

Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network
425 West 18th Street
Erie, PA 16502

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Our Mission

The Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network, sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania, provides leadership, advocates for local residents, and partners with the broader community to develop opportunities for both personal growth and neighborhood revitalization.

2017-2018 SSJNN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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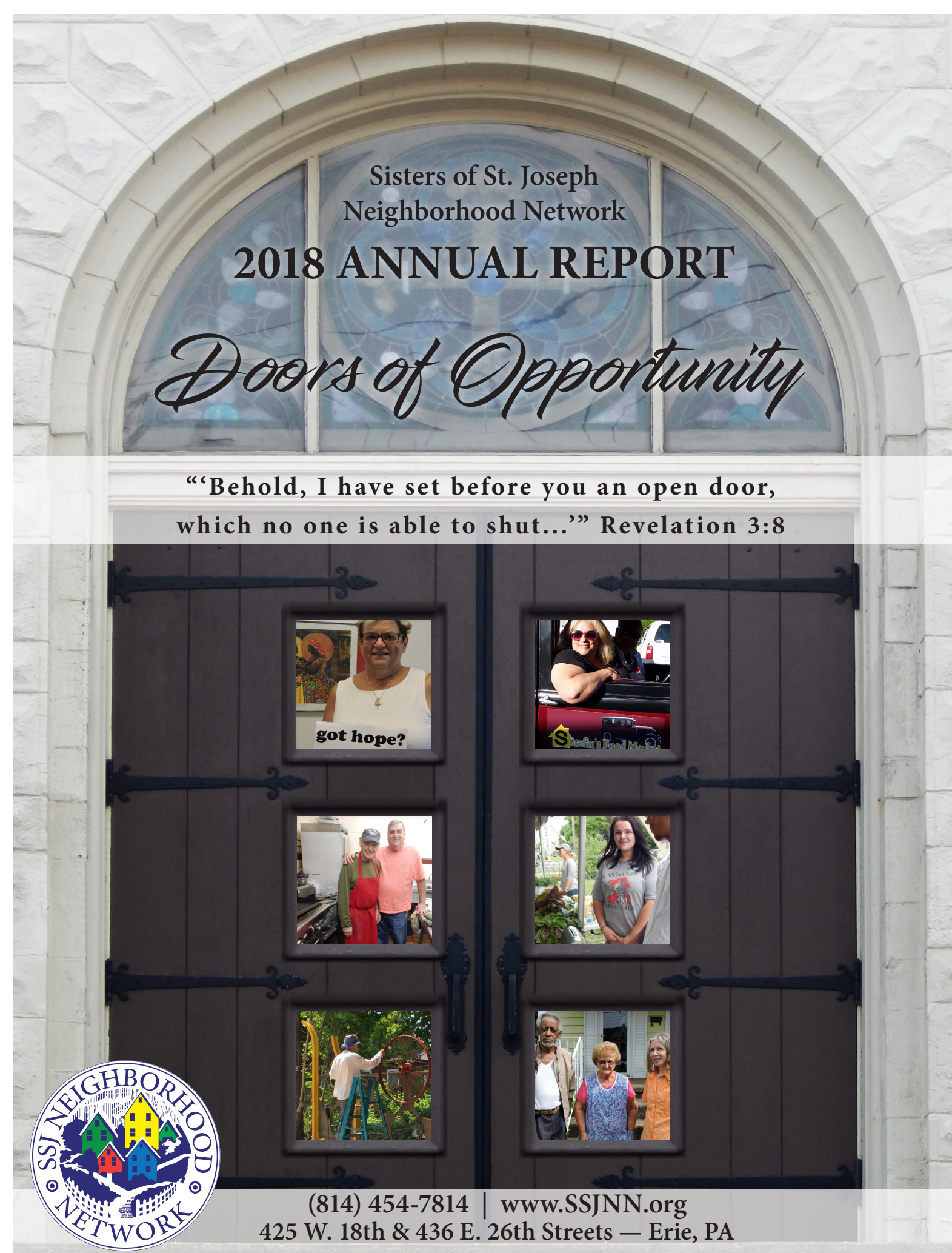
Have a Hand in the Mission

VOLUNTEER your time and talent — with our youth programs, soup kitchen, gardens, office duties, events, committees, clean-ups, & much more.

