



FAMILY PROMISE OF WNY

2025 Annual Report



Family Promise

OF WESTERN NEW YORK

OUR MISSION

We prevent and end homelessness for families with children.

We work alongside families facing homelessness to provide housing solutions and tailored support so that they can find their pathway home.

WE SERVE CHILDREN -



Kids are at the heart of what we do - 75% of the people we serve are ages 0-18.

WE KEEP FAMILIES TOGETHER -

Homelessness often forces families apart, but our programs quickly stabilize families so they can stay together.



WE HELP WHEN YOU NEED IT -



Our programs include Eviction Prevention, Shelter Diversion, Temporary Housing and Stabilization.

WE DO MORE THAN JUST HOUSING -

We rebuild credit, help families get jobs, connect them to medical and mental health providers and enroll kids in school.



Note from the Director

2025 was a huge growth year for Family Promise of Western New York!

We set the following goals for the organization at the close of 2024:

- **First, to achieve better outcomes and increase our success rate.** In 2024, we struggled to move families out of our emergency shelter program into permanent housing, and we needed to identify ways to do better.
- Second, with our expansion plans on the East Side hitting roadblocks, we wanted to pivot and **identify ways to immediately address the sharp rise in family homelessness even without a second location.**

And look at how we did!

80 → **70**

Families that we housed between
2000-2024

Families that we housed just in
2025

164 → **302**

People served across our
programs in 2024

People served across our
programs in 2025

60% → **95%**

Success rate housing families
in 2024

Success rate housing families
in 2025

We achieved these incredible outcomes in several ways. . .

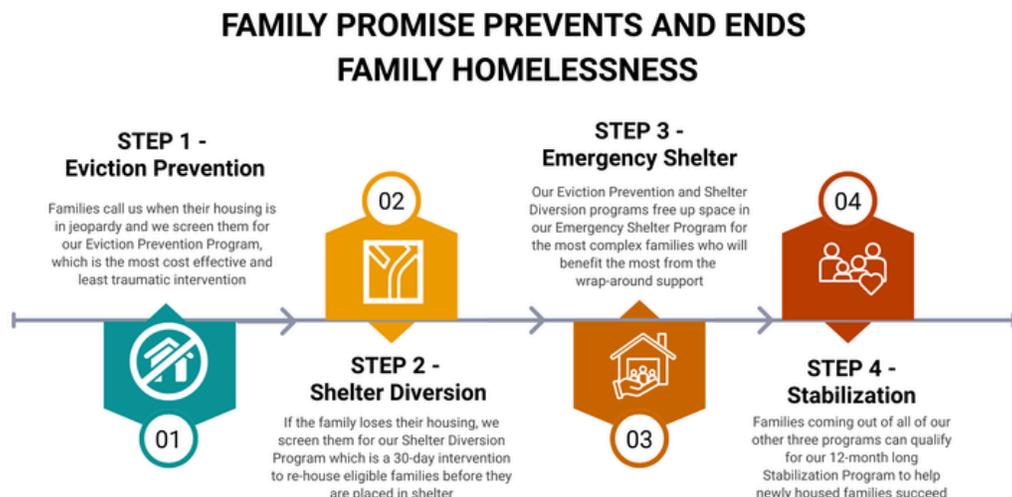
First, with the help of seed funding, we expanded our programs in 2025 by adding **Eviction Prevention** and **Shelter Diversion and Stabilization** to our existing Emergency Shelter program.

- **Our Eviction Prevention Program works with families who are at risk of eviction but are still housed.** We provide critical, short-term support to prevent the crisis of homelessness. This intervention is by far the most cost-effective and reduces the trauma that housing instability can cause.
- **Our Shelter Diversion program works with families who are on the doorstep of the homeless system** but have enough income or a housing voucher to secure their next apartment. This is an intensive, short-term intervention of only 30 days designed to help families quickly return to permanent housing before they are placed in an emergency shelter.

With these additional programs, we are able to help more families sooner during a housing instability crisis, preventing or minimizing the impact of homelessness. It also means that the most complex families are entering our Emergency Shelter Program, where they can benefit from the wraparound support we offer.

