



SPRING
NEWSLETTER 2022

RAINBOW CONNECTION
THRIFT STORE

THE RAINBOW CONNECTION

Building On the Legacy of Mabel Jones

One of EUMA's core values is witness or service –we must share God's love through our actions, not only by what we say. Turns out, Mable Jones was doing that over 30 years ago! This is an illustrated story of how EUMA's Rainbow Connection

United Methodist Church, prompted her to put her faith into action. She began sharing God's love in service to others not only by giving away her things, but encouraging others in her sphere of influence to do the same! The Rainbow Connection Thrift Store was born not only as a place to share household items, but also a place where neighbors who were struggling could go and experience Jesus. At EUMA we are – you live out God's love not only by what you say, but also by what you do.

Thank you Rainbow Connection Thrift Store staff and volunteers for daily building on the legacy of Mable Jones! Thanks to each of you for all you do each day to change the trajectory of the lives

Mabel Jones had a vision she saw a Thrift Store in her neighborhood where folks could buy (for just a little money they could afford) used clothes – maybe some household items like good rummage

of our neighbors experiencing a housing crisis! Thank you for living out EUMA's core value of witness – service to others. Thank you for being Jesus to so many of our neighbors in need. Love you and thank you Mrs. Mable Jones!

Excerpts from "A Story About Mabel Jones" by Carol Wright.



THE RAINBOW CONNECTION
God Bless Mabel Jones.

tion Thrift Store was born through the ministry of Mrs. Mable Jones.

As you will read, Mable Jones saw the Buffalo Rd. neighborhood kids and families needing things and looked at her home and saw so much stuff – chairs, tables, dishes, small appliances, clothes – things she could share. That prompting of the Holy Spirit, with the support of Henderson

Homegoing Celebration
For
Mabel Ruth Villines Jones



February 4, 1933 - October 12, 1995

To learn more about
The Rainbow Connection,
visit EUMA-Erie.org.



1516 Buffalo Road before it became The Rainbow Connection

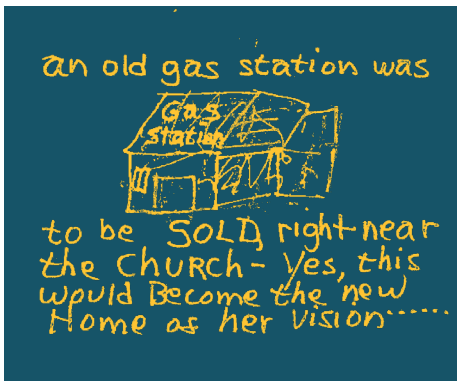


A Message From Kurt

EUMA'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The excerpts featured in this newsletter were produced by Mrs. Carol Wright in 2007 in a booklet titled "A Story about Mabel Jones". I recently took Carol and Rev. Howard Wright to lunch and while there, Carol gave me the booklet, asking that I preserve it.

It's funny how God works, no? Two weeks after getting the document I got a Lyft from the office to my home.



My driver was 44 years old and from the neighborhood. I love taking Lyft – they are most often God moments for me and this one was no different! As we talked he asked me about the place where he picked me up. I talked about The Refuge and our shelter work and then shared that The Rainbow was part of our ministry. He laughed and said, "You're kidding?"



He told me that he grew up near the Rainbow. That he used to volunteer there when he was a teenager. I asked him if he knew Mabel Jones and he got quiet and while I don't know for sure, I think he was getting emotional. He said, "She is such a great lady."

"He told me that Mabel Jones welcomed him and other youth to the Rainbow to volunteer."

They unpacked donations, hung clothes, carried bags and ate fried chicken and sandwiches and other things she made for their lunch.

He did not say it directly and it sounds like his family struggled while he was growing up – that there were difficulties. Regardless, he did share how amazing his time was with Mabel Jones at The Rainbow.

I cannot help but wonder how many lives – how many families like his – how many families with children are changed because of the witness of

people like you. This Lyft driver's life was changed, his daughter, his employer, his neighbors...because of Mabel Jones' sharing God's love not only in words, but in her service to others.

