



Every child, youth, single, family and Veteran deserves a home.

728 West 9th St. Erie, PA 16502 | EUMA-Erie.org

Celebrate 135 Years!

For 135 years, your EUMA and our predecessor organizations supported our neighbors in greatest need. Last year alone, more than 3,000 adults and children were helped by you and EUMA services.

EUMA ends homelessness by making it rare (keeping people out of the homeless system) brief (moving homeless neighbors into a permanent home as quickly as possible) and one-time (wrapping them with the supports necessary to keep them housed). We do this through the following ministries:

- **The Refuge** | EUMA welcomes homeless families with children and youth to our 34-bed, low barrier, emergency shelter. We welcome all families as they come. 254 individuals in 75 households including 101 adults and 153 children were sheltered at EUMA's The Refuge.
- **Journey Home** | When do youth become adults? According to our foster care system, children "age out" at 18

— they become adults and are expected to live independently. Nationally, 20% will end up homeless. We agree, that's not ok. For youth and others, EUMA has preserved 32 temporary and permanent housing units for these neighbors. We provide temporary and permanent housing with supports including an on-site resident assistant and "no-eviction" goal.

- **My Way Home** | EUMA operates the largest rapid rehousing program in Erie County. Housing caseworkers FIND housing, temporarily PAY for housing and help those experiencing a housing crisis STAY permanently housed. Last year, EUMA housed 261 individuals including 165 adults and 96 children in 143 households.
- **Our Neighbors' Place** | ONP is Erie County's shelter of last resort. This seasonal overflow shelter is primarily volunteer led and operates between November and April. ONP

provided 5,836 bed-nights sheltering 351 unduplicated homeless neighbors.

- **Rainbow Connection Thrift Store** | In addition to selling gently used clothing, shoes, household items, furniture and other items, EUMA's Thrift Store operates an Erie County voucher program that provides the aforementioned items, free of charge.
- **Veteran Services** | EUMA's Liberty House is a 10-bed transitional shelter that helps Veteran men experiencing a housing crisis. In partnership with the Erie VAMC, EUMA case managers assist residents to achieve their housing and other goals.

Together, we really are ending homelessness in Northwest PA — as Jesus would! We hope we can count on you to help us reach our goal of \$135,000 on **Erie Gives Day!**
August 8 from 8am-8pm





Update from the CEO

A CALL FOR ACTION

anniversary. We are growing and our fund-raising efforts to make a greater impact are too! Please accept this as a formal invitation and we hope to see you at the "Watch Party" on August 8 from 6:00-8:00 pm!

In addition, I'm pleased to share that the EUMA staff that serves as the stewards of your work are settling into our new organizational headquarters building and already feel like its home.

As Colossians 2:5 states, "So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness."

I rejoice and say thank you! Thank you for the way you pray, give and engage with your EUMA while breaking barriers and helping make our community brighter and better. I look forward to celebrating with you. Join Becky and me in making an annual gift to Erie Gives on August 8.

Your EUMA ends homelessness in Northwest Pennsylvania by making it rare, brief and one-time as Jesus would. On August 8th YOU can too by helping us raise \$135,000!

For 135 years, your EUMA and our predecessor organizations helped our neighbors in greatest need. Today, thanks to you, EUMA is ending homelessness for families with children, Veterans, youth aging out of foster care, and single neighbors throughout NW Pennsylvania. Thank you for joining the effort. Together, we really are moving people from homeless to HOME from hopeless to HOPE in a brighter tomorrow! I'm excited to share that our Erie Gives goal this year is \$135,000 to align with our 135th



SAVE THE DATE!

Erie Gives is August 8

Donate at eriegives.org from 8AM to 8PM

JOIN US IN THE CELEBRATION and help us END homelessness!

Learn more at EUMA-Erie.org



EVERY YOUTH DESERVES A HOME

My name is Andrew and I'm a 19 year old youth aging out of the foster care program. In the past years I've found myself in some really deep waters and tough times. I was taken out of my parents' home 5 years ago and sent to Sarah A. Reed. I've struggled with anger issues my entire life, to the point it became unmanageable living with my own family.

Perseus House Shelter was my next transition period where I stayed at the local shelter for two months. I remained in the residential treatment facility for over two years. After working with Family Services and Independent Living Program, they helped me learn about EUMA's Journey Home Program and how it serves youth. I was fortunate enough that an apartment was available at the exact time I was in need.

When I arrived, I felt nervous but so happy to have a place of my very own. EUMA made me feel safe, as though I belonged and wrapped me in resources on day one. Some of the expectations the program offered and encouraged are:

- Being a good neighbor
- Keeping my home clean
- Being a good tenant and understanding my rights as a renter
- First fulltime work opportunity
- Interpersonal communications
- Healthy living
- Resumé building skills
- Money management; and
- Job ready skills

The opportunity that EUMA offered was a second chance. As I felt severely depressed, when I felt at my lowest, I contacted my Resident Assistant, Mark, who always showed up for me, served as a mentor and pushes me to do better every single day. I was in my darkest days and felt like giving up on everything in life. Mark (onsite Resident Assistant) and the program at EUMA has given me HOPE. I am grateful for the genuine and loving support of EUMA and staff like, Mark.

Thank you for investing in a program that impacts our community and other youth aging out of foster care just like me.



Your donation will impact youth like Andrew on Erie Gives Day

135 YEARS... AND COUNTING!



The saying, “faith that moves mountains” comes from Matthew 17:20. Jesus tells his followers that if they have faith — even as small as a tiny mustard seed — they can move mountains. Guess what? YOU move mountains every day through your EUMA!

135 years ago this December, Rev. Dr. Naphthali Luccock, pastor at First Methodist Episcopal Church in Erie and six others — clergy and laity — gathered and together laid down in by-laws and a constitution, a new organization — an alliance of churches committed to: extending, as much as possible, the area and efficiency of existing churches to provide for the care of those in need. The Methodist Episcopal Alliance of Erie was formed.

These, our fore-fathers and mothers were living in a time that Mark Twain satirized as an era with serious social problems masked by a thin gold gilding.

It was the Gilded Age — a pejorative term — one that at once ushered in technical and industrial advances that catapulted America ahead of the rest of the world AND simultaneously witnessed unprec-

edented social ills. Income inequality, hazardous working and housing conditions for the majority of people, government-led systematic discrimination and the creation of what many historians believe was the best example of a plutocracy in American history. It was 1888.

Against this backdrop and in response to it, EUMA’s Christian parents responded and helped create what theologians, today call the Third Great Awakening and a Holiness Movement in the Methodist Church.

It was a move from a one-time conversion experience to a movement that applied Christian ethics to social problems — especially issues of social justice including: economic and racial discrimination, poverty, alcoholism, crime, unequal access to good schools, the danger of war AND housing inequality that led to homelessness.

This social holiness is in our DNA at EUMA — it is who we are. We believe — nay, we know that our faith in action will change the world — one neighbor in need at a time. Our fore-parents believed it and because of you, I believe it, too!

One, whose faith moved mountains, is Reverend Howard J. Wright, a retired district superintendent in the United Methodist Church — a mover of mountains. Recalling how the Erie United Methodist Alliance got its name, Rev. Wright recalled the Methodist Episcopal Alliance of Erie and on this foundational organization, the modern EUMA was born.

Wright continued, “EUMA moves mountains for our neighbors in need. Who else is going to do this work? Look at Our Neighbors’ Place. This ministry is literally saving the lives of our most needy neighbors. EUMA’s commitment to seeing all our neighbors as children of God — worthy of dignity and food and care and a home — this is why I support EUMA.”

“I support EUMA because we end homelessness as Jesus would. EUMA has grown so much more and continues to grow. Our homeless neighbors, more than ever, need movers of mountains. I’m giving on Erie Gives to celebrate 135 years of ministry and lay the groundwork for the next 135 years. Join me August 8!”



ERIE GIVES

We’re counting down the days to August 8 and Erie Gives. We need your help to end homelessness in NWPA! Here are a few easy ways that you can help:

- **Share and share alike.** Online days of giving are successful because of our own networks. Help us grow our network by sending an email to your network and ask your friends to do the same.

- **Be socially (media) active.** Use your social media networks: post on Facebook, tweet about Erie Gives, and share your love for EUMA and your effort to end homelessness.

- **Become a fundraising champion.** Everyone loves a champion, including us! We really need fundraising champions to help drive people to our Erie Gives profile on August 8. Contact JGray@EUMA-Erie.org for



more information on how to become a fundraising champion!



Erie Gives is August 8
END HOMELESSNESS.
DONATE TO EUMA.

EVERY CHILD DESERVES A HOME.

We agree. Every child does deserve a home.

Last night, nine homeless families with children had a place to shelter because of you. Twenty-two children, ranging in age from 10 months to 16 years were safe — slept soundly on a new pillow, under a handmade blanket with a stuffed animal tucked under their arm with hope for a home of their own — because of you.

EUMA has always welcomed Dads to stay in the same room with their family. Last night, five Dads were with their families, in the same room and all on a pathway to permanent housing.

Last year, 75 families were sheltered by your EUMA. Two-hundred fifty-four of

our homeless neighbors were sheltered including 152 females, 102 males and 153 children. Sixty of the adults reported that substance use disorder and/or mental illness contributed to their homelessness, while 35 women reported they were victims of domestic violence.

Seventy-five percent of those sheltered moved from homelessness into a permanent home of their own. While we provide emergency shelter services to all families, 60% of adults served were women.

Last night, Carla and her three children slept in their own bed, on a new pillow and sheets, under a handmade blanket, in their own apartment that was furnished because of the gently

used items you donated to EUMA's The Rainbow Connection Thrift store. Because of you, Carla and her family are permanently housed. Indeed, every child deserves a home. You can help make that a reality this August 8 on Erie Gives Day. Mark your calendars and join us in celebrating 135 years of ministry!

From all of us at EUMA, thank you for ending homelessness for families with children, as Jesus would.



Thank you to all of our sponsors!

UPMC HEALTH PLAN



Asbury United Methodist Church



Funeral Home & Cremation Services
 ROBERT TAYLOR | SUPERVISOR



METHODIST TOWERS

