

Continuum Chronicle



WELCOME!

Welcome to our community newsletter! We are very excited to showcase some of the incredible work and resources within and beyond our continuum.

First, we want to thank all the individuals and organizations that allowed us to feature them in our very first newsletter.

Please note that by featuring an organization or individual in our newsletter HAWNY does not endorse any religious or political beliefs/stances of these individuals or organizations.

This edition is only the beginning! We are committed to improving our newsletter based on community feedback.

Please scan the QR code at the very end of the newsletter and complete the survey with your honest feedback!

Upcoming Community Events

Health and Wellness Retreat
at Beaver Hollow VOSC
July 26th and 28th

Harvest Festival
August 17th
Harvest House
[Click Here: Harvest House](#)

Mental Health Empowerment
Project Buffalo & Erie County
Library
August 1st

HAWNY MEETING
August 21st
[HAWNY Mailing List](#)

HOMELESS ALLIANCE OF WNY IMPORTANT UPDATES

- The Homeless Alliance is relocating our office from 960 Main Street, to 625 Delaware Ave. in August. If you attend regular meetings at HAWNY, plan to continue to attend at 960 Main Street. We will update you when the move is complete.
- We are currently developing a new website to improve our community's ability to access resources and content.
- HAWNY recently had our annual retreat to craft strategic goals with the Board of Directors.
- HAWNY is Hiring: Please visit our website for more details on the positions and how to apply
- New Coordinated Entry Office hour- second Wednesday of each month (11-12pm) for all your CE questions! [CE Office Hour Link](#)



ORGANIZATIONAL SPOTLIGHT

HARVEST HOUSE

Harvest House is an organization that provides vast and comprehensive support and services to the community. Harvest house runs three ministries that support over 14,000 community members annually. Harvest has a total community investment of an impressive \$31,303,944.

This year, the annual "Harvest Festival" takes place on August 17th at 12-3pm. The festival is located at 175 Jefferson Avenue. The festival will feature health and wellness tips, along with free food and live music.

Celina Bryan is a Housing Director at Harvest House. Celina says that "Harvest House is owned by the community" She adds, that "The people are the Boss...If the community doesn't want it, we are not going to do it." Housing Director Darwin Rosales says, harvest House is "flexible to the community" and that they "get many phone calls every day with different needs."

Both Celina and Darwin note, 'even with just 17 full and part time staff, Harvest House is able to get a lot done because of all of their community partnerships.'

With growing calls from community members for more healthy and affordable food options, Harvest House created a new partnership with African heritage Food Co-op. The Co-op donates fresh food to Harvest who bags the food and offers it to everyone that comes through their doors.

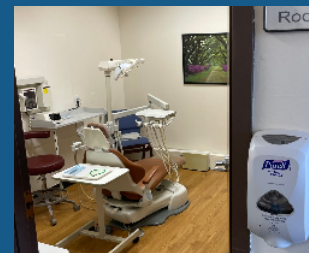
GET INVOLVED

- Donations: Housing Director Celina Bryan, says "we run on donations." If you are interested in donating, Celina lists several high demand items including, "diapers, baby wipes, baby clothing, personal care items, underwear, socks, and mattresses." She adds, "furniture" is always in demand
- Housing Director Darwin Rosales says "gift cards" can be especially helpful so that clients
- Harvest house is always looking for medical volunteers. "Especially needed volunteers" include dental assistants, dental receptionist, nurses, and a dental hygienist every other Wednesday 8am-11:30am.



Children and Infant clothing

A Dental room used to provide free dental



HARVEST HOUSE'S 3 DISTINCT MINISTRIES:

- Baby and Children's Ministry
 - Supports local families with clothing, safe cribs, car seats, toys, books and beyond
 - Provides each child with a week's worth of clothing at no cost to the family
 - Donations are organized and sorted by staff, then offered to clients.
 - Donations accepted Monday-Friday 8am-5pm.
 - Clients can make an appointment Monday-Friday 9:30am-3pm.
- Good Neighbors Healthcare
 - Provides free medical and dental care to adults who are uninsured or under-insured.
 - Program Coordinator of Good Neighbors Healthcare, Joycelyn "Joy" Moss helps to organize donations and recruit volunteers in the medical and dental community to help serve clients. On Wednesday and Thursdays
 - For more information regarding Primary Medical Care you can call (716) 856-2400 ext. 220. For Dental Care and counseling call (716) 856-2400 ext. 223
- New Hope Education Center
 - An adult education center that works with local organizations and schools to provide free and low-cost support services, certificate-based training programs and more.
 - Classes offered included GED, ESL, Construction Skills, Plumbing, Hands on Home improvement and beyond.

