



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

SPRING NEWSLETTER
2021

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

THE BRADBROOK'S JOURNEY

Together, with you, we celebrate their move from homeless to HOMEOWNERS!

"I wanted to call and thank you, and EUMA again. I wanted to tell you, we bought a house!" A few weeks ago I received a call from Kristin Bradbrook.

Five years ago, Kristin, Alan and her 12-year-old son, Jared were newly homeless after being evicted from their apartment. Their landlord defaulted on the mortgage. He lost the property – the Bradbrook's lost their home.

At the time, Kristin said, "I never imagined homelessness for my family." The first morning waking up in a homeless shelter she thought, "Is this really happening?"

EUMA staff welcomed Kristin and her family. We came alongside to support, encourage and guide. We prayed together and envisioned a way forward.

Alan got a job at Better Baked Foods – the employer with whom both he and Kristin are now working. Jared got back on track in school and Alan

got his GED. In the Summer of 2016, they moved into an apartment! But, that's not the end of their story!

While I was on the phone with Kristin, I invited myself over to see the house they bought. About a week after Kristin's call, I was sitting in their home – one they purchased!

We talked about their journey – their bout of homelessness and the role EUMA played. Kristin said, "The staff couldn't be more wonderful. They would give you the shirt off their backs and help you in any way they could."

Jared is now 17. He is doing well in school. He is in ROTC at Erie High and has plans to join the Army after high school.

In 2016, I asked Kristen, "Is there anything you'd like to say to those who support EUMA?"

Kristin said, "A sincere thank you from the bottom of my heart. I understand it's just money or a donation, but your donation changed my life."

Lives are changing! Amazing things are happening through your EUMA! Kristin, Alan and Jared are living proof! Homeless to HOMEOWNER hopeless to HOPE in a brighter tomorrow!

To hear Kristin's full interview visit us at: EUMA-Erie.org.

2015 FROM HOMELESS



JARED, KRISTIN, AND ALAN

TO HOMEOWNERS 2021



LEARN MORE ABOUT EUMA'S THE REFUGE HOMELESS SHELTER

www.EUMA-Erie.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rev. Dr. Tom Hoeke,

President

Darlene Elsesser

Kovacs, *Vice President*

Ronald E. Holl, *Secretary*

Ann Marie Ernst, *Treasurer*

Lisa Babo

Ann DiTullio

Kevin Harper

Rev. Keith McGarvey

Samuel McGarvey

Roberta Paul

Rev. Sarah Daniels

Roncolato

Dennis Scalise

Edwin Smith

Rev. Dennis Swineford

EUMA SENIOR LEADERSHIP

Kurt B. Crays, MDiv., CFRM,

Executive Director

Bryan Boleratz

Director of Social Enterprise

Patti Boleratz

Director of Mission Engagement

Justin Corey

Director of Veteran Services

Margueritta Estes

Director of Development

Barb Lewis, RN, FCN

Healthcare for the Homeless

Partnership Coordinator

Lori Lewis

Director of Finance and Administration

Missy Niedzielski

Director of Housing

Visit our website for contact information:
EUMA-Erie.org



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



A MESSAGE FROM KURT

For over 130 years, you have come alongside our neighbors in need. Because of the way you pray, give and engage with your EUMA, together we have altered the course of history. How? By being Jesus-like.

Just this week, a group of pastors and lay-leaders fed a man living in his car and helped him get onto a pathway to permanent housing. Our facilities manager put together a care bag containing water, a pair of shoes and new socks for a chronically homeless man living on State Street. Our resident assistant provided care and support to youth residents who experienced violence. EUMA's Healthcare for the Homeless volunteers visited a chronically ill man who is permanently housed, but unstably, to make sure he was properly taking medications. Our Veteran services director made preparations to welcome a Veteran leaving prison and searching for a new life. That was last week.

Over the course of 130 years you have moved people from homeless to HOME – hopeless to HOPE. Know these stories of lives changed are possible because of you. Thank you! For more stories of lives changed, visit us at: EUMA-Erie.org

WILL YOU WALK WITH US?

During the month of May, you have the opportunity to take steps to end homelessness!

With the support of donors and walkers like you, we hope to raise \$8,000. 100% of the funds raised through the annual Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community will work to end homelessness for families with children, Veterans, singles at Our Neighbors' Place, and youth who age out of foster care through EUMA!

We are offering 3 ways to participate:

1. Join Kurt Crays, EUMA's Executive Director, and his daughter, Cora, on May 29th at 10am for a socially distanced and masked 5k walk from The Refuge, EUMA's family shelter, all the way to Liberty House, EUMA's transitional home for homeless veteran men!
2. Walk any time during the month of May wherever and with whomever you

decide!

3. Donate to any of the current walkers on the Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community website: <http://hcf.convio.net/EUMA-Erie>

If you would like to participate in the walk make sure to register on this website: <http://hcf.convio.net/EUMA-Erie>. More details will be emailed to you after you register.