- Finally, our Next Level Stabilization program is open to any family who has been housed through our other programs. **Next Level is a 12-month intervention that helps families set long-term goals around employment, education, credit, and financial literacy,** guiding them toward self-sufficiency.

The graphic below illustrates the dynamic nature of our new programs and how they build on one another, allowing us to support families at any stage of a housing crisis:



Second, our growing team was able to start specializing in order to get really good at what they did, meaning:

- Our **Housing Coordinator** was consistently out in the community meeting with landlords to identify available housing and get families into homes faster.
- Our **Stability Coordinator** completed extensive training to launch our partnership with the Western New York Integrated Care Collaborative to fund eviction prevention.
- With support from the Tower Foundation, we added a **Mental Wellness Counselor** to our team to provide in-house counseling.
- Our **new Chef** took things to the level level with the launch of cooking-specific programming for our residents, including **“Little Foodies”** - focused cooking classes with the children living in our shelter program that are in high demand!
- We added a new van to our fleet thanks to the support of James and Linda Beardi, Scott Bieler, our friends at West Herr Cares, and the generosity of our donors!



A final goal emerging from 2024 was to become more strategic about how to expand our footprint in the city and open a second facility. To that end, in early 2025 we partnered with Hallmark Planning and Development, a minority urban planning consulting firm specializing in Community Planning, Public Engagement, Placemaking and Commercial Real Estate, to help us secure a second location. Through a Phase 1 project with Hallmark, we created a Stakeholder Advisory Committee of community leaders - pastors, educators, nonprofit leaders and commercial leaders - who have been working behind the scenes over this past year to identify potential locations for our project. We look forward to sharing more progress updates in the near future!

As we close out this year, I am deeply grateful to my team and to all of our supporters who show up every day for at-risk families in our community. Thank you for your hard work, your support, and your faith in our mission. Together, we are making Buffalo stronger!

Sincerely,
Luanne Firestone, *Executive Director*

2025 at a Glance

70

Families housed

212

Children Sheltered

302

People Served

3

Number of programs we added this year, including Eviction Prevention, Shelter Diversion and Stabilization

14215

14206

Top two zip codes where the families move into out of our programs

95%

Families who were successfully housed out of our programs

2025 Children's Engagement

19

Bikes were given away to families

36

Pairs of sneakers purchased for kids

45

Families who received Christmas gifts through our Giving Tree Program

112

Weekend activities offered for families, including BINGO, movie night and volunteer activities

140

Hours of summer camp provided

"My best memory about summer camp was going to the beach. I got to be myself and had fun with my friends one last time" -Youth, age 11



Meet our Leadership Team



Luanne Firestone,
Executive Director



Roberta Pickens,
Shelter Supervisor



Mareliz Moreles Caraballo
Morning Shelter Assistant



Susan Andersen-Strait,
Family Case Coordinator



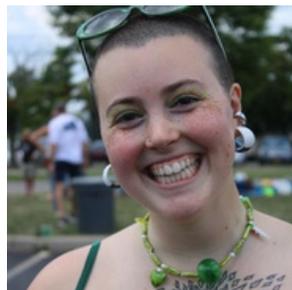
Roni Courton,
Housing Coordinator



Akela Allums,
Shelter Manager



Christy Williams,
Dining Services Coordinator



Jenn Kegler
Youth Programming and
Outreach Manager



Lakisha Prim,
Weekend Shelter Manager



Alicia Jackson,
Stability Coordinator



Christine Whitecar,
Development Director

Board of Directors

Directors Officers:

- President - CJ Van Note, CPA
- Vice President: Melissa Keith
- Treasurer: Kaylei Russell, CPA
- Secretary: Clara Moran

Board Members:

- Dawn Askew, MBA
- Matthew Becton
- Jim Connolly
- Marissa Desidario, LCSW
- Hayley Held, CPA
- J. Christian Hoffman
- Margot Knab, JD
- Shannon Fagan
- Richard Ledyard
- Michael Murak
- Kelly Ann Toy

Advisory Board

- Ilia Beecher
- Steve Blass
- Hannah Borden, CPA
- Kelli Cavo
- Frank Cammarata
- Eric Ensminger
- Justin Eveland
- Rob Hackford
- Paula Hunt
- Christina McCleskey
- William Andrews
- Sam Zaino

2025 In-Kind Donations

\$ 2,712	Baby Items
\$ 2,015	Birthdays
\$ 2,690	Bedding
\$ 1,425	Shelter Supplies
\$ 2,845	Gift Cards
\$ 12,800	Apartment Essentials
\$ 7,187	Children's Programming
\$ 2,370	Clothing
\$ 9,865	Groceries
\$74,395	Holiday Gifts

\$118,304

**TOTAL
IN-KIND
SUPPORT**

*(that's 7.5% of our
operating budget!)*



Snapshot of a Family

Single Mother.

