



THE FACES OF EUMA

SPRING 2024

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

Our Neighbors' Place Seasonal Overflow Shelter Your Shelter of Last Resort

When all traditional shelter beds are full. When your mental illness is unmanaged and your addiction is out of control. When the wind howls and the rain falls, your EUMA is there. Rotating between communities of faith and the MHA these host locations, EUMA staff and heroes—volunteers welcome our homeless neighbors, as Jesus would at Our Neighbors' Place. A sanctuary to: get in out of the cold, take a hot shower, share a meal, lay down their head, receive welcome and get on to a pathway to permanent housing. On behalf of the 314 guests you sheltered at ONP, thank you. For whatever you have done to the least of these, you have done it to Jesus.

TOTAL BED NIGHTS



TOTAL UNDUPLICATED GUESTS



When ONP is full—when guests can't stay inside because of their severe mental illness—you provided over 120 sleeping bags for our unsheltered neighbors. Alex, a young man suffering from schizophrenia and unthinkable trauma struggles to be inside. Your donated sleeping bag was the gift he, and so many of our homeless neighbors needed.

GUESTS OVER THE AGE OF 65



UNDUPLICATED FEMALE GUESTS



YOUTH BETWEEN 18-24 YEARS OF AGE:
SEASON 11: 18
SEASON 12: 21

Thank you!



*Data based on 133 nights in Season 12 vs. 140 nights in Season 11.



Update from the CEO

OPPORTUNITY FOR CHANGE

When you PRAY, GIVE and ENGAGE with your EUMA to end homelessness—you change the trajectory of lives. Did you know, that makes you a hero to me and to our homeless neighbors? It does!

Do you want to know how I know?

Since 1888, tens of thousands of our neighbors: families, single Moms and single Dads, youth aging out of foster care, Veterans and others have received the love, care and support they needed to change the trajectory of their lives.

I know there are heroes among us! For 133 nights, 314 of our homeless neighbors found shelter at Our Neighbors' Place. Faithful and dedicated volunteers made that happen.

I know there are heroes among us! At the Rainbow Connection Thrift Store volunteers, like Nancy, welcome people donating gently used items and she restocks shelves so our neighbors in need can find the clothes and household goods they need to succeed.

I know there are heroes among us! After experiencing a housing crisis as a single Mom of eight, Consuelo has returned

to EUMA's The Refuge to lead a Bible study!

I know because without you praying and giving of your time, talent and treasure, EUMA could not end homelessness by making it rare, brief and one-time, as Jesus would.

Remember, not all heroes wear capes!



HIGHLIGHTED VOLUNTEER

When EUMA's Rainbow Connection Thrift Store volunteer was a child, she remembered many hard times. She remembered her parents struggling to make ends meet. Nancy remembered the days before Christmas and the reality that it was going to be a lean one. "My parents could not afford Christmas presents. Times were tough."

Not all heroes wear capes. However, they do change lives. Days before Christmas, a member of Washington United Methodist Church and dressed like Santa Claus, delivered a car full of presents to Nancy and her family.

"Those people—they

brought joy and hope into our home and just in the nick of time."

Nancy shared that this experience, so many years ago, changed her—gave her hope in a brighter tomorrow. Today, Nancy volunteers at EUMA's The Rainbow Connection Thrift Store to be a part of an organization giving tangible items to our neighbors in need.

See what heroes can do? They save Christmas and they plant seeds. Seeds that sprout, grow and bloom into lifelong commitments to changing the lives of our neighbors in need.

Today, Nancy and EUMA Rainbow staff like Barb Ames, pictured with Nancy, welcome neighbors in need to fill their vouchers. Last year, your EUMA's Rainbow Connection Thrift Store gave 1,638 individuals clothing, shoes,



household goods, furniture and appliances valued at nearly \$58,000—free of charge.

None of this is possible without your generous donations of gently used items. Spring cleaning? Drop off your gently used items or shop at EUMA's Rainbow Connection Thrift Store located at 1516 Buffalo Rd., Erie, PA or schedule a pick-up at: Rainbow@EUMA-Erie.org



HOMELESS TO HOME! HOPELESS TO HOPE!



"I could never say, 'Thank you!' enough for the way my family was loved and embraced from day one. We didn't even ask. EUMA's The Refuge staff and volunteers walked alongside us the entire way."

From homeless to a home of their own, your EUMA's The Refuge was there. Remember, not all heroes wear capes!

As a child, then as a youth and then as a young adult, with children of her own, Consuelo experienced the trauma, hardships and hopelessness of not having a place to call home.

For years, a permanent home — a place where she and her children could live, learn, grow and dream of a future different than the one they were experiencing, eluded them.

