



SUMMER 2025

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

You are the heart of our mission.

This winter, thousands of volunteers stepped up—dropping off donations, covering overnight shifts, delivering meals, and sharing warmth through winter clothing and care. You embodied the true meaning of our call to serve “As Jesus would.” **Communities rise because of your impact.** Together, we’ve bridged 44 miles between Erie and Crawford Counties—bringing hope, shelter, and support to those who need it most. This winter, your generosity made all the difference.



Our Neighbors' Place
Seasonal Overflow Shelter



EUMA

hosted by FCCA (Family Children & Community)

Over the last **140 nights** Our Neighbors' Place has been open, EUMA ONP staff and volunteers:

Over the last **84 activated nights** SAM volunteers have served:



337
unduplicated individuals received shelter.



6,635
warm bed nights were served.



72
unduplicated friends.



899
warm bed nights.

EUMA's priority remains finding permanent and affordable housing solutions.



Avg. number of guests each night was **47**



16
individuals identified as a Veteran.

EUMA's priority remains finding permanent and affordable housing solutions.



avg. number of friends each night was **12**



6
friends identifying as a Veteran.

Our oldest guest was an **77** yr. old male and the youngest, a female, was **18**.



65 nights or **46%** of nights ONP was at or above our **50** bed capacity.
7 nights ONP was over 60 beds

friends as old as **78** and friends as young as **19**.



22
friends in one night. (Largest number to date).



we served **96** women and **241** men.

At least **23** guests were 18-24 yrs. old. In comparison, at least **34** guests were 65 yrs. old or older.

of the friends, **17** are women, **53** are men, and **2** are transgender.

at least **8** friends were 18-24 yrs. old. In comparison, **1** friend was older than 65.



Update from the CEO

A SEASON OF HOPE

Spring is finally upon us, bringing with it a season of hope and renewal. As we step into this new chapter, we take time to reflect on just some of what you have accomplished during the cold Winter months.

Who could have predicted Northwest PA would have a Winter again? We did and because of you, each night

up to thirty-six Moms, Dads and their children were sheltered at EUMA's The Refuge. Up to ten Veterans received the support and care to move from homelessness to a permanent home of their own. Each cold Winter night, dozens of youth – most aged out of foster care were sheltered or permanently housed in an EUMA-owned apartment. And, thanks to you EUMA's seasonal shelters Our Neighbors' Place and our new ministry in Crawford County, Shelter Area Meadville, combined providing 7,534 bed nights to 409 unduplicated guests.

This work, this life-saving, hope-producing ministry is only possible because of you.

As EUMA prepares for our Summer of events, know I seek your participation to end homelessness in Northwest PA by making it rare, brief and one-time, as Jesus would!

We hope you'll hang the attached flyer on a local community board and help us spread the word. We look forward to seeing you—on the course, racing, on a bike, or walking alongside our team soon!

HIGHLIGHTED VOLUNTEER

We praise God when we think of **Barb Caldwell**. Her journey with EUMA began over 20 years ago, when she first volunteered alongside her daughter, Katie—and she's been hooked ever since. Today, Barb is not only a faithful volunteer but a pillar of support and love at The Refuge.

Barb is an active member of Summit United Methodist Church, a congregation that sponsors a room at The Refuge. Together with fellow Summit UMC member Jenny Cornwell, Barb makes sure every client and staff

member is celebrated. They sponsor birthdays and special occasions for all families and staff at The Refuge—ensuring everyone is celebrated.

She also started a cherished tradition: bringing gifts, a cookie station, live music, and more to The Refuge during the holidays—spreading joy, warmth, and love year after year.

One of Barb's favorite memories is of a little girl named Jasmine, who stayed at The Refuge with her single father. The joy and appreciation in Jasmine's eyes still speaks to Barb's heart to this day.

When asked why others should get involved, Barb simply said,

"Why not? I do it so the clients know we care, and that they aren't alone in this journey. We all have different paths and may hit rock bottom at different times—I was there. It's about the hand of Jesus Christ."

Barb holds a deep admiration for Linnea Pickard, Program Supervisor



at The Refuge, who she says treats each client with dignity and respect, calling them by name and truly investing in their growth. To Barb, "The Refuge is a step for support and divine acceptance."

In addition to her work at The Refuge, Barb also shares her famous mac and cheese with residents at Liberty House, and volunteers on weekends at Our Neighbors' Place.

We are deeply thankful for Barb as she ends homelessness just as Jesus would!



CLIENT HIGHLIGHT: JADASHA'S JOURNEY TO HOME

Jadasha Eaddy has faced some of life's toughest trials—but today, she stands stronger than ever.

Alongside her husband and their three beautiful children—Amirieon, Azjuron, and A'Milah—**Jadasha has completed the program at EUMA's The Refuge**, becoming a shining example of what's possible when support, resources, and determination come together.

Before finding The Refuge, her family moved between several shelters, never quite finding the stability they needed. But everything changed when they arrived at EUMA. Here, they found the structure, community, and support

to rebuild their lives—and a place they now proudly call home.

One of the hardest moments, Jadasha shared, was hearing her 5-year-old son, Amirieon, ask, *"When will we have our own home?"* That question echoed in her heart as she reached out to **814-SHELTER**, which connected her to The Refuge in August.