DONATE hygiene & household products, diapers, non-perishable food items, snacks for children, paper products for the soup kitchen, art supplies, used bicycles & parts.

CONTRIBUTE on our website, through the mail or in person, or consider making long term financial plans for SSJNN and the vital neighborhoods it serves in the city.

ATTEND the 13th Annual Guess That Tune Gala on Saturday, May 4th, 2019 at the Bayfront Convention Center.



From the Director

At a recent meet-up with Peter, Joel and Jeff Natalie, brothers who grew up in Erie’s Little Italy (and Co-hosts for our next Guess That Tune Gala!), I was entertained by their stories of reaching a bare hand into the olive barrel at Arnone’s and raiding neighborhood gardens and the next-door neighbor’s grapes. I was also struck with the historical nature of nurture within Erie’s many, family-centered neighborhoods. Caring environments providing opportunity for building both memories and character.

On behalf of all of us at the SSJ Neighborhood Network, I am pleased to present this annual snapshot of the many ways YOU help us continue this tradition in the neighborhoods we serve across the City of Erie. This report is a thank you and testament to so many who gift their time, treasure and expertise, helping us provide neighbors with experience, engagement, assistance and revitalization — opportunities for growth and empowerment.

We are so grateful for your support of our mission and our work.

Heather May Caspar

Heather May Caspar, Executive Director

From the Board

Over the past year, I watched as the role of the SSJ Neighborhood Network grew and changed. While maintaining our core mission to revitalize neighborhoods and provide opportunities to our neighbors, our East Side facility is now in the public schools, providing students a chance to understand that there are opportunities ahead of them in the world. Our West Side Network continues visually significant change in the neighborhood, where over 100 facades have been improved, and young adults learn how to work through gardens and mentoring.

Sitting in a LIRA meeting, I had to smile at how much things have changed. Around the table were people who grew up in the neighborhood, people from City offices, and representatives from several other non-profits, all working together and talking about how we could help each other, cooperate, and provide opportunities and growth for all in our neighborhoods. We are not just revitalizing buildings and streets, but the lives and hopes of our neighbors and their children. I could feel this change of pulling together, not just in our own neighborhood, but with our larger community. In a rising tide, we are no longer struggling to row our boat against the current. We are all rowing together, making progress across the whole city.

To all of our volunteers and supporters, I cannot say thank you enough. All of your smiles, your time, your hard work! With all of us working together, you are making a difference that we could never achieve alone.

Bob Guthrie

Bob Guthrie, President, Board of Directors



8 neighborhood teens got their hands dirty in the gardens and a hand-up into the working world. Some also worked a booth at the Little Italy Farmers Market, which averaged 200 patrons per week, set records in sales and was a great place for education, community and camaraderie. Since 2013, 46 teens have worked with coaches to care for the gardens. They also learn about soft skills, taking pride in their work and themselves, and so much more.

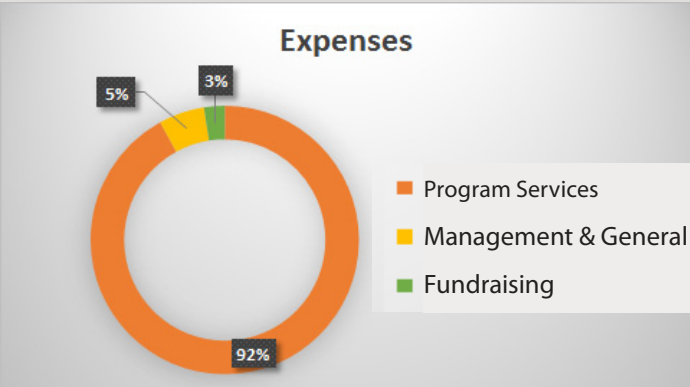
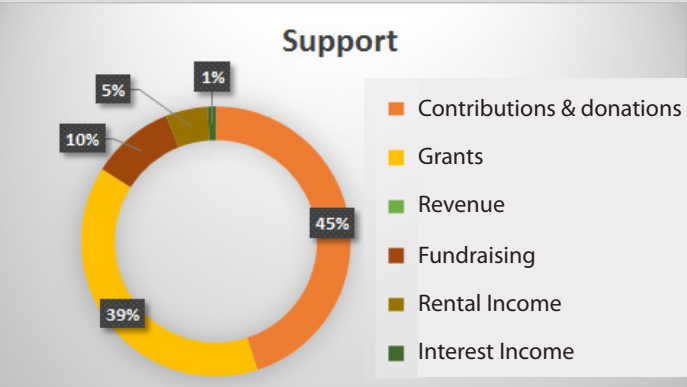
Revitalization