HOUSING

- The Eviction Prevention Assistance program is for clients at risk of homelessness.
- The Rapid-Rehousing program for clients who are homeless and referred through coordinated entry.
- The Medical Rehousing program for clients who are homeless and referred through ECMC, Evergreen etc.



A PICTURE OF CELINA, DARWIN, AND JOY FROM HARVEST HOUSE

WILL MARCY: “OUTREACH IS TRUST BUILDING”

WILL
AND
SEHAM



For 12 years, Will Marcy has spent many of his evenings conducting outreach and search in the City of Buffalo and Niagara Falls. Will and Outreach worker from Best Self, Seham Taj, drive around the city of Buffalo to offer local unsheltered individuals bottled water, snacks, blankets, and clothing. Recently, they were joined by another enthusiastic local, Kevin McCarthy. Will is happy to welcome others into his large white van to shadow and/or support the cause he cares so deeply about.

Will's approach is to keep it simple and be approachable. He does not pry or push, he keeps his interactions conversational and cordial. Local outreach worker, Seham Taj, will offer new or unrecognizable clients a business card to engage with an individual, and offer support without putting pressure on them. Many of the individuals that Will and Seham visit look forward to sharing stories and updates with them.

Will speaks of the “importance of building trust with clients on the street and passing that trust on to the agencies.” To put it plainly, he says, “outreach is trust building.” Will can sight numerous stories of individuals who did not want to engage, but after a while of seeing him (sometimes years), they become interested in learning about resources and/or housing.

When asked why he does this work, Will says “the people (unsheltered individuals) need to know that someone has their back.” He adds, “it gives people hope.” Beyond daily need and personal care items, Will suggest that those interested in donating to unsheltered individuals or causes, think about items that “give people joy, like playing cards, puzzles or even cologne.”

WILL MARCY'S TIPS ABOUT DOING OUTREACH:

- Be someone that people can trust. You have to be able to be trusted by the people, the city, the agencies, the police.
- Be regular in your outreach schedule so that people can find you and get used to you.
- Offer something: Water, socks, food, toiletries, blankets. This goes to trust, that you can meet a tangible, physical need.
- A good spot is a good spot. Find the spots and continue to check them. Over time different people will use them and you can find who you're looking for.
- Tell them exactly why you are there, “We're doing a statistical count so that more resources will come into the community.” “We travel to make sure that everyone is Ok.” “Would you like to work on housing?”
- Don't be afraid to say no. You're not going to wreck the relationship by setting limits.

“I VALUE LIVED EXPERIENCE LIKE EXPERTISE”

Talia Rodriguez

Talia Rodriguez spent much of her career engaging in hands-on community work. She sits on various local boards and has been an active participant in bringing needed resources to the west side of Buffalo and beyond. While at Buffalo State College, Talia created a leadership program. She ran the course for four years and had over 100 graduates, many of whom were individuals with a variety of lived experience that wanted to learn more about being a leader in the community. The program helped to empower individuals and honor their voices. As an active community member Talia has a ton of experience working alongside individuals that have experienced homelessness. Talia believes individuals with lived experience can provide important insight.. She states, “I value lived experience like expertise.”

TALIA'S TIPS FOR ENGAGING INDIVIDUALS WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE

- Cast a wide net: Talia suggests reaching out to individuals with different experiences who may be currently homeless or have past experience with homelessness. She adds that while it may be important to reach out to specific groups, everyone's lived experience is valuable.
- Emphasize Choice: Giving individuals the opportunity to share what they choose to share and giving them different topics to choose from discussing.
- Pay people for their time, and be flexible on attendance and location.
- Where to go? Go to places where resources are being offered. For example, a food pantry, summer lunch program, etc.
- Read back what you are writing to clients, to ensure you are recording accurately and honoring their voice.
- Phrase questions in a less personal way.



MEMBERS OF COC AT
CONFERENCE (L TO R):
Mark Mancuso, Compass House;
John Banas, Erie County
Department of Mental Health; Lisa
Kolek, Heart Love and Soul; Ashley
Matrassi, HAWNY; Dan Gordon,
HAWNY; Tracy Schmidt, HAWNY;
Kexin Ma, HAWNY; Marthe Limage,
Heart Love and Soul.

2024 NATIONAL ALLIANCE TO END HOMELESSNESS CONFERENCE

The 2024 National Alliance to End Homelessness Conference is a bi-annual event where HUD, service providers, CoC leads, advocates, and individuals with lived experience come together to share best practices, learn from one another, and hear directly from HUD about the future direction of our efforts. Here are some of the inspiring highlights from this year's conference:

ADVOCACY AND COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENTS

We are thrilled to announce that, thanks to our collective advocacy and HUD's support, Congress has allocated a cost of living increase for CoC-funded projects this year. This significant achievement ensures that program staff are better compensated for their invaluable work. While this is not yet a permanent legislative change, it sets a positive precedent, and we will continue our advocacy to maintain and build upon this success.

