



Helping those who are homeless – one heart at a time.

Changes at EUMA

It is with a great deal of appreciation that the Board of Directors of EUMA says Thank You to Cheryl Davis for her 22 years of service to our beloved ministry. For the past eight years she has served as our executive director. Prior to that, she served as our Administrative Financial Officer. (Book-keeper sounds too trite for all of the responsibility she has carried).

Cheryl has a heart and passion for our ministry of care and compassion to folks who find themselves in desperate situations – poverty, homelessness, drug and/or alcohol abuse, marital or family discord and multiple other problems. She loves the people. She loves her staff. And she loves EUMA. That has been obvious to all who have known her. Cheryl has worked diligently to continue to provide ministry to those in need during very difficult economic times. She has provided excellent leadership, including the Ride for the Refuge.

The board of directors will be planning a celebration of Cheryl's ministry, so that all who have appreciated her service can thank her and celebrate with her those 22 years.

Details about that celebration will be coming forth soon.

On August 4th a new executive director will walk through the doors of the office at 1033 East 26th Street. The Board of Directors is pleased to announce that Mr. Kurt Crays has been hired as the new executive director. Kurt brings a wealth of experience to the job – including national and international non-profit organizations. He has a passion for ministry in the name of Jesus. In August we will get to welcome him. For more information about Kurt, please see the enclosed introduction letter.

As of July 1st there is a new structure to the board of directors. Gail Fees finished her term of office as our board president, and we thank Gail for her leadership. Several of our board members also finish their term of office. Thank you to them, as well. Twelve new board members begin their term at the July 24th meeting.

Please keep EUMA in your prayers as we enter this exciting new phase of ministry, in Jesus' name.

~ Rev. Bob Lewis, newly elected president of the board

A note of appreciation . . .

Every so often, we receive a heartfelt thank you like the one shown here from a client at The Refuge. We wanted to share it with you because, without you, there wouldn't be an emergency shelter for this family to come to.

Thank you for supporting our ministries. As this letter shows, together we are all helping those who are homeless . . . one heart at a time.

To the Refuge Staff

I would like to thank all the staff here for all the help and support I have been here for a month and 10 days. My first thoughts of coming here was not good, I thought it would be a very bad experience, but it turned out to be a really good stepping stone for me and my children, this was more like a house of God than a shelter for me. I am very happy that I felt like I was at home, we had a lot of barriers to get across in the last few months, but thanks to the refuge there is still hope out there to anyone without a home, Thank again everyone, especially for all the help

Board of Directors

Rev. Robert Lewis
President

Ann Marie Ernst
Treasurer

Diana Ames
Denny Belknap
Jerri Blair
Rev. Gary Donaldson
Gordon A. Evans
Kathy Fisher
Rev. Darrell Greenawalt
Rev. Tom Hoeke
Ronald E. Holl
Rev. Matt Judd
Rev. Keith McGarvey
Glenn Miller
James Renshaw
Phil Spotts
Sue Travis
Shane Wakinakona
David Walker
Harold Yannayon

Janet Douthett
Member Emeritus

Rev. Joseph W. Patterson III
District Superintendent

EUMA Contacts:

Kurt Crays
Executive Director, 456-8073

Connie Miller
Liberty House/Hope House
Supervisor, 454-6088

Nicole Thompson
Outreach Supervisor, 456-5670

Missy Niedzielski
Refuge Supervisor, 454-6088

Victoria Weber
Rainbow Connection Mgr., 453-4080

Kate Hiles
Development Director, 456-8073

Mike Tomlinson
HMIS Administrator, 456-8073

Big help from regional foundations

EUMA is delighted to share that our mission was recently awarded two grants and would like to extend another thank you to the following foundations:

The Erie Community Foundation for \$9,139.45 to address deteriorating carpeting at The Rainbow Connection and kitchen flooring at The Refuge. The work is already completed and the results have not only addressed a major maintenance need, but also brightened the overall look of the facilities. Thank you, Erie Community Foundation!

The United Methodist Foundation for \$1,200 toward "Moving Up," our grant proposal seeking help to address independence barriers for our clients. Specifically, the funds will be used to purchase a computer work station at The Refuge so clients can search for employment and housing. The grant will also aid our male clients in accessing professional clothing for job interviews (as there are resources in the community to assist women, but not men.) Thank you, United Methodist Foundation!

Golfers show up FORE a good cause



Congratulations to the team of Troy Taylor, Vic Morini, Ray Proctor, and Randy Whittelsey (pictured here, from left) for taking first place at The Refuge Golf Tournament held June 16 at the Riverside Golf Course.

The Refuge Golf Committee held their 18th tournament this year, raising \$10,650 for our emergency shelter. This dedicated group of supporters has raised more than

\$120,000 for this mission over the years. Thank you again Refuge Committee for another wonderful event!

Raising the Roof at Asbury UMC

As a congregation, Asbury United Methodist Church decided to raise \$10,000 for EUMA during a three-year period.

Julie Davis, former EUMA board member, reports that they have already reached 80% of the goal within the first year! Here she is pictured with Rev. Dan Owen, pastor of Asbury UMC, adding more "purchased bricks" to their



visual display of the church's commitment to EUMA's mission. Thank you, Asbury UMC, for this visionary and creative way to support our ministries!

15th Annual Ride for The Refuge

Biking for a Brighter Future



* photo courtesy of Rich Pearson Photography

This Labor Day (Monday, Sept. 1), grab your bike and join in on a great adventure to help homeless families at the **15th Annual Ride for The Refuge**.

This charity bicycle event offers tours of different distances and challenges from our two event locations – Shades Beach in eastern Erie County and the Albion Fair Grounds in western Erie County.

Registration starts at 7:30 a.m. and The Ride begins at 8:30 a.m. Register by Aug. 20, and you will receive a free event t-shirt and save \$5 on the registration fee (\$2 savings for children)! Proceeds from this event will benefit our work with homeless families at The Refuge. **For more information or to register online, visit www.euma-erie.org or call (814) 456-8073.**

UP-lifting UP-dates

Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community - Kudos to our walkers and supporters - you are wonderful! You helped to raise \$8,427 through this event, held Saturday, June 7 at Presque Isle State Park! Congratulations to Christ UMC for coming in as the top fundraising team again this year! This money will be used to support our program at The Refuge, providing safe shelter and services to homeless families with children. The Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community was presented by Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield to benefit 28 local nonprofit agencies.

Second Annual Shoe Drive - This year's Shoe Drive benefitting the ministries of EUMA and All God's Children Ministries was a phenomenal success! While we haven't received word on the tally from the final shipment of shoes, each agency has already earned more than \$7,000 from two previous shipments. Thank you to everyone who got involved in this project. Your old shoes were a blessing to us!

Everything's coming up tomatoes



Gardens present a wonderful opportunity for peaceful recreation and nutrition for our clients at EUMA. Pictured to the left is the garden at Liberty House, which was planted by one of the shelter residents. To the right is the garden at The Refuge/Hope House, a project organized by our Faith Community Nurse Coordinator Barb Lewis and FCN volunteer Sue Cyphert. Sue reports that the garden was a successful group project as several of the older children and adult residents joined in the activity.





EUMA

Erie United Methodist Alliance, Inc.
1033 East 26th Street
Erie, PA 16504-2951

Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE PAID
ERIE, PA
PERMIT NO. 131

Save a tree and our budget! Get newsletters electronically. To sign up, e-mail info@euma-erie.org.

Ministries

EUMA Office

814-456-8073

The Refuge

*Emergency homeless shelter
for families with children*

1027 E. 26th St. Erie, PA 16504
814-454-6088

Hope House

*Long-range housing with life-skills
training for families with children*

1033 E. 26th St. Erie, PA 16504
814-454-6088

Liberty House

*Long-range housing with life-skills
training for Veterans*

550 W. 7th St. Erie, PA 16502
814-874-3687

Project Hope Outreach

On-the-street ministry

1033 E. 26th St. Erie, PA 16504
814-456-5670

Rainbow Connection

*Thrift store providing necessities
to those in need*

and financial support to EUMA
1516 Buffalo Rd. Erie, PA 16510
814-453-4080



**Support EUMA
on Erie Gives Day!
Tuesday, Aug. 12, 2014 -
8 a.m. to 8 p.m. - www.eriegives.org**



Watch your financial gifts to EUMA grow when you participate in Erie Gives, the Erie Community Foundation's 12-hour online giving event.

On Tuesday, August 12 – from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. – the Erie Community Foundation will match a percentage of each donation of \$25 or more that you make to EUMA when you donate online through www.eriegives.org.

The more donations made to EUMA, the more matching funds that our programs for homeless families, veterans and those-in-need will receive.

For more information, visit www.eriegives.org.

Refrigerator Friend - cut-out reminder for Erie Gives

Shop and Support with AmazonSmile

You can help our mission at EUMA - just by shopping. AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support EUMA every time you shop on Amazon, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same prices, selection and shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to our mission. To start, simply go to smile.amazon.com, and enter "Erie United Methodist Alliance" in the charity search bar. Amazon will remember your selection, and every eligible purchase you make on AmazonSmile will result in a donation of 0.5% of the purchase price to our mission.