A new mural was created by Tom Ferraro and Ed Grout this year. It adorns the building behind our Little Italy Farmers Market at 331 West 18th St. It acts as the perfect backdrop, with a beautiful three “door” depiction of produce and markets in the neighborhood - in the past, the present, and we hope for many years to come.

Financial Review

2017-2018 was a solid year for support income from grants, corporate contributions and private donations. Thanks to 310 individuals who provided a combined 6,219 volunteer hours, we were able to pour nearly every penny into the growth of scope and reach of our programs.



Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwest Pennsylvania; **In Memory of Bobbie Wood** by Jeff and Judith Idzik • **FUNDS OF THE ERIE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION:** Richard & Mary Ann McCormick Fund, Thomas L. & Mary K. Quinn Family Fund, Bruce & K.D. Raimy Fund, Scibetta Family Fund, William & Kathleen Stroh Family Fund, Walter Family Fund • **IN-KIND DONATIONS:** Gina Adams, Alkeme Mediterranean Café, Allburn Florists, Mary Anderson, Mr. & Mrs. Carl Antonucci, Jack & Marian Armstrong, Arrowhead Wine Cellars, Inc., Arthur F. Schultz Co., Mary Ann Ashworth, E. E. Austin & Son Inc., Paula Bauda, Mr. & Mrs. John Bauman, Maggie Benson, Berry Global, Ronald Blosser, Wally & Shelly Brown, Caring Hands, Donna Carlino, Cathedral Preparatory School & Villa Maria Academy, Armand Chimenti, Gertrude Christie, Margaret Chrymko, Christine Cicero, CiCi's Pizza, Elaine Clyburn, Curves, Kevin Cybolski, Dahlkemper's Jewelry Connection, Kathy Davis, Mike DeDad, Judie DeIFreo, Delta Kappa Gamma, Lucia DePalma, Brenda Desser, Steve & Susan Drabant, Dragonfly Lake Scents, Dave & Gretchen Durney, Mike & Janice Durney, Edible Arrangements, Erie Earn It/ Juvenile Probation, Erie Insurance, Erie Times Publishing Company, Erie Water Works, Andrew Falcon, Judy Farrar, Mr. & Mrs. James Fatter, Mary Ferrando, Sandra Filippi, Mr. & Mrs. Les Frost, Gap & Old Navy Employees, Giuseppe Mazzini Civic Association, Grandview Elementary School, Maureen Griffin, Mr. & Mrs. Bob Haibach, Rebecca Haverly, Michele Healy, SSJ, Jean Heintzel, Lori Hetrick, Mr. & Mrs. William Hilbert, Kim Hinkson, Howard Hanna, Tom Hudson, Lisa Hurta, International Bakery, Lucy John, Jr.'s Last Laugh Comedy Club, Bruce Kobal, Patricia Jane Kuehl, Ladies of Harley/Santa's Helpers, Lake Shore Industries, Inc., Mr. & Mrs. Tim Lakari, Mr. & Mrs. Henry Langer, Larese Floral Design, Larry's Central Market, Mary Ann Larsen, Mr. & Mrs. Dave Lefebvre, Mary Lyons, Patti Matczak, Sue McCreary, Dr. Gary McEnery, Homer & Clemence Mershon, Marlene Miller, Molly Brannigan's, Mr. & Mrs. Larry Monocello, Montenero Ladies Society, Morrocco Motors, Barbara Noonan, Debbie Norman, Katherine Nuber, Mr. & Mrs. George Opron, Fil Orr, Our Lady of Peace Rosary Society, Our Lady of Peace School, Elizabeth Pacinelli, Delores Pasiecznik, Otto A. Pasqual, Penske Truck Rental, Rita Petersen, Mr. & Mrs. Cliff Pier, PittMoss, LLC, John & Janet Plavcan, Sheryl Post, Potratz Floral Shop, Red Cross, Red Hat Honeys, Red Hat Ladies, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Roberts, April Roy, Mr. & Mrs. Cesar Ruiz, Jeanne Torrance, Atty. Richard & Carolyn Vendetti, Audrey Vieira, Joe Walsh, Patrick Weindorf, Ashley Westgate, Susan Wilber, Betsy Williams, Jane C. Wood, Terry Woodard, Ellen Zimmer • Donations listed were received between 07/01/2017 and 06/30/2018. Please contact (814) 454-7814 or jsprickman@ssjnn.org to correct any errors. THANK YOU!



