



20th Anniversary Luncheon



Looking back, celebrating, and looking ahead to the next 20 years!

December 5, 2025 | Samuel's Grande Manor | Williamsville, NY

The background of the page is a dark green color with a thick, horizontal band of gold glitter running across the middle. The glitter has a textured, sparkling appearance.

2025 Luncheon Program

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The background of the entire page is a deep green color, heavily textured with a dense layer of fine gold glitter. The glitter is most concentrated at the top and bottom edges, creating a shimmering border effect. In the center, the text is written in elegant, flowing cursive fonts.

2025 Luncheon Program

Event Schedule

11:30 AM

Doors Open

12:15 PM

Welcome

12:20 PM

Reflections on 20 Years &

Executive Director Remarks

12:30 PM

Lunch

1:15 PM

Award Ceremony

2:30 PM

Raffle Pull

3:00 PM

Doors Close

*A special thank you to all of
our event sponsors*





A Message From Our Executive Director: 20 Years of Partnership and Persistence

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Homeless Alliance of Western New York's incorporation, though our story began much earlier—as the Erie County Commission on Homelessness in 1992. For more than three decades, people across Western New York have come together with one shared belief: that homelessness can be ended when we act as a community.

A line from *The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah has stayed with me:

“In love we find out who we want to be; in war we find out who we are.”

This year has reminded me who we are as a community. Even as we navigate shifting federal priorities, rising housing costs, and now a new NOFO that brings fresh challenges, our partners continue to show up with compassion, determination, and heart. Together, we secured \$23.7 million in federal housing resources last year—resources that changed thousands of lives. As we enter this new NOFO cycle, we will fight just as hard to protect these resources for our community.

To everyone who has walked beside us through these many years: thank you. Your trust, dedication, and belief in this work make everything possible. As we honor our past, we also carry forward the promise of what we can build together.

Kexin Ma

Executive Director, Homeless Alliance of Western New York



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Congratulations to

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**on your Pillars of Homeless
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“*Home*

makes all things possible: personal growth, contentment, stability, and all these things lead to a positive societal change.

No one deserves to be homeless; every individual needs and deserves to know what a safe and secure home is and how feeling ‘at home’ creates a positive outlook and a feeling of wellness or completion.”

— Alyssa Hebel
Managing Director of Housing
Spectrum Health and Human Services



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Pillars of Homeless Service Awardees

Grant Babcock

Community Missions of Niagara Frontier, Inc

Maria Dockery

The Salvation Army

Norman Felschow

Community Missions of Niagara Frontier, Inc

John Ferby

Compass House

Melissa Figini

Transitional Services, Inc.

Lisa Freeman

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Nyla Gaylord

United Way

Alyssa Hebeler

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Jan Mansfield

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James McClain

Buffalo City Mission

Karen Rybicki

Erie County Department of Social Services

Annette Slaughter

Cornerstone Manor Buffalo City Mission

Adrian Smith

Buffalo City Mission

Amy Smith

Compass House

Chris Syracuse

Living Opportunities of DePaul

Dan Szewc

Erie County Department of Social Services

Reno Tabone

Living Opportunities of DePaul

Joy Tedeschi

Belmont Housing Resources for WNY

David Zapfel

Gerard Place

The Mustard Seed



The mustard seed is one of the smallest seeds on Earth; it is barely visible when held in your hand. Yet when nurtured, it grows into something far greater than its size would ever suggest.

Over the past year, our community has been tested.

We have faced proposed changes that could reshape housing as we know it. We have navigated uncertainty, defended the foundation we have built, and stood together to protect the thousands who rely on us for housing, food, shelter, warmth, and hope.

Through it all, our roots have held firm.

What began as a small idea, a belief that we could end homelessness through coordination, data, and compassion, has grown into a network of more than 300 partners working every day to lead people home.

Like the mustard seed, our strength has never been in our size.

It has been in our resilience, in our belief that even in uncertainty, growth is possible when we stand together, and in our shared conviction that small efforts, rooted in purpose and care, can grow into something extraordinary.

As we celebrate 20 years of the Homeless Alliance of WNY, we honor the truth that small acts of listening to a client, coordinating a referral, showing up for a meeting, and defending a program can grow into lasting change.

Thank you for planting seeds of hope, nurturing this work through challenge, and growing with us.

Together, we continue to build something that will not only last, but is deeply rooted, ever growing, and always leading people home.



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Belmont congratulates HAWNY on 20 years of service and advocacy!



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for your selfless efforts to end
homelessness in our community
these past two decades.

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on 20 Years of building a community
committed to ending homelessness!



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20 YEARS

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