Matt Urban hope center

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urban times

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Contact us to help raise money for an outreach van!





UPCOMING EVENTS

Boxes of Love
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 3:00 P.M.

Boxes of Love will be at the Hope Center to distribute toys and food to families. Please visit the Hope Center before December 9 to register!

Health Fair
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2:00 – 5:00 P.M.

A variety of agencies will be at the Hope Center to provide health and wellness information and services. Pick up your Box of Love while you visit the Health Fair!

Holiday Extravaganza
MONDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2:00 – 5:00 P.M.

This exciting holiday party will be open to anyone in the community and will feature live music performances, a delicious holiday meal, craft projects for kids, pictures with Santa, holiday gifts for kids, and a special holiday opportunity for parents. You won't want to miss it!

MLK, Jr. Celebration Dinner
FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 3:00 – 5:00 P.M.

We will host a special dinner in the Urban Diner to honor Martin Luther King, Jr. Everyone is welcome!

Valentine's Day Dinner
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 3:00 – 5:00 P.M.

We will host a special dinner in the Urban Diner to celebrate Valentine's Day. Everyone is welcome!

Black History Month Celebration Dinner
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 3:00 – 5:00 P.M.

We will host a special dinner in the Urban Diner to celebrate Black History Month. Everyone is welcome!

our mission

The Matt Urban Hope Center responds to the needs of the community by hosting family-focused events, informative workshops, free tax preparation, benefits screening, housing and job assistance. We assist individuals who are homeless and those at risk of becoming homeless, families suffering from domestic violence, loss of income, no utilities, and eviction. Additionally, we serve dinner five times per week which is open and free to the community.

info

MATT URBAN HOPE CENTER
385 Paderewski Drive
Buffalo, NY 14212
(716) 893-7222 ext. 310

HOPE CENTER HOURS
Monday – Friday
11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

URBAN DINER BY FRIENDS OF NIGHT PEOPLE
Dinner Hours:
Monday – Friday
3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

FOOD PANTRY
1st, 2nd & 3rd Tuesdays
1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Last Saturday
of every month
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

MATT URBAN HOPE CENTER FUNDERS & PARTNERS

United Way · The John R. Oishei Foundation · CASH · U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development · Seal of the City of Buffalo · Friends of Night People

Hope Works

PARTICIPANT SPOTLIGHT

Tyrus Calbert

TYRUS CALBERT APPRECIATES THE OPPORtunity to volunteer in the Hope Center's dining room.

"I love to give back some of what they gave to me," he said.

"They" are the Center staff who several years ago got Tyrus into an apartment, where he is working on a book about the people he met while he lived on the streets since coming to Buffalo from Chicago. Getting Tyrus off the streets here started when Joy Tedeschi, the Center's director, found him sleeping on a bench on Main Street.

"When she told me they could get me a place where I'd have some privacy, I looked at her like she was crazy," Tyrus said. "But she wasn't. She was one of the most helpful people I've ever met. Everyone is helpful here."

Volunteering at the Center has enabled Tyrus to develop patience and skills at dealing with people, which he said he "needed a lot. A lot of times I couldn't put up with things I had to put up with, but now I can." – **BY PETER WARN**

Thank You Corner

VOLUNTEERS FROM THE NEWMAN CENTER Catholic Campus Ministry at Buffalo State College serve meals in the Hope Center's dining room the first Tuesday of each month.

"The Newman philosophy is service," said Mary Boblak. "We serve to have fulfilling lives and to help others."

Helping with the Friends of the Night People's meal program at the Center is one of many philanthropic activities in which Newman Center members participate.

"We do it because there's a need for it," said volunteer Robert Drajem.

The Hope Center would like to extend a warm thank you to the Buffalo State Newman Center volunteers for all of their hard work!

Activities & Events

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

WORKSHOPS ARE HELD AT THE MATT URBAN HOPE Center at 385 Paderewski Dr. in Buffalo. Please call 893-7222, ext. 310 to register.