Assistance



A home renovation on West 17th Street was finished and another is soon to be completed thanks in part to some construction students and teachers from Erie High. These homes add to affordable housing and our Genesis Homeownership program. 105 tenants have been housed by the Genesis program through the years. Anil and his son, above, are among the 48 neighbors housed in our 9 units now.



27 facade improvement grants, such as the new front door shown above, were completed this year. An additional 22 Renaissance Block improvement grants funded by ECGRA were also initiated this year. This brings the total number of facades since 2012 to over 100. A full map of these and several other improvements is available at www.ssjnn.org.

Opportunity



More than 5,000 meals were served last year at our weekly soup kitchen held at St. Paul's Community Center on West 16th Street. Hundreds are welcomed through the door each week, and nourished by more than just the meal. Hundreds of volunteer hands, like Kathy's, above, make light work of everything from the preparation of food, to the scrubbing of every last pot, and every task in-between.



More than 1,200 neighbors came through our doors for assistance with food or household needs, individual ministry or referral. Countless individuals, schools and groups stocked our shelves with these items. Many friendly faces such as Rita, above, greet these neighbors as they volunteer to be receptionists with us each and every weekday.

Thomas & Annette Wittmann, James C. & Kathleen R. Woll, Worthington, Nancy Wurst, John & Kathryn Yaggy, Len Zawistowski Jr., James & Shirley Zimmerman • **GRANTORS AND FOUNDATIONS:** City of Erie, County of Erie, Commonwealth of PA, Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority, Erie Crop Walk, Erie Insurance Giving Network, GAP Foundation, GE Foundation, Highmark Health Insurance, Marquette Savings Bank, Northwest Savings Bank, PA Department of Economic and Community Development, PNC Foundation, ResCare, Roman Catholic Diocese of Erie, Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania, United Way of Erie County • **IN HONOR OF:** the wedding of Peter Austin & Amanda Prischak by Elizabeth Scarpetti; **In Honor of Sister Clare Marie Beichner** by The Serra Club; **In Honor of Cindy Brown** by Sister Marianne Stuckert, SSJ; **In Honor of Bob and Mary Alice Haibach** by James C. and Kathleen R. Woll; **In Honor of Mary Huder** by Sister Mary Hermann, SSJ; **In Honor of Sue Lentulay** by Jean Heintzel; **In