That was until she and her eight children were welcomed at EUMA's The Refuge. Consuelo said, "I was determined to break the cycle of homelessness and provide a better future for my children." That was nearly 30 years ago...

...today, with the addition of a 10th room, heroes like you who pray, give and engage at EUMA's The Refuge are changing lives. The Refuge is a 36 bed emergency shelter for families with children. Staff and volunteers end family homelessness by reducing lengths of stay homeless, increasing permanent housing placements and

wrapping families, like Consuelo's, with the supports they need, to end their homelessness, once and for all.

For Consuelo and her children, they found that trajectory-altering start at EUMA's The Refuge. **After a lifetime of homelessness, Consuelo encountered heroes who helped her break the generations of chronic homelessness for herself and for the generations that followed!**

Heroes like EUMA staff! Consuelo recalled, "I was very nervous about going to the shelter with my eight children. I didn't want to be a bother or get in the way." She said, "I didn't need to worry! My children and I were literally embraced by the EUMA staff and volunteers!"

Heroes like EUMA volunteers! Consuelo remembered she and her children had a beautiful Christmas at The Refuge — one her family will never forget. Of course, there was decorating a Christmas tree, hanging wreaths on the shelter door, adding garland to the fireplace and the excitement when Santa and Mrs. Claus showed up with beautifully wrapped presents for all of the children and adults.

Heroes who were great landlords! Imagine being a single Mom with eight children and a history of homelessness. Consuelo recalled the challenges she faced trying to find a landlord to rent to her. That's why EUMA works to build relationships with and provide landlord-tenant supports to hundreds of households and many dozens of landlords committed to turning their properties into homes for so many of our neighbors in need.

That was the case for Consuelo and her eight kids when Alice Hanold, even while expressing concerns, stepped up and welcomed Consuelo and her children into a home of their own.

Heroes who donated household items!

What would you and your eight kids need when moving into a new home? Thanks to those who donate gently used clothes, household items, small and large appliances, furniture and more to EUMA's Rainbow Connection Thrift Store, Consuelo's new home was furnished with items she picked out!

Heroes like Consuelo! A few weeks ago, Consuelo, now a mother of 10 and grandmother, called to ask if she could return to EUMA's The Refuge to start a Bible Study — a time of fellowship, a time she can share her story and stand with her neighbors working to end their homelessness, once and for all!

And, heroes like you! Know, by the way you PRAY, GIVE and ENGAGE with your EUMA, you are ending homelessness for Consuelo and nearly 400 households each year, right here in NW PA and just as Jesus would!

We agree with Consuelo: We could never say, 'Thank you' enough. Friends, since Consuelo moved into their own home, not a single day of homelessness has been experienced by Consuelo, her ten children or 21 grandchildren.

Last night, ten families including 13 adults and 17 children found a place of refuge. Last year, EUMA's The Refuge provided 50 households, 162 individuals totaling 9,690 bednights — a place in which, with the help of heroes like you, they can move from homeless to HOME — hopeless to HOPE in a brighter tomorrow!



EUMA Welcomes Bishop Moore-Koikoi

Western PA Conference of The United Methodist Church bishop, Cynthia Moore-Koikoi and the Erie-Meadville District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Dennis Swineford were welcomed to tour just some of the work of EUMA including our largest temporary and permanent housing apartment buildings dedicated to youth aging out of foster care and

one of the Our Neighbors' Place host locations located at Church of the Nativity Community Center, pictured at left.

Thanks to all who are part of the Western PA Conference of the UMC for all you do to end homelessness through your Erie United Methodist Alliance (EUMA)!

EUMA IMPACT REPORT

Highlights of how **YOU** have helped make homelessness rare, brief, and one-time as Jesus would.

JOURNEY HOME Youth



67% of those served identify as female

Rainbow Connection Thrift Store



1,638 individuals served clothing and merchandise vouchers



\$57,500 value of items provided through EUMA's voucher program

LIBERTY HOUSE Veterans



94% exited to permanent housing

Rapid Re-Housing



257 individuals permanently housed in 144 households

75% were permanently housed at program exit

Our Neighbors' Place Individuals

40 days was the average number of days a guest stayed

Our oldest guest was an **80** year old male and the youngest, a female, was **18**

The Refuge Families & Children



162 individuals sheltered in 51 households



9,690 bed nights

2,517
Individuals Served

12
EUMA Locations

More than **19,000**
Bed Nights

38 Units of
Affordable Housing



← Link to read the full 2023 Impact Report!

Thank you to all of our sponsors!



PREMIER SPONSOR



EDINBORO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
EMBRACE • ENGAGE • IGNITE

PIPE TOOLS & VISES
SINCE 1896