Housing Workshops

Are you looking for new housing? Belmont Housing Resources for WNY offers free Housing Search Workshops at the Hope Center! These workshops explain different types of subsidized housing that are available and how to apply, give tips on locating an apartment, and answer other housing related questions. Upcoming Housing Workshops are scheduled for the following dates:

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 3:30 TO 4:30 P.M.
TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 3:30 TO 4:30 P.M.
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 3:30 TO 4:30 P.M.

Financial Fitness Workshops

Get financially fit! Consumer Credit Counseling Services of Buffalo offers Financial Fitness Workshops at the Hope Center that will help you create a household budget and stick to it, answer your questions about personal finances, and help you build or repair your credit. Upcoming Financial Fitness Workshops are scheduled for the following dates:

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 3:00 TO 4:00 P.M.
THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 3:00 TO 4:00 P.M.
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 3:00 TO 4:00 P.M.

Job Search Workshops

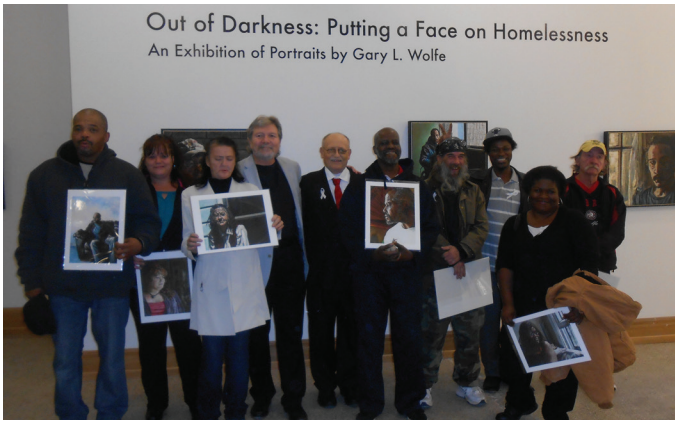
Does your search for a new job need a boost? Try participating in one of our Job Search Workshops presented by the Buffalo Employment and Training Center for help with your resume, cover letter, interview skills, and search for job openings. Upcoming Job Search Workshops are scheduled for the following dates:

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 12:00 TO 2:00 P.M.
THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 12:00 TO 2:00 P.M.
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 12:00 TO 2:00 P.M.



Volunteers from the Buffalo State Newman Center volunteer in the Urban Diner. From left to right: Robert Drajem, Rose VanKerkhoven, Mary Boblak, Pat Lord, Barbara Mierzwa.

Out of Darkness: Putting a Face on Homelessness



From left to right: James, Denise, Jessie, Gary, Dean, Al, Jeff, Ty, Ludine, Gary.

LUDINE DERATUS HAD NEVER BEEN IN AN ART gallery before November. Now she's starring in one. Ludine's portrait is one of more than two dozen that Gary L. Wolfe created for "Out of Darkness: Putting a Face on Homelessness." The exhibit of paintings of Hope Center members is on display until Dec. 31 at the Artspace Buffalo Gallery, 1219 Main St.

"I'm proud of it," Ludine said, "but at the same time…" She smiled brightly as she looked around at the crowd of hundreds of people who packed the two-story gallery for the Nov. 1 exhibit opening. "It's a little overwhelming," Ludine said, putting her index finger and thumb close together. "Just a little."

Being in the spotlight was a new experience for Wolfe's models, several of whom stood by their portraits and greeted those who attended the opening. After spending more than two hours in conversation with dozens of people who wished him well, Warren McElrath said, "I gave so many autographs I didn't think I'd ever write my name that many times."

Participants said they were pleased to be included and grateful for the powerful opening night reception.

"I met a lot of nice people, people with a heart," said Jeff ("Gnome") Schreiber.

Gary is donating 30 percent of the proceeds from sales of the paintings ($750 or $1,000 each) to the Hope Center for construction of Hope Gardens, a residential facility for women. He is dividing revenue from sales of the $25 exhibit catalog among the Center, the Restoration Society's Harbor House and the Homeless Alliance of Western New York.