As we build on Mabel Jones' legacy, know we too build on the legacy you create when you pray, give and engage with your EUMA. Together, we really are moving our neighbors experiencing a housing crisis from homeless to HOME – from homeless to HOPE in a brighter tomorrow!

Excerpts from "A Story About Mabel Jones" by Carol Wright.

"As we build off of Mabel's legacy we have endless opportunities to give hope to the hopeless."

RAINBOW CONNECTION 2021 IMPACT

\$43,600

worth of items given to neighbors in need.

835 - total number of individuals benefitting from Rainbow Vouchers.



Info:



61% Adults



39% Children



33

Number of Community organizations that issued EUMA Rainbow vouchers.

NEWS AND UPDATES

EUMA's Our Way Home Gala will not be held in 2022. We are planning some unique opportunities to connect with you via social media! Stay tuned!

EUMA at the Highmark Walk The event will be held on June 4th. Registration and fundraising opportunities are now available through a link on our website. Location and additional information coming soon!

EUMA's 26th Annual Refuge Golf Tournament will be held on Monday, June 20, 2022 at the Riverside Golf Course, 25437 Route 19 in Cambridge Springs. Please mark your calendars now and plan to join us. More information and registration coming soon!

Prayer Requests

Please lift up EUMA as we move forward with our new partnership with Bridge of Hope. Pray that the right family would be partnered with the right neighboring volunteers.

Pray for each of the staff, volunteers and guests at Our Neighbors' Place. Pray for peace and wisdom and strength as we look forward to the end of the season.

Pray for EUMA staff as a whole. That each person would be a display of God's character, filled with compassion and wisdom as we serve others.



CHURCHES RESPOND. HOMELESSNESS ENDS. HOPE BEGINS.

At EUMA we are committed to making homelessness a one-time event.

Thanks to support from donors like you, we launched Bridge of Hope @ EUMA. Together, trained neighboring volunteers from our first church partner Glenwood United Methodist Church and EUMA housing case management staff are coming alongside a single Mom and her four children who are experiencing a housing crisis.

Neighboring volunteers provide supportive relationships and tangible support to help families experiencing a housing crisis meet their goals, moving from homeless to HOME and provide hope.

This Bridge of Hope @ EUMA partnership establishes or restores the positive relationships that so many of us take for granted. Mobilizing the power of the Body of Christ is what our Bridge of Hope @ EUMA ministry is designed to do.



Glenwood United Methodist
Neighboring community and EUMA staff.

To learn more or to find out how you can be a part of a future Bridge of Hope @ EUMA partner, please visit us online at EUMA-Erie.org or contact director of mission engagement, Patti Boleratz at PBoleratz@EUMA-Erie.org or 814.456.8073, ext. 107.



RUCK THE BAY

Thank you to the Collegiate Academy's Junior ROTC class for organizing and running a Ruck the Bay to support the veterans that EUMA serves!



HIGHMARK WALK 2021

SPRING CLEANING?

Rainbow Connection Thrift Store has a high demand for the following items:

Dressers
Sofas
Love Seats
Microwaves
Toasters
Lamps

If you need a pick up, please call the store at 814-453-4080.

Last year, Rainbow Connection Thrift store gave away nearly \$44,000 worth of clothing, furniture, and household items through the voucher program. Vouchers for free clothing and household items are given to families and individuals in need through 57 different agencies and churches in our community.



EUMA'S 25TH REFUGE GOLF TOURNAMENT



1033 East 26th Street
Erie, PA 16504
814-456-8073
www.EUMA-Erie.org

The Refuge
Homeless shelter for families
with children

Rainbow Connection Thrift Store
Providing necessities to those in
need

Permanent Housing
Providing low-income
permanent housing

Rapid Rehousing
Quickly moving people from
homeless to home and help-
ing them stay there

Liberty House Veteran Services
Transitional shelter for homeless
Veteran men

Our Neighbors Place
Community Seasonal Shelter

Bridge of Hope
Churches respond.
Homelessness Ends.
Hope Begins.

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