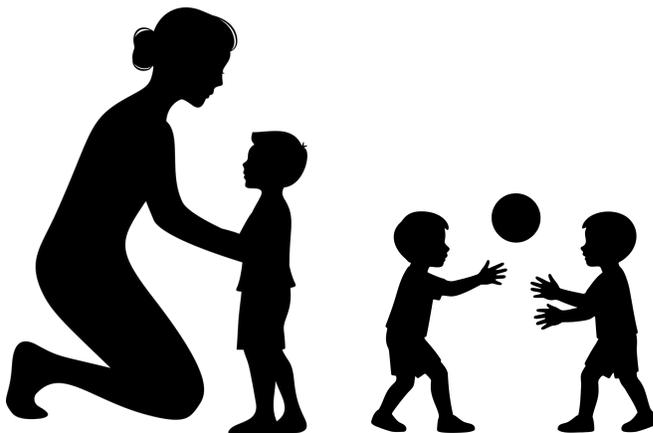
Over 75% of the families we serve are led by single mothers

Most children are under 10 years old

Over 70% of the children in our programs are 10 years old or younger and 36% are five years old or younger.

Black

Over 80% of the families we serve are people of color and 74% identify as Black



Facing homelessness for the first time

Over 50% of the families we serve are facing homelessness for the first time

Family of 4