Together let's make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring! If you have any questions contact Katie Peppers: kpeppers@euma-erie.org or 814-732-0231



NEWS AND UPDATES

Please join us in welcoming Patti Boleratz as EUMA's Director of Mission Engagement. In her new role, Patti will help communities of faith and other groups to engage with and be in mission to our neighbors experiencing a housing crisis. She will provide comprehensive EUMA staff and volunteer development services in support of EUMA's mission.



PRAYER REQUESTS

For families who have recently transitioned out of The Refuge and into a home of their own... that they will keep heading in the right direction.

For those leaving prison and in search of housing and a new life and for EUMA staff members who walk alongside them in their journey.

For the chronically ill who are cared for by EUMA's Healthcare for the Homeless Partnership volunteers.

For EUMA staff who are weary and tired from all the challenges presented, in every aspect of their jobs, over the past year.

LIBERTY HOUSE

At your EUMA we serve those who first served us, knowing that homeless and at-risk Veterans need more than just temporary shelter.

EUMA's Liberty House is a safe haven for homeless Veteran men to rebuild and restore their lives while receiving the support and services they need. Even something as simple as a pet can bring normalcy and hope. The Liberty House adopted, Libby, an adorable and well-loved tuxedo cat; she is just one more way residents can feel "at home" as they transition to a home of their own.

The importance of Libby's presence



at Liberty House was evident several years ago when she went missing for several days. Residents walked the neighborhood in search for her daily and the first question every morning was "has Libby come home? Of course, she did finally show up – perfectly fine!

Today, with your help, EUMA is moving Veterans from addiction to SOBRIETY; homelessness to HOME; broken relationships to REUNITED FAMILIES; and death to LIFE!

This month - we encourage you to pray for the men currently staying at EUMA's Liberty House transitional shelter for homeless Veterans and the more than 300 men who've passed through the shelter's doors over the last 15 years.



25TH ANNUAL REFUGE GOLF TOURNAMENT

Please join us for a great day of golf on Monday, June 21st at the Riverside Golf Course in Cambridge Springs.

Registration starts at noon. Shotgun start at 1:00pm

This is a four-person scramble without handicaps and will include various skill prizes.

For more information and registration visit EUMA's website at: EUMA-Erie.org

Your support of this event helps children and their families staying at EUMA's The Refuge.

BECOME AN EUMA HEART TO HEART DONOR!

"I want EUMA to be able to count on an annual donation amount from me. By donating monthly, I can reach my giving goal without having to remember to write a check or give online. It's very convenient. You set it up once and don't have to worry about it."

~ Kathy Fisher, Heart to Heart Member since 2014

As a Heart to Heart partner, you will receive member-only updates, a year-end statement of giving and the joy of knowing you are making homelessness rare, brief and one-time.

Set up recurring giving on your own on at: EUMA-Erie.org or contact us at 814-456-8073, ext. 106, or email: Info@EUMA-Erie.org



RAINBOW WISHLIST

Dressers
Sofas
Love Seats
Microwaves
Toasters
Lamps

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

SHELTER WISHLIST

New Twin sheets
New pillowcases
New Bath towels
New washcloths
Laundry Detergent
Clorox Wipes
Sleeping Bags
Mop and bucket
Broom and dust pan
Tall kitchen trash can
Kitchen towels
Pot holders
Dish Rack
Coffee Makers

*Donations can be
dropped off directly at
our ministry locations
or to our administra-
tive office.*



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

THE REFUGE
HOMELESS SHELTER FOR FAMILIES WITH
CHILDREN
1027 E. 26th St. Erie, PA 16504
814-454-6088

RAPID REHOUSING
RAPIDLY MOVING PEOPLE FROM HOMELESS
TO HOME AND HELPING THEM STAY THERE
1027 E. 26th St. Erie, PA 16504
814-454-6088

LIBERTY HOUSE
TRANSITIONAL SHELTER FOR HOMELESS
VETERAN MEN
550 W. 7th St. Erie, PA 16502
814-874-3687

**RAINBOW CONNECTION THRIFT
STORE**
PROVIDING NECESSITIES TO THOSE IN NEED
1516 Buffalo Rd. Erie, PA 16510
814-453-4080

PERMANENT HOUSING
PROVIDING LOW-INCOME PERMANENT
HOUSING
1033 E. 26th St. Erie, PA 16504
814-456-8073

**HEALTHCARE FOR THE HOMELESS
PARTNERSHIP**
INTEGRATING HOUSING AND HEALTHCARE
1033 E. 26th St. Erie, PA 16504
814-456-8073

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR SPONSORS



Fort LeBoeuf
American Legion Post #285



AMERICO FEDERAL CREDIT
UNION

NATIONAL FUEL
HOFFMAN UNITED

ART'S BAKERY
DUCKAS FUNERAL
HOME

ERIE BANK
LAKEWOOD UMC

MCCORMICK STRUCTURAL
SYSTEMS

sears
HOMETOWN STORE