COC FEDERAL COMPETITION CHANGES

Exciting news for FY2025: the annual CoC Federal Competition will transition to an every other (biennial) schedule! This change will allow communities to focus more on achieving system goals without the intense annual preparation. For FY2024, the competition will remain unchanged, providing a smooth transition period. This adjustment will also free up valuable time for Homeless Alliance staff to strengthen connections with our partners, enhancing our collaborative efforts. Stay tuned for more details!

LESSONS FROM THE PANDEMIC

Our federal partners have gleaned invaluable lessons from the Covid-19 pandemic. One of the most impactful insights is the effectiveness of cash in preventing homelessness. Providing financial assistance directly to those in need through public benefits, child credits, and other forms has proven to be a successful strategy. This approach underscores the power of targeted financial support in fostering stability.

STRATEGIC USE OF RESOURCES

Strategic resource allocation is essential to our mission. We recognize that both underfunding significant problems and overspending on minor issues can be counterproductive. CoC/ESG funds alone cannot solve homelessness, but by leveraging and collaborating with other sectors, we can address poverty comprehensively. We eagerly anticipate the release of a new national strategic plan, which will offer further guidance on ways we can maximize our impact.

LEADING WITH LOVE

At the heart of our efforts is a commitment to leading with love. This guiding principle ensures that every action we take is infused with compassion, respect, and a genuine desire to uplift those we serve and our community. We must work alongside our participants, ensuring they are partners in our journey to end homelessness. Together, we are and can continue to build a brighter, more inclusive future for all!

HIGHLIGHTING OUR LIVED EXPERIENCE BOARD AND COMMITTEE

The Homeless Alliance is proud to spotlight our Lived Experience board and committee. These initiatives, including the Youth Action Board (YAB) and the Program Advisory Committee (PAC), offer paid opportunities for individuals with lived experience to drive positive change in our community.

The Youth Action Board (YAB) is comprised of young people ages 17 to 24 who have experienced homelessness, while the Program Advisory Committee (PAC) consists of adults over the age of 25 with similar experiences. Both groups play a crucial role in shaping inclusive solutions by ensuring that the voices of those with lived experience are heard and valued.

For more information on how to apply, please contact our Community Engagement Coordinator, Daniella Gallego, at gallego@wnyhomeless.org.

Spotlight Resources



The Goodness Project: “Any 501c3 Can Register”

WHO IS THE GOODNESS PROJECT

- The Goodness Project is an organization that partners with companies like Walmart, CVS, Rite Aide, Lowe's and many other companies to provide low-cost items to families in crisis. The organization works with local charities, non-profits, city officials, and volunteers to distribute goods to children and families in need.

WHAT DO THEY OFFER

- Offers low cost, food, personal hygiene, electronics, makeup, furniture, and beyond.
- Offers two “Build a box” deals. Customers can fill a box up with all kinds of food for \$30. They can also fill a box up with personal care items for \$40.

WHERE ARE THEY LOCATED

- 1500 Clinton Street, Buffalo NY, 14206.
- Tuesday-Saturday from 9am-2pm.

WHO CAN REGISTER

- The Executive Director of The Goodness Project of Buffalo is Ken Colon. Ken says, “any 501C3 organization can register with the Goodness project.” He adds, “registering only takes about 5 minutes.”

HOW TO REGISTER

- Visit the kiosk in the front of the building
- Confirm your status at a 501C3 (Non-profit)
- Provide the Organizations EIN Tax number
- They will do the rest.



Resources

211 WNY: Call 2-1-1 or 888-696-9211 for Essential Community Resources

Domestic Violence Hotline: Call 800-799-7233

VA Benefits/Services Hotline 1-800-827-1000

Link to Pocket Guide for all regions
https://wnyhomeless.org/app/upload/s/GOW-Pocket-Guide_Dec22.pdf

Pocket Guide to Genesee, Orleans, and Wyoming County Services

If you are experiencing a housing emergency:

- (G) Genesee County Department of Social Services
5130 East Main Street Road, Batavia, NY 14020
(585) 344-2580 x6792
- (O) Orleans County Department of Social Services
14016 Route 31 West, Albion, NY 14411
(585) 589-7000
- (W) Wyoming County Department of Social Services
466 N Main St, Warsaw, NY 14569
(585) 786-8900 x6252

Community Outreach:

- (GO) Community Action of Orleans and Genesee
Genesee Office: 5073 Clinton Street Road Batavia, NY 14020 (585) 343-7798
Orleans Office: 409 East State Street Albion, NY 14411 (585) 589-5605
- (GO) Genesee Orleans Ministry of Concern
121 N Main St, Albion, NY 14411
(585) 589-9210
- (W) Wyoming County Community Action
6470 State Route 20A # 1, Perry, NY 14530
(585) 237-2600

If you don't see what you're looking for, refer to the WNY service referral database by dialing 2-1-1 or visiting 211wny.org.