The average size family we serve is a family of 4

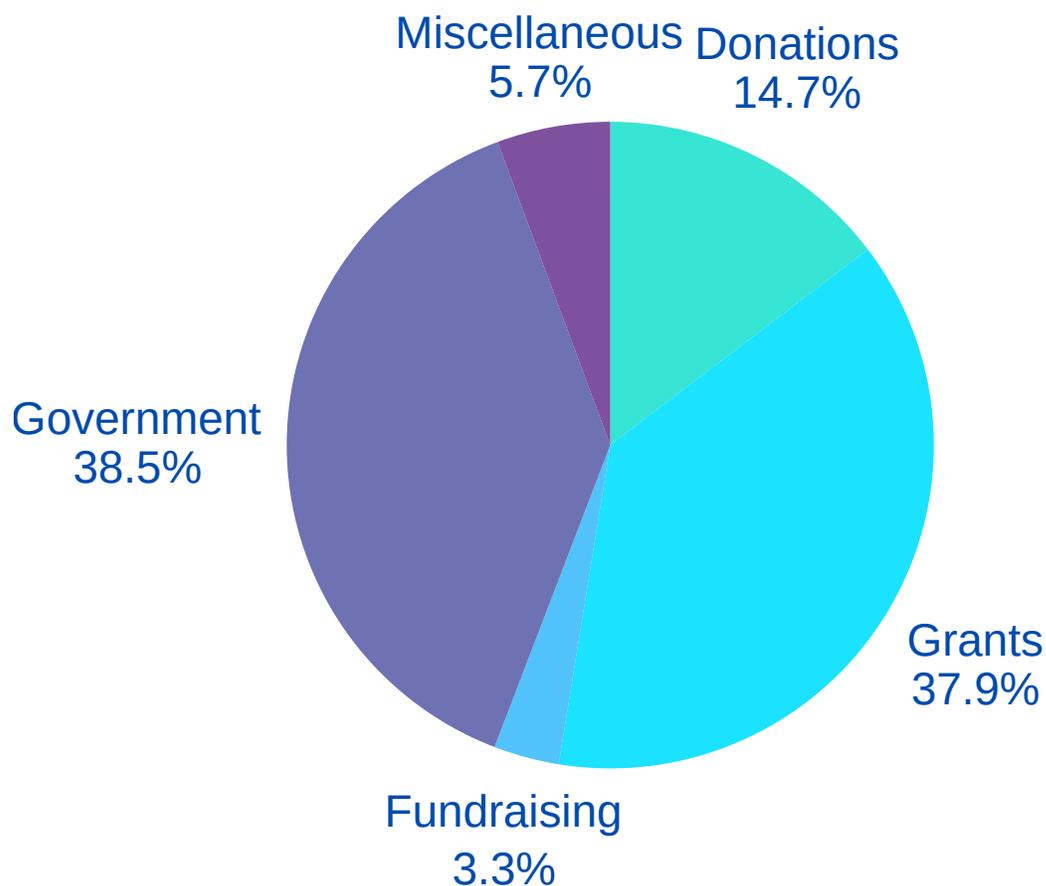
Successfully housed

95% of the families in our programs successfully find housing



Family Promise
of Western New York

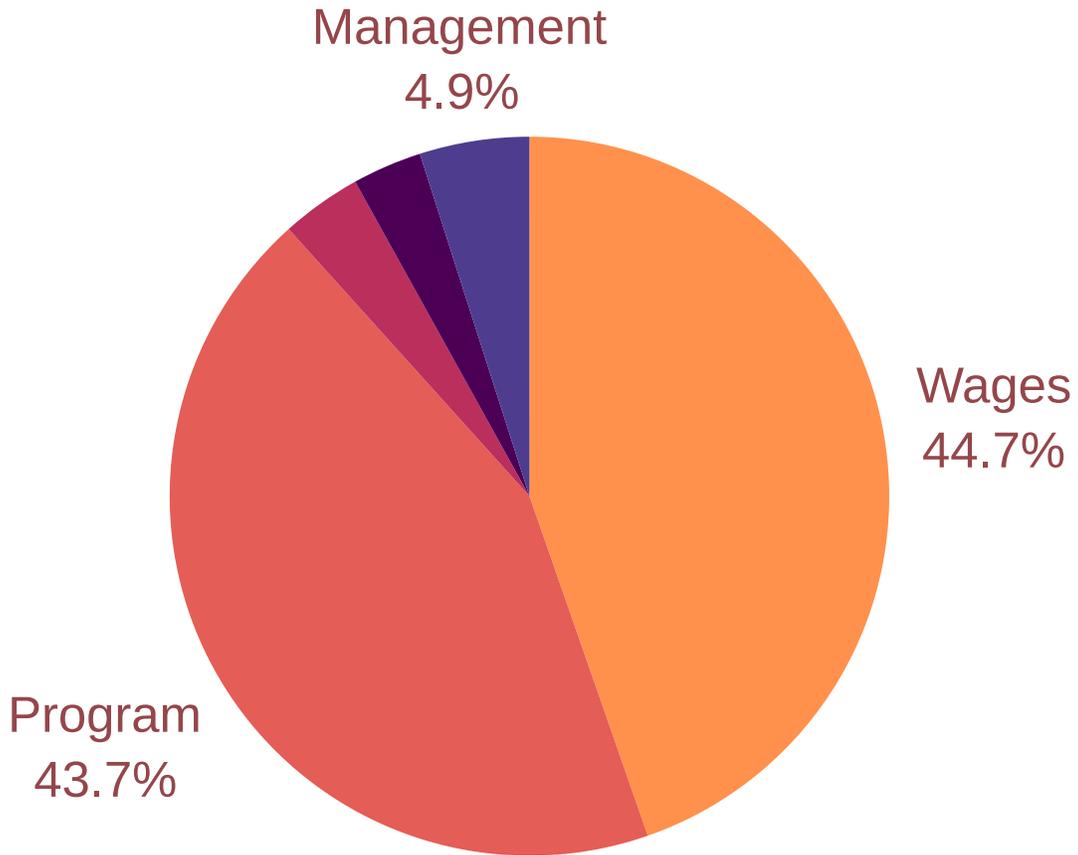
2025 Income



Grants -	\$602,000
Government -	\$612,000
Donations - <i>(individual, corporate, club, congregation)</i>	\$233,000
Miscellaneous -	\$90,000
Fundraising -	\$52,000

TOTAL INCOME: \$1,589,000

2025 Expenses



Fundraising -	\$40,500