Honor of Tim Necastro** by David and Catherine Bednar, Jeffrey and Amy Brinling, Pamela Carullo, Lorianne Feltz, Robert Ingram, Debra & Jay Miller, Dennis Oborski, Douglas and Jennifer Smith; **In Honor of SSJ Jubilarians** by Sister Ricarda Vincent, Sister Jean Baptiste, Sister Phyllis Hilbert; **In Honor of SSJ Jubilarian Sr. Phyllis Hilbert** by Sister Margaret Frank, SSJ, Sister Moira Sullivan, SSJ, Erie Community Foundation; **In Honor of SSJ Jubilarians Sr. Phyllis and others** by Sister Michele Healy, SSJ, Sister Rosemary O'Brien, SSJ, Sister Maria Onuffer, SSJ, Sister Marjorie Adams, SSJ, Sister Mary Drexler, SSJ, Sister Mary Fromknecht, SSJ, Sister Ann Loretta Urmann, SSJ; **In Honor of Father Jerome Simmons 50th Anniversary** by Sister Mary Ellen Dwyer, SSJ; **In Honor of Sr Ann Stephanie Stano** by Mary Ann D'Annibale; **In Honor of Susan Wilber's Birthday** by Mary Ann Carmichael • **IN MEMORY OF:** Eddie & Esther Albert by Lynette Coleman; **In Memory of Paul D. Brugger** by Mary Ann Brugger; **In Memory of Salvatore Conti** by Theresa Conti; **In Memory of Della Delio** by Loretta Patton, Cheryl Andrews, Marc Brown, Jim and Jerry Infantino; **In Memory of Edward DiMattio** by Stanley and Elizabeth Bialomizy, Drs. Mary Anne Albaugh and Dennis Borczon, James and Marlene Calder, Anita and Dick Cuthbert, Daniel and Kathleen Dahlkemper, Richard and Amy Demski, Angelo and Carmella DeSanto, Betty DiMattio, Carolyn & Albert DiMattio, Maria and Elena DiValerio, Chuck and Nancy Donnelly, Joseph and Rose Marie Gallagher, Colleen Hammon, Harborcreek Youth Services, Beverly Harrity, Mary Maxwell, Clarence and Gloria Metzgar, Richard and Kaye Perrotta, Thomas and Patricia Pianta, Marge Tesore, James and Mary Ann Toohey, Eardly and Diane Wickramasinghe, James and Shirley Zimmerman; **In Memory of John J. Gasper** by Joseph LeFaiver; **In Memory of Stephen Jakubcsik** by David and Judith Pratt; **In Memory of Joe Jendrasiak** by Dave & Gretchen Durney; **In Memory of Mrs. Sophie M Lojewski** by Charles and Donna Roberts; **In Memory of Mr & Mrs Felix Sambuchino** by Roy Sambuchino; **In Memory of Rachael & Carolyn Shannon** by Anonymous Donor; **In Memory of Charlene Sisson** by Altra Industrial Motion, Bianchi Motors, Law Firm of Candace C. Carponter, Randall and Patricia Cimini, Lauretta Fanazini, Eric and Renee Filson, Monica and Paul Polizzi; **In Memory of Jack Steadman** by Joe & Gerri Gallagher; **In Memory of Sister Carol Wilcox, SSJ** by Alice Fuhrman, Sister Rita Musante, OLVN,



