



WINTER NEWSLETTER 2023

1033 E. 26TH ST. ERIE, PA 16504 | 814-456-8073 | EUMA-ERIE.ORG

At your EUMA, we believe that all Veterans deserve a home of their own. For nearly 30 years EUMA has worked to end Veteran homelessness by providing homeless Veteran outreach, shelter, direct and referral services and a pathway to a permanent home.

Honorably discharged Army Veteran, Victor, who goes by “Vic” said, “I was having a real rough time. I didn’t have stable shelter. I had no transportation. I was having medical issues. I had no support whatsoever.”

Legally blind Veteran living in Linesville, PA, Terry was living with his girlfriend. She died. Terry was forced to leave their home and move in with his daughter. Rent in their shared Cambridge Springs apartment was too high for them and Terry was once again without a home of his own. Sight impaired and mourning the death of his companion, Terry was now homeless.

Friends, when you pray, give and engage with your EUMA, you are carrying the burdens of our neighbors in greatest need — you are being like Jesus.

Vic was welcomed to EUMA’s Liberty House for homeless Veterans. We supported him through his medical challenges, provided direct and referral services and helped him move into a permanent home of his own.

EUMA staff also walked alongside Terry as he mourned the loss of his girlfriend and his home and came to terms with his sight loss. From the safety of EUMA’s Liberty House, he crafted a housing plan and secured permanent housing.

Friends, when asked, “What are your best memories at EUMA’s Liberty House. Vic said, “EUMA and its employees were angels on my side.”

FROM THE SAFETY OF
EUMA’S LIBERTY HOUSE,
TERRY CRAFTED A HOUSING
PLAN, SECURED PERMANENT
HOUSING AND IS TODAY,
PERMANENTLY HOUSED.



Because of you, Vic has a home of his own!



A MESSAGE FROM KURT

EUMA's CEO

Have you experienced the joy of watching a proud Dad and Veteran welcome home his 12-year-old son into their new apartment? You should — it's good for the soul. After losing their home, Dad and son were welcomed into EUMA's The Refuge for homeless families with children. EUMA's The Refuge staff provided a private shelter room, housing case managers and support to them both. And, tonight, there is a Dad and his son sitting on their couch, eating their popcorn, watching a movie on their TV, Before saying, "goodnight" and crawling into their beds. We give thanks to you and the permanent home you helped provide.

At EUMA, we believe no Veteran or his/her family should be without

a home. That's why your EUMA is working every day to FIND homeless Veterans through on the street outreach, SHELTER homeless Veterans at EUMA's Liberty House for homeless Veteran men and permanently HOUSE Veterans experiencing a housing crisis. And, it's working! Since 2010, the number of Veterans experiencing a housing crisis in the U.S. has been cut in half — 74,087 in 2010 to 37,252 in 2020!

With your help, EUMA is ending homelessness for Veterans in Northwest PA. Thank you and may God bless you as you have blessed so many of our Veteran neighbors...and families with children and youth aging out of foster care and single men and women...who need us most.



Our Neighbors' Place

Seasonal Overflow Shelter

SEASON 11

Erie County's seasonal overflow shelter launched Season 11 on November 16. When the doors of First Presbyterian Church of the Covenant opened, 33 men and women — all homeless — were welcomed inside. Thirty-three neighbors was an unwelcome record and was the most people sheltered on opening night.

EUMA's Our Neighbors' Place is Erie County's seasonal overflow shelter — our shelter of last resort. When you are banned from other shelters, when all traditional emergency shelter beds are full, when there is nowhere else to go, you are welcome at Our Neighbors' Place.

Hosted and largely staffed by nearly 100 volunteers, EUMA staff and faithful volunteers shelter homeless guests. All receive a Christ-like welcome, a cot, blankets, chair upon which they can rest, toiletries, access to a hot shower and a pathway to permanent housing.

Through January 10, 2023, 199 unduplicated guests spent 2,196 bed nights (1 person in one cot for one night) at EUMA's Our Neighbors' Place. 150 guests identified as male, 49 female. Our youngest guest was 19 and our oldest guest was 71. Thirteen guests reported they were Veterans.

When I think of you and remember all you have done for our homeless neighbors, I give thanks!



Because of you, we raised over \$16,000

Under rainy skies, South Harborcreek United Methodist Church and EUMA staff and other volunteers welcomed over 130 riders in person at Shades Beach — our first in-person ride since 2019! Together, we raised over \$16,000 to end family homelessness. EUMA's The Refuge is the only emergency shelter that welcomes single Dads and their children and keeps Dad in the same private room with his family. Last year, 76 families including 153 children were sheltered at The Refuge. Pedal for a purpose, indeed!

NEWS AND UPDATES

Please welcome Jessica Gray, chief development officer to your EUMA! With over a decade worth of fundraising and development experience, most recently as the director of development at PennWest Edinboro, Jessica will now lead EUMA's growing marketing, communications, fundraising and volunteer relations department.

Mom of son Knox, Jessica is a two-time alumna from Edinboro University. She most recently completed her MA in Communications Studies with an emphasis in Management and Leadership. An Erie's 2018, 40 under 40 recipient, Jessica is an Erie Ambassador graduate, primary fundraiser for the Edinboro Food Pantry and created the PennWest Edinboro Student Hardship Fund.

When reflecting on the move to EUMA, Jessica says, "The work to end homelessness is something I feel to my core. EUMA's staff, volunteers, partners and donors — they don't just talk about the mission, but they live it and breathe it. I'm excited to be a part of that. God has assured me, time and time again, that EUMA is where He wants me to serve."

Jessica continues, "I truly believe God has prepared me through many lived experiences to be a part of the transformational work ahead. I am committed to growing EUMA and giving my all to this role. We have big plans for 2023!" Will you join us?

Each day, I work alongside people who remind me what it means to be Jesus. It is my great honor to welcome Jessica Gray — a sister in Christ and a co-laborer as we make homelessness rare, brief and one-time right here in Northwest Pennsylvania!

You can welcome Jessica and/or find out how you can join us at: JGray@EUMA-Erie.org or by calling 814.456.8073, ext. 105.



PRAISE & PRAYER REQUESTS

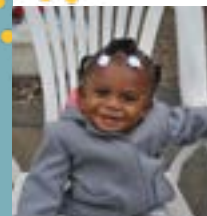
Pray for the 10 Veteran men at EUMA's Liberty House

Praise that there are 14 youth who have aged out of foster care living in an EUMA apartment and NOT in the homeless system!



Pray for EUMA's board of directors, staff and volunteers who work each day to make homelessness rare, brief and one-time.

Pray for our unsheltered homeless who use EUMA's Our Neighbors' Place as their shelter of last resort.



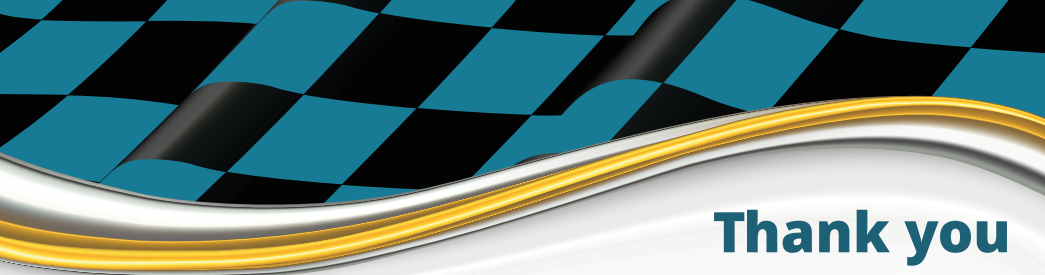
Pray for the nine families with children sheltering at EUMA's The Refuge.

ON THE BOARD

EUMA welcomes new board of director, Mr. Christopher Pepicello. In his application, Chris wrote, "In the emergency department of UPMC's Hamot we often see someone who is homeless — at a true crisis point. I think people sometimes forget that this is a human life — someone just as precious as themselves. For me, being a part of EUMA gives me the opportunity to make decisions and take actions that will ensure

our homeless neighbors will not be forgotten — will have a chance to be permanently housed — will have a chance to rebuild their lives." At EUMA we agree. We believe all people are made in the image of God and we are committed to integrating housing and healthcare as a means to move our homeless neighbors from homeless to HOME — hopeless to HOPE in a brighter tomorrow. Join me in welcoming Chris Pepicello to the EUMA board of directors.





Thank you Auto Racers for Kids for your investment in ending homelessness!

Last year, EUMA's The Refuge sheltered 75 families, including 153 children. 35 residents reported that domestic violence was the cause of or contributed to their homelessness. Because of Auto Racers for Kids and because of people like you, we are

ending homelessness for families with children at EUMA's The Refuge! To learn more about how you too can end homelessness for families with children visit us online at EUMA-Erie.org



1033 East 26th Street
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Bridge of Hope
Churches respond.
Homelessness Ends.
Hope Begins.

Liberty House Veteran Services
Transitional shelter for
homeless Veteran men.

Our Neighbors' Place
Seasonal Overflow Shelter

Permanent Housing
Providing low-income
permanent housing.

Rainbow Connection Thrift Store
Providing necessities to
those in need.

Rapid Rehousing
Quickly moving people from
homeless to home and helping
them stay there.

The Refuge
Homeless shelter for families
with children.

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THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR SPONSORS!



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