At first, she was nervous—another move, another change, more uncertainty. But she quickly discovered that The Refuge wasn't like the other places. The staff welcomed her family of five with open arms, treating them with dignity and authentic compassion. The transition was seamless, and the structured environment—chores, curfews, and personal goals—turned out to be exactly what her family needed.

"The structure made sense," Jadasha said. "I had been yearning for that for so long."

She credits the on-site support—meals, transportation, supplies like diapers—for helping her breathe again and focus on the future. One of her favorite memories? Watching

Jackson light up with joy during the holidays, especially when **Apthorp Farms** brought live reindeer to the shelter. Celebrating holidays and special moments at The Refuge brought a sense of normalcy and happiness that her family had been missing.

Jadasha also recalls attending **Ride for The Refuge**, where she and her family were embraced by the community and reminded of their worth. "Everyone made us feel so welcome, loved, and dignified," she said.

Today, Jadasha is thriving. She's working full time in the healthcare field and loves it. Her goal is simple and powerful: "To do this for my kids so we are stable no matter what." She's applying everything The Refuge taught her—especially around money management—and committed to giving back.

"I told Linnea (Program Director) the only time she'll see me again is if I'm working for her or volunteering."

Jadasha, we are so proud of you. She's officially told her son, **"We're home."** Your story is a reminder to us all: We are ending homelessness—by making it rare, brief, and one-time. Just as Jesus would.



Young Heart, Big Impact: JP's Bowl-a-Thon Blessing

JP Nageotte, a sixth grader at Maplewood Elementary, was deeply inspired after hearing EUMA's CEO, Kurt Crays, speak at his church, Saegertown United Methodist. Moved by our mission to end homelessness, JP decided to take action in a big way.

He organized a Bowl-a-Thon and chose EUMA as the beneficiary—rallying support from his teachers, classmates, and church

community. Thanks to JP's compassion and leadership, he raised an incredible \$2,165 to help our neighbors in need.

JP, your generosity is a powerful reminder that no one is too young to make a

difference. Thank you for being a blessing to so many!



Welcome, Danielle Szklenski EUMA's New Chief Program Officer!

Please join us in welcoming **Danielle Szklenski** as EUMA's next **Chief Program Officer (CPO)**. Danielle will lead our growing program department, bringing decades of leadership experience and a deep commitment to EUMA's mission.

Danielle contributed mightily at Family Services of NW PA for several decades including most recently as the Vice President of Development and before that Programs. Danielle is certified as a Six Sigma/Lean Operations Green belt and completed the Blue Ocean Strategy training. Danielle shared, "EUMA's mission to end homelessness in northwest PA resonates deeply with me. I look forward to supporting efforts to expand access to safe, affordable housing in our community."

Having previously collaborated with EUMA, Danielle added,

"I witnessed firsthand the culture of compassionate care that defines EUMA's work. It's an honor to now be part of this dedicated team."

Additionally, Danielle has been widely recognized by her peers

and organizations. She received the Patriotic Supervisor Award, the Nonprofit Excellence Award for DEI, and multiple honors from the Public Relations Society of America of NWPA chapter. Welcome to the team,

Danielle!
We're excited for what's ahead.



Danielle Szklenski, CPO



Keith Jones Pomeroy

Welcome, Keith Pomeroy! EUMA Board of Director

Please join us in giving a warm welcome to **Keith Jones Pomeroy**, the newest member of EUMA's Board of Directors!

Keith brings a deep passion for community engagement, a strong connection to EUMA's mission, and a wealth of experience in social concerns and education. As Director of the Center for Social Concerns at Gannon University, Keith is dedicated to serving the most vulnerable in our community—a calling that aligns perfectly with our mission to end homelessness by making it rare, brief, and one-time, as Jesus would.

Keith's journey with EUMA began years ago, volunteering at The Refuge while in high school, participating in CROP Walks, and witnessing firsthand the power of compassionate action.

We are incredibly grateful for Keith's leadership, heart for service, and unwavering commitment to building a stronger, more just community. Welcome to the EUMA family, Keith!



Get Ready for Fun, Sun, and the Summer Season at Rainbow Connection Thrift Store!

Did you know your gently used clothes, household items, furniture and appliances can change a life? They can at EUMA's Rainbow Connection Thrift Store! Products are sold to our neighbors in need at below market prices and last year alone, items valued at nearly \$39,000 were distributed, free of charge to those in need.



Longtime shopper **Sara Martin** has been a loyal supporter of Rainbow for decades. She loves the friendly, kind, and accommodating

staff. Sara shared, "Without Rainbow, it would be a tremendous loss and

sacrifice to our community. The prices are made to help people. I buy for my work clients, friends, family, and even strangers I meet who are in need. I purchase an array of items weekly—everything from furniture, games, clothing and blankets to lamps and chairs."

Last year, 31 partner organizations used a Rainbow Voucher in Erie County. Your generosity benefited 1,344 individuals, including 528 children.

Doing some Spring cleaning and want to help end homelessness? Drop off your gently used items at EUMA's Rainbow, 1516 Buffalo Rd., Erie, PA or schedule a pickup at: 814.453.4080 or email Rainbow@EUMA-Erie.org

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