Homeless Alliance of Western New York
960 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14202

www.wnyhomeless.org

GLYS WNY

GLYS Western New York is an organization that provides a safe and positive space for LGBTQ+ Youth

GLYS has been an active force in the community with events like their annual youth leadership conferences, GLYS prom, and pride month celebrations.

Access GLYS Resources here

[GLYS WNY](#)

GLYS Assists LGBTQ+ Youth By Providing:



Feedmore WNY

FeedMore WNY is a non profit independent organization that runs multiple programs that helps get food to individuals that need it more. Below is a “Pantry locator” where you can find food near you

[Feedmore Link](#)



Updates

Upcoming CoC Trainings

- CE Training @ Buffalo and Erie County Library August 8th 10-11:30am
- Niagara County CE Training @ Heart Love and Soul Friday September 13th 10-11:30am

Youth Updates

Youth Task Force

- Next Meeting will be:
 - August 14
 - 1-2:30 PM
 - Collections Gallery Conference Room
 - Central Buffalo and Erie County Library
- Email: Daniella Gallego, gallego@wnyhomeless.org

Karen Carmen

On Tuesday June 4th at a City of Tonawanda Council Meeting, Karen Carmen was recognized for her incredible work as part of the Twin Cities Task Force for the Homeless.

The taskforce was created following the tragic loss of an individual to homelessness in Tonawanda. Karen stepped up to chair the program in 2022. With her unwavering support and leadership the taskforce has grown to 40 volunteers. The volunteers have combined for 350 hours of street outreach and have placed 23 people that were living unhoused into permanent housing.



NIAGARA UPDATE



NIAGARA CONNECT SERVICE ANNOUNCES NEW ROUTES

Connect Niagara service is available Monday through Friday, except for legal holidays. The system is comprised of four buses that cover five routes:

- Blue Route – Niagara Falls/Lockport
- Gold Route – Lockport/Middleport/Gasport
- Green Route – Lockport/Newfane/Barker
- Purple Route – Lewiston/Porter/Wilson/Cambria
- Red Route – North Tonawanda/Wheatfield/Niagara/Niagara Falls/Lewiston

[CLICK HERE](#)



NIAGARA PATH End Overdose Community Event

- Saturday, August 31, 2024
- 4 PM
- Flyer Below

THANKS FOR READING

CONTACT

Homeless Alliance of WNY
960 Main St.,
Buffalo, NY 14202
716-853-1101
wnyhomeless.org



SUBMIT FEEDBACK
HERE



FACEBOOK X (TWITTER) LINKEDIN





Free Food Giveaway

July 10th, 10am-12pm

CAO Pratt - Willert Community Center
422 Pratt St. Buffalo, NY 14204

July 17th, 12pm-2pm

CAO Alphonso "RAFI" Greene Jr. Masten
Resource Center
1423 Fillmore Ave. Buffalo, NY 14211

July 24th, 12pm-2pm

CAO Food Pantry
(Inside the Resource Council of WNY)
347 E Ferry St. Buffalo, NY 14208

July 31st, 12pm-2pm

CAO Edward Saunders Unity Center
2777 Bailey Ave. Buffalo, NY 14215



CAO of WNY in
collaboration with the
Buffalo Farm Shares
program is distributing
free food bags!

First come, first serve!
While supplies last!

716.881.5150 | caowny.org | [@caowny](https://www.instagram.com/caowny)



International Overdose Awareness Day (IOAD) – held on August 31 every year – is the world's largest annual campaign to end overdose, remember without stigma those who have died and acknowledge the grief of family and friends left behind.



1570 Buffalo Avenue
Niagara Falls, NY 14303

Contact Josh at
716-344-2809 for
more information or
if you would like to
be involved!



**NIAGARA PATH
End Overdose
Community Event**

**Saturday, August
31st, 2024**

4:00p.m

**Join us for a day of
remembrance as
well as food,
music, educational
resources & more!**



TRUTH

Therapist Roundtable for Understanding Transgender Health

A meeting for mental health providers of transgender, nonbinary and gender nonconforming youth to connect and share resources.

in collaboration with:

- BestSelf Behavioral Health of WNY
- Horizon Health Services
- CPH Mental Health Counseling



Wednesday July 24th, 2-4pm
741 Main St Buffalo
RSVP and info: admin@glyswny.org



CPH
MENTAL
HEALTH
COUNSELING



Horizon
HEALTH SERVICES

best|self
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH



741 Main Street
Buffalo, NY 14203
716-855-0221



More Information 
www.glyswny.org