Last June, through the Mele Family Fund, a check for \$3,425 was received to update our learning center in the after school center. This grant allowed the purchase of computers to help students who don't have access to this resource in their home. Most recently, the foundation responded to our need to clean out the food pantry that had been contaminated by the effects of the summer rains with a grant for \$4,700 through the Sinnott Family Fund. This gift enabled us to clear out the entire space, rebuild the protective wall around the boiler and get rid of all safety and health hazards. It was a true emergency and required a quick response. Thank you once again to our community partners.

Just a few more of the many reasons to be grateful this November.....

Thanks to Father Richard Dellos and our friends at St. Joseph's-St. Patrick's Church for temporarily housing our food pantry in the parish garage.

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Thanks to Mohawk Valley Community College for inviting our 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> graders to participate in a four week learning experience this summer. Our young people enjoyed going to "college" each morning. Two wonderful teachers, Shelley Bartolotti and Sarah Sydrow, provided a literacy rich experience that helped our youth develop the theme of "heroes in our lives." The children are still "buzzing with excitement" over their summer memories.

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Thanks to Katharine Winter and Attorney Richard Parker for providing incredible summer field trips for our school age children through the John Winter Family Fund.

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Thanks to the United Way of the Mohawk Valley and Greater Utica for their continued contribution to our Child Care programs, our Domestic Violence Prevention Program (DOVE), and our Kids with Promise teen program. And let us not forget the many donations received from the Diaper Drive and Back to School Supply Drive sponsored by the United Way.

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Thanks to New Hartford Presbyterian Church and the Deacon's Fund for supporting the mission here through financial gifts and through a church initiated project that helps our teenage boys explore career opportunities through the efforts of a men's group, lovingly called the "Bobs."

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Thanks to Fr. Joseph Salerno, Evanna Sullivan, and the parishioners at Our Lady of Lourdes Church for the "Peanut Butter to Church" monthly canned food collection that helps keep our pantry shelves stocked.

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Thanks to our friends at Maynard United Methodist Church for helping our little ones with back to school supplies and children's clothing.

*Please See Thanks, page 3*

## Thanks

Thanks to the Presbyterian Women in Mission, from so many local churches, for continued support.

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Thanks to Fr. James Sesta and parishioners at St. Mary of Mt. Carmel/Blessed Sacrament Church for tithing to our center monthly.

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Thanks to Symeon Tsoupolis of Symeon's Restaurant for donating 75 beautiful chairs to the DeSales Center.

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Thanks to the Christ Child Society for continuing its monthly "birthday celebration" ministry for over 20 years. The children love the delicious home-baked cupcakes and treats.

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Thanks to the Hartford Insurance Company for the "Back to School" backpack drive. The children went to school in style this September.

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Thanks to the Catholic Women's Club for their very generous donation in support of the children.

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Thanks to all of you who responded for our call for air conditioners last summer and for all our community readers, volunteers, staff, and benefactors who continue to see the possibilities in the children of Thea Bowman House.

## Coming Soon

We are excited to announce that we will soon have t-shirts and hooded sweatshirts available with our logo and this saying:

Hope sees the invisible, feels the intangible, achieves the impossible

For more information, please call the receptionist at 797-0748.



## Thea Bowman House

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### 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

### Board of Directors

Darby O'Brien, President  
Judith Grassi, Secretary  
William Taft, Treasurer  
Rose White, Ex Officio

Michael Brennan  
Jaime Dudajek-Burgdoff  
Sean Morelle  
Colleen Kehoe-Robinson  
Katherine Poupart  
Sal Rosato  
James Scutchins

## **Needs List**

- **Good, used winter clothing to restock our clothing pantry beginning November 4.**
- **Diapers size 4 & 5**
- **Children's clothing size 8 and under**
- **Winter boots for children 18 months to 5 years old**
- **Monetary donations to help with stipends for tuition assistance**
- **Volunteers for the Holiday Assistance Program (contact Sr. Luanne)**
- **Volunteers for the Fundraising Committee**

**If Interested in helping, please call Sister Luanne at 797-0748 ext. 203**

**Thank you!!**

# Thea's Programs

Child Care ages 18 months and up  
Universal Pre-Kindergarten  
St. Clare's Cupboard Food Pantry  
Cleophas' Closet Used Clothing Store  
Agape House  
Kids with Promise Teen Program  
DOVE Domestic Violence Ended

Stay tuned for our annual Christmas and holiday appeal next month and for more of our gratitude list.

### **We Appreciate your Support!**

We truly appreciate your taking the time to catch up with us! If you have time, I encourage you to browse around our BRAND NEW website for the latest updates and news at [www.theabowmanhouse.org](http://www.theabowmanhouse.org). Also, if you are interested in volunteering with the Thea Bowman House, don't hesitate to send us an email; our volunteer applications are available through our website.

**United  
Way**



**United Way of  
the Valley and  
Greater Utica Area**