



Founded on Agape

Thea's Notes

A Newsletter of Thea Bowman House

Winter 2017



Thea Bowman House St. Patrick's Parade Day Party

Saturday, March 11, 2017

8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

DeSales Center Auditorium

309 Genesee Street

Food & Drinks

Karen Food

Souvenirs

Homemade Baked Goods & Irish Soda Bread

Face & Nail Painting, Photo Booth, Free Arts & Crafts

Indoor Viewing of Parade & Warming Station

Entertainment After the Parade:

Butler-Sheehan Academy of Irish Dance & Johnston School of Irish Dance

I am unable to attend but would like to make a contribution to the event.

Name: _____ Gift Amount: _____

General Support _____

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____



One of goals of Thea Bowman House is to help families break out of the cycle of poverty through providing quality programs and supportive services. Education is a key factor in that quest whether it be helping a child with homework, offering excellent pre-school programs or encouraging struggling single-parent families to pursue post-secondary education. We have begun an initiative, through partnerships with the Women's Fund of Herkimer and Oneida Counties, two donor advised funds of the Community Foundation, and On-Point for College, to help families that are struggling with insufficient income because minimum wage jobs simply cannot meet their needs. This pilot program will help subsidize child care costs so that parents wishing to go to college can afford child care while they are enrolled. This would include two- and four-year colleges. We will be offering more specific information in our next issue.

**2016 Donations 'In Memory of' and 'In Honor of'
February 6, 2016-February 10, 2017**

In Memory of...

Joseph Trotta
from Helen Trotta

Joseph Bottini
from Helen Trotta

Rose Marie Bottini
from Helen Trotta

Sr. Rose Eileen Kelly, CSJ
from Christine A. Kelly

Leslie Diven Jr.
from the Diven Family

Helen Morelli
from Mary Kate Rinko

Jane Harris
from George Harris
Dave & Jan Dudajek

Paul Panella
from Bill & Jean Taft

Thomas Moylan
from Rose Moylan

Frank Galime
from Helen Galime

Steven R. Day
from Patty & Jim Neary

Noah Nolan
from Beatrice Allison

Chet & Stella Zurek
from Sylvia Chruscicki

Agnes Farrell
from Margaret James

Bobbi Jo Eckert Hunt
from Beverly Eckert

Mary Zane
from Rev. Richard O'Neill

Pat Dugan
from Peter & Joanne Sabino
Michael & Robin Brennan
Maria Beck
Joseph P. Caruso
Assisi Community
Jim & Pat Roddy
Anne K. Hill
Christine Hait
Courtney Asker
Elaine & Bob Mammen

Michael & Anne Debraggio
Joyce Murphy
Craobh Dugan—CCE
Bill & Jean Taft
Mike & Chris Hoke
George A. Kozminski, MD
Jim & Diana O'Looney
Kathy Poupart
Deirdre Dugan

Fr. James Lauducci
from Jim & Diana O'Looney
Kathy Poupart
Wayne & Mary Hosey
Mary C. Fazekas
Barbara & Edward Paparella
Marta & Gregory Donohue
Andrew Faber
Mary Louise & Richard Miller
David & Carole Huxtable
Martha C. Lynch
Mary Jane Krupski

Justin & Rosemary Kelly
from Maureen Kelly

Leslie Rudolph
from Jay-K Lumber
Deb & Cary Flack

Sara Cunningham
from Mark Thomson

Estelle Plescia
from Anonymous

Charles Robinson
from Anonymous

Angela Piacenti
from Maria & Zach Dimitriou
Michael & Maria Pilla
Peter & Barbara Pagliaro
David & Donna Goss
Patricia Mundschenk
Patrick & Deanna Putrello
Darlene Anthony
Shannon Primarolo
James & Anne Doti
Joseph & Benita Putrelo
Cheryl Macera
Gary & Anne Maggi

2016 Donations Continued

Luca Esposito
 Mario & Jeannette Macera
 Francis Liuzzi
 Greg & Angela McAtee & Family
 Paula Mettelman
 from Marytheresa Balutis
 Ron Denison
 from Sandra Jasinski
 W.S. & D.M. McLain
 Elizabeth Giles
 Beverly McCutcheon
 Colleen Fahy-Box
 Christine Ann Suppa
 from Charisse Wisniewski
 Robert Eaton
 from Judy Eaton
 Aleem Ally
 from Charisse Wisniewski
 James Dunn
 from Anne Mercurio Dunn
 Jane & Bill Fraser
 from Gary & Anne Fraser Zegel
 Mrs. Malik
 from Mary Beth Poupart
 Judy Eaton
 from Sabina Case
 Maria Beck & Jim Sinclair
 John Ossowski
 Mary & Dean Gordon
 Bill & Jean Taft
 Joseph Nicholson & Family
 Maria Beck
 Dr. James Burns
 from Bill & Jean Taft
 Michael Senko
 from Marytheresa Balutis

In Honor Of...

Angeline Fusco
 from Donald & Helen LoGuidice

Patrick Nunn
 from Don & Terry Snyder
 Jane Domingue
 from Kathe & Bob Salzman
 Sandy Wright
 from Kathe & Bob Salzman
 Father LaFache
 from Rich Salamida
 Father Dellos
 from Rich Salamida
 Mary Kate Rinko
 from Judy Grassi
 Mary Harvilla
 from Elizabeth Harvilla
 Fr. Paul Drobin
 from Rose & Kevin McCormick
 Mary Louise & Richard Miller
 Bill & Jean Taft
 The Sexton Family
 Richard & Nancy Zdyb
 Sr. Sue Jasko
 from Sisters of St. Joseph
 Phil Buttiglieri
 from Donald & Helen LoGuidice
 Peter Lambert
 from Brenda Lambert
 Trudy Murphy
 from Mary Beth Poupart
 Robin Brennan
 from Tom & Juli Brennan
 Hon. Richard Hanna
 from Mike & Kelly Parsons & the First Source
 Federal Credit Union Board & Staff
 Darby O'Brien & Staff
 from Bob & Kathe Salzman
 James & Diana O'Looney
 from Siobhan O'Looney Silver
 Diane Jones
 from Nancy Blehar
 Austin Salzman & the Salzman Family
 from Noelle Kinsch & Ariana Klotz



**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.

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
Sandy Wright
School-age Program Director

Board of Directors

Darby O'Brien, President
Kathrine Poupart, Vice Pres.
Gina Surace, Secretary
William Ryan, Treasurer

William Taft, Ex-officio
Michael Brennan
Martha DuMont, CPA, ARE,
CIDM
Colleen Kehoe-Robinson
Sean Morelle
Emily Tracy, PHR

Christmas Miracle 2016

It is no small challenge to shop for 350 children and their families enrolled in a Thea Bowman House program. When you add 250 monthly food pantry consumers and their families to the mix, you have a big job on your hands. Thanks to the leadership of Sister Luanne and her faithful crew, we can happily report that every child received a Christmas gift or two. There were 72 families that applied for and received help with clothing, food, and toys. Thanks to a number of individual donors, these families were adopted and their benefactors had a great time shopping for some very grateful recipients.

We thank the Newman Community at Utica College, St. John the Evangelist Church, St. Joseph-St. Patrick's Church, St. Mark's Church, Our Lady of Lourdes Church, St. Mary of Mt. Carmel/Blessed Sacrament Church, Zion Lutheran Church, Sts. Anthony and Agnes Church Youth Group, and St. Elizabeth's School of Nursing.

We thank Gates-Cole Insurance, the Clinton Kiwanis Club, Carbone Auto Group, Oneida-Herkimer BOCES, Central Association for the Blind, CLIPS Hair Salon, New York Power Authority, as well as several individuals who "adopted" families.

We offer special thanks to those who spent hours interviewing families, sorting gifts, and distributing them.

Last but not least, we want to thank the Ken Roser Group for their incredible program called "Stuff the Bus." This is an event in which several local organizations are invited to shop for donated toys. Our board member Sean Morelle ("S.") helps organize this fun event each year. The toys were INCREDIBLE!

The newest addition to the Christmas miracle was CNY Events under the leadership of Joe and Monica Hickel who organized a toy drive by reaching out to several local businesses. They arrived at the center with a truckload of goodies.

Oneida County employees took part in still another drive that collected disposable diapers, baby wipes, personal items like soap, shampoo, toothpaste, school supplies, art supplies, coloring books. The office of County Executive Anthony Picente was filled to the brim with donated items by employees.

It is next to impossible to know the number of children and families that were touched by such holiday generosity, but there were no Christmas trees left without gifts that came directly from the heart of a caring community.

After school homework help is needed at the DeSales Center.

UTICA COMETS FEVER—The Utica Comets under the leadership of Rob Esche have been visiting the school age children for the past two hockey seasons. They have helped with homework, sponsored coat drives and had fun playing basketball with the kids. Their SAVE OF THE DAY foundation was responsible for a playground equipment grant last year. On January 28, we were honored with a very special evening. It was a fundraiser for our 30th anniversary. The Comets wore new and specially designed jerseys and helmets for the event. A choir of our youth proudly sang *The Star Spangled Banner* to start off the game. Our longtime friend and board member, Bill Taft, got to drop the puck. During the two intermissions, some lucky staff members and children got to ride in the Fan Zamboni. The game was so exciting and went into overtime. The children have truly fallen in love with this wonderfully spirited team. The Comets received over 200 homemade valentines from their adoring Thea Bowman fans. Special thanks to Matt Wilsey and his wife Lisa for sponsoring a night that will live forever in our memory. Their dedication to helping children in need is boundless and so is the spirit of this incredible team. Go Comets!