WE ARE SO THANKFUL FOR OUR MANY SUPPORTERS: A Place for Hope & Healing, Jordan Abbott, Mark & Gina Adams, Marjorie Adams, SSJ, Mary Anne Albaugh, MD, & Dennis Borczon, MD, Carol Alberstadt Class of 1957, Gina & Craig Allison, John Allison, Ed & Kathy Althof, Altra Industrial Motion, Amazon Smile, American Refining Group, Inc., Ameripac Industries Inc., Mary Anderson, Mark & Mary Anderson, Nancy Anderson, Cheryl Andrews, Robert Angelucci, Rev. Msgr. Dan Arnold, Mary Ann Ashworth, Austin Real Estate, Inc., Pete Austin, James & Lisa Babo, Glenn & Diane Bailey, Barber National Institute, Jeannette Barczynski, Tim & Mary Barrett, Susan Barry, Barbara Bauda, Diane Baumgardner, Lisa Baumgardner, Bay City Garden Club, David & Catherine Bednar, Clare Marie Beichner, SSJ, Virginia A. Bello, Patricia Bennett, Berry Global, Stanley & Elizabeth Bialomizy, Bianchi Motors, Bike Erie, Tom & Sue Blecki, Blessed Sacrament School, Ed & Dee Dee Bolt, Boscov's, Karen & John Bozza, Paul H. Bressan, Jeffrey & Amy Brinling, Richard & Victoria Brogdon, Marc R. Brown, Wally & Shelly Brown, Mary Ann Brugger, Elizabeth J. Bucarelli, Michael Bucell, Valerie Bukowski, Heidi Burton, James & Marlene Calder, Lora Caldwell, James & Kathleen Camp, Willis & Mary Cardot, Career Assessment Center, Frank & Joanne Cargioli, Mary Ann Carmichael, Honorable Judge Thomas Carney, Carrie T. Watson Garden Club, Pamela Carullo, Cascade Park Club, Heather & Jim Caspar, Cathedral Preparatory School & Villa Maria Academy, Catholic Charities, Joseph & Nancy Chiappazzi, Randall & Patricia Cimini, Circolo Nazionale Lodge No. 122, Evan Clendenin, Elaine Clyburn, Lynette Coleman, Joan Collins, Rose Colt, Committee to Elect Joe Schember, Community Marketing and Management Co., Theresa Conti, Barry Copple, Crime Victim Center, Crop Walk, Joe & Susan Cunningham, Anita & Dick Cuthbert, Kevin Cybolski, Daniel & Kathleen Dahlkemper, Mary Ann D'Annibale, Kathleen Davis, John & Jennifer Davis, R. Deau, Mike DeDad, Judie DelFreo, Anna Delio, Delta Kappa Gamma Society, Richard & Amy Demski, Mark & Amy Denlinger, Lucia DePalma, Susan DePlatchett, Angelo & Carmella DeSanto, Brenda Desser, Sally DiBacco, Raylene & Paul Dill, Jean Baptiste DiLuzio, SSJ, Carolyn DiMattio, Betty DiMattio, MA DiTullio, Maria & Elena DiValerio, Claudia Dombrowski, SSJ, Chuck & Nancy Donnelly, Karen R. Dorich, Linda Dougherty, John & Jean Downey, Carol Doyle, Steve & Susan Drabant, Martin & Jeanne Drabic, Mary Drexler, SSJ, Michael & Janice Durney, Mary Ellen Dwyer, SSJ, Natalie Dwyer-Haller, E. E. Austin & Son, Inc., David & Nancy Eichelsdorfer, Erie Beer Company, Erie Community Foundation, Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority, Erie County PASR, Erie Insurance, Erie Insurance Giving Network, Erie Maennerchor, Erie Water Works, ErieTec, Inc., Lauretta Fanazini, Kathleen Fatica, James Fatter, Robert & Joyce Feldman, Raymond & Joan Fels, Lorianne Feltz, Mary Ferrando, Sandra Filippi, Eric & Renee Filson, First Presbyterian Church of Waterford, Myrna Fistel, Greg & Susan Fitzgerald, Kevin & Kathy Flatley, Mary Forgenie, William & Janet Fowler, Wendy Fraley, Margaret Frank, SSJ, Thomas M. Frank, Mary Fromknecht, SSJ, Les Frost, Verno Frye, Alice Fuhrman, Joseph & Rose Marie Gallagher, Rose Gallant, Gannon University, Mr. & Mrs. James Garvey, GECAC, James Gehrlein, Girl Scouts of Western PA, Jane & Peter Gilewicz, Elizabeth A. Gillette, Giuseppe Mazzini Civic Association, Maggie Gleason & Whole Foods Co-op, Joseph Glennon, Josette Gocella, SSJ,



Experience



Tutoring, art, cooking, and a gamut of other small group after-school programs were held on site each week. On top of that, in-school career education was provided to over 1200 - every student in McKinley Elementary and Woodrow Wilson Middle School. Many talented volunteers share their gifts to make these programs possible and enrich our youth.



Pedal Mettle is our Earn-A-Bike Program for youth and adults and the ReCyclery Shop allows us to repair donated bikes. This year we served over 220 with the help of 16 skilled volunteers who spent over 700 hours with us. This year we also joined a national program and are now the "Trips for Kids Erie" Chapter. As part of this national network we join others to spread the joy of riding a bike among young people in our neighborhoods.



There are many ways we do outreach and community engagement, including the snippet of a summer block party shown here. National Night Out, the block parties, drum circles, special events at the farmers market - all of these are gateways for building relationships and more good works.

Engagement



Two tiny doors were installed in our neighborhoods in the form of Little Free Libraries. Neighbors can take or trade in books at these spots close to home. See them for yourself in front of our east side office and in International Flavors Garden on West 18th Street

Rosmari Graham, Great Lakes Metal Finishing, Alex Grennan, Anthony J. Gressley, Diane & Robert Guthrie, Gregory Gutting, Bob & Mary Alice Haibach, Mark Haibach, Colleen Hammon, Michael J. Hannan, Harborcreek Youth Services, Patricia Hardner, Beverly Harrity, John & Jean Heintzel, Andrew Helmy, Mary Hembrow Snyder, Ph.D., Naida Hernandez, Mary Herrmann, SSJ, Lori Hetrick, Mary Hickin, Kathy & Chris Higgins, Joe Hilbert, John & Nancy Hilbert, Phyllis Hilbert, SSJ, Bill & Becky Hilbert, William M. & Martha Hilbert, Jeffrey L. Hileman, Holy Cross Church, Madeline C. Hromyak, Claire & Edward Hulefeld, Humes Chrysler Jeep Dodge & Ram, Lance & Mary Ann Huster, Jeff & Judith Idzik, Jim & Jerry Infantino, Robert Ingram, Morgan Jacox, Mary Payton Jarvie, Lucy John, Norma Johnson, Barbara Jones, James & Shawna Jones, Brian & Sarah Kaveney, Kearsarge Auto Parts, Christopher Keating, Jean & Thomas Keegan, Mary Claire Kennedy, SSJ, Tom & Rebecca Kennedy, Kathleen Kern, Char Kerr & John Piper, Cynthia Kirk-Carpenter, Midge Klebes, Knights of Columbus OLMC, Knights of Columbus St. Jude Parish, Knights of Columbus Sacred Heart Church, Bruce Kobal, Deborah Koehle Kuhn, Angie Kontur, Denise Krainski, Tyler & Jessica Krugger, Howard & Joanne Kubinski, Patricia Jane Kuehl, Bob & Barb Kuhn, Steve & Linda Kuhn, Martha Kurtzhals, Patricia Sue Lacy, Renee M. Lamis, La Nuova Aurora Society, Timothy & Mary Lakari, Lake Shore Industries, Inc., Henry Langer, Larry's Central Market, Mary Ann Larsen, David & Kathleen Lastowski, Law Firm of Candace C. Carponter, Meredyth Leahy, Joseph LeFaiver, Dave Lefebvre, Joseph Legnasky, Frank & Julie Leonard, Dan & Marianne Levstek, Dean Lewis, Liberty Iron & Metal, Mary Ellen Lieb, Sara Little, Little Italy Neighborhood Watch, Loesel-Schaaf Insurance Agency, Rodney & Pamela Logan, Lord Corporation, Joyce Lowrey, SSJ, Paul A. Lukach, MSW, LSW, Jennifer Lynch, Mary Lyons, MacDonald Illig, Sheila Mack, Gary & Gale Magyar, David & Andrea Maille, Michael & Jean Malthaner, Thelma & Lisa Manendo, Catherine Manning, SSJ, Marquette Savings Bank, Art & Helen Ann Martinucci, Patti Matczak, Mary Maxwell, Patricia Mayer, Richard Mayer, David & Patricia McAbee, Richard McCormick, Phyllis McCracken, SSJ, Sue McCreary, Gini McDermott, Marilyn McEnery, Catheryn McGinnis, Mary Alice McGinnis, Paula McGinnis, Dennis McGuire, Sean & Ann McLaughlin, Elizabeth McLaren, James & Barbara McNamara, Namon McWilliams, Mercy Center for Women, Homer & Clemence Mershon, Bob & Emily Merski, Clarence & Gloria Metzgar, Susan Miceli, Anna Miller, Marlene Miller, Debra & Jay Miller, Patrick Mingarelle, Judith L. Minichelli, Alice & Paul Modzelewski, Connie Monahan, Sarah Margaret Knox Moody, Pamela Moore, Lori Morgenstern, Morrocco Motors, Nancy Compernelle Murray, Rita Musante, OLVN, Jacob Nathier, National Fuel Gas Company, Timothy & Lisa NeCastro, Ms. Barrie Nolan, Northwest Savings Bank, Joyce Nowakowski, Gerald & Dionne Oakley, Dennis Oborski, Margaret O'Brien, SSJ, Rosemary O'Brien, SSJ, Holly O'Hare, Cindi Olesky, Maria Onuffer, SSJ, George & Christine Opron, Gerard & Rita Orinko,



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