Gary encourages anyone who views the exhibit to add to it by leaving notes on "The Wall of Forgotten Faces." The piece combines several of Wolfe's paintings with a mock homeless encampment of buckets, recyclables and a sleeping bag. One person contributed an unsigned message that reflects Gary's theme that the line separating those with homes from those without is thin: "If not for my family my portrait might be hanging here tonight!" – **BY PETER WARN**

PARTNER AGENCIES SCHEDULE

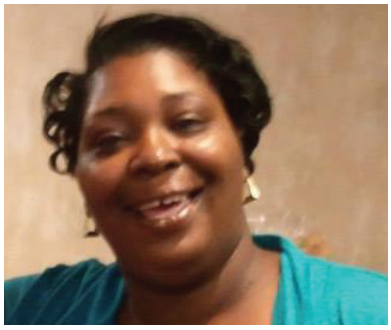
These agencies visit the Hope Center on a regular basis and provide free services. Take advantage of these programs while they are in your neighborhood!

AGENCY NAME	SCHEDULED TIME	SERVICES OFFERED
Buffalo Public Schools	**WEDNESDAYS,** 3:00-5:00	GED Preparation Programs
Community Access Services	**4TH MONDAY,** 3:00-4:30	HIV Testing and Services
Fidelis Care	**4TH THURSDAY,** 3:00-5:00	Health Insurance
Goodwill	**TUESDAYS,** 1:30-2:30	Veteran Employment Services
MOCHA Center	**LAST TUESDAY,** 3:00-5:00	HIV Testing and Services
Planned Parenthood of WNY	**2ND & 4TH WEDNESDAYS,** 3:00-5:00	Reproductive Health Services
UB Educational Opportunity Center	**1ST TUESDAY,** 12:30-2:30	Adult Education and Training Programs
Wellcare	**3RD MONDAY,** 2:30-4:30	Health Insurance
GBAUHN	**1ST WEDNESDAY & 3RD THURSDAY,** 2:30-4:00	Health Home

Staff

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

TASHA MOORE



Tasha Moore celebrates at the True Triumph Award Ceremony

SEVERAL YEARS AGO, Tasha Moore was a drug-addicted petty thief who had lost custody of her children. She's made significant progress since then. In September, the True Community Development Corp. awarded Tasha its first True Triumph Award for overcoming challenges and inspiring others to work to surmount their obstacles. Janice White, executive director of the organization that was founded by, but is separate from the True Bethel Baptist Church, said Tasha was the obvious choice for the honor.

"She was just so very transparent about the troubles in her life," White said of Tasha, whom she met at a four-day training session for health care workers. "All of those things – the drugs, the times in jail, losing her family – she shared openly with a room full of strangers. She didn't know how we would respond or if we would judge her. For her, it was a release and a freedom, and Tasha has the ability to make other people feel that freedom, too."

Tasha, who is taking classes for her associate's degree at Erie Community College and who has stayed off drugs and regained custody of her children, started volunteering in the Center's dining room in 2009. In July, the Center hired her to manage the diner and related events full-time.

One night a week, Tasha goes out on the East Side streets where she used to shoplift and do drugs. She finds women who are living the kind of hard life she used to live and helps them with food, encouragement and other aid.

"Seeing that I've done something for someone, that does something for me," Tasha said. "It makes me happy. Working here at the Hope Center did more than give me a job. It showed me there are people who care and who want to help, and it let me be one of those people, too."

Hope Center director Joy Tedeschi cited Tasha's "innate leadership skills and her drive to do better for herself and to help other do better for themselves." In her nomination of Tasha for the award, Joy called her "a light of hope sent to our community by God."

"Her work with these women is inspiring, as she is able to connect with them in a way no one else can," Joy wrote. "Through her own progress, Tasha has given these women hope, and shown them how to turn their lives around and escape the streets."

Winning the True Triumph Award left Tasha feeling "beyond words," especially because family members who had been taken from her and others she had stayed away from were at the banquet.

"They all came out to support me. I felt so blessed. I know a lot of people who died and didn't get the chance to overcome their addictions and make up for what they did while they were on drugs. I'm getting that chance. It felt good to show my family, my friends and my co-workers this award because I was like, 'You all can rest now because I've got this.' I've got my life under control and I'm going to keep it like that." – **BY PETER WARN**

IN MEMORIAM

JO ANN ("DOLL") HILL

NOV. 2, 1958 - SEPT. 6, 2013

JO ANN ENJOYED DESCRIBING A TV weather report she'd seen in which the meteorologist seemed to have given up trying to summarize the complicated long-range forecast. He concluded, "We'll just have to wait and see what happens."

Jo Ann laughed heartily when she got to that part. "I could say that," she said. "I could do that job." Even people who'd heard her tell that story many times ended up laughing along with her. Jo Ann's high spirits could make others happy, too.

Jo Ann died in September at age 54. She was laid to rest among her ancestors in the Tonawanda Reservation following a memorial service at which more than 90 friends and family paid their respects.



JoAnn's granddaughters hold her portrait. From left to right: daughter Asia, granddaughters Jayde and Shayde; daughter Terry.

Jo Ann's Seneca heritage was important to her. She researched her family genealogy and enjoyed Indian dancing. When she lived outside for several years, she talked of wanting a place in which to hang a traditional dreamcatcher. Jo Ann volunteered at the Hope Center and with the help of the staff she got an apartment and put a dreamcatcher in a window.

"Jo Ann was a lovely lady," said Karen Carman. "She died with dignity and grace."

Karen spoke of Jo Ann in remarks at the opening of an exhibit of portraits of Hope Center members that is on display until Dec. 31 at Artspace Buffalo Gallery, 1219 Main St. Two portraits of Jo Ann by artist Gary L. Wolfe are featured. One of her granddaughters, Shayde, wrote a note that is included in the exhibit: "Gram, you are the best gram I ever had."

Jo Ann's statement in the exhibit reflects her compassion: "Try to understand others' plight. People have their own things going on." – **BY PETER WARN**

In Support

THE HOPE CENTER IS ALWAYS IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS AND DONATIONS to help us continue to support the families and individuals in need in the Broadway-Fillmore district. We are a 501(c) organization, so all of your donations and services are tax-deductible! Checks can be made payable to "The Matt Urban Hope Center."

DONATION SIGN-UP

Yes, I would like to donate to the Hope Center!

Most Wanted Items

These items are common, but indispensable:

- ☐ Socks
- ☐ Soap
- ☐ Blankets
- ☐ Toilet Paper
- ☐ Deodorant
- ☐ Underwear
- ☐ Dishes
- ☐ Sheets
- ☐ Blankets
- ☐ Small Appliances
- ☐ Gift Cards

Major Items

☐ **Outreach Van**
The homeless outreach team is in need of a van to transport clients to shelters, or to help them move into their new homes.

Sponsorship Opportunities

☐ **Formerly Homeless Hope Works Participant**
Sponsor one homeless individual in a job activity for one year. The goal of the program is to prepare individuals for employment.
ANNUAL COST PER PERSON: $2,000

☐ **Housing First Bowling Team**
This therapeutic activity allows Housing First participants to bowl on a monthly basis for one year.
ANNUAL COST PER TEAM (OF FIVE): $2,400

☐ **Funshop**
Funshops allow us to educate clients in a fun, creative environment. Prizes, materials, decorations, and refreshments.
COST PER EVENT: $100

VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP

Yes, I would like to volunteer for the Hope Center!

WE ARE IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS FOR THE URBAN DINER, AT FUNSHOPS, TO SORT donations, to answer phones and to do clerical work, or to join a fundraising committee. If you would like to lend a hand, we can find a way for you to help!

Name _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Address _____

_____

Group/Organization _____ No. in Group _____

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Help the Hope Center: volunteer or donate today!
Call 893-7222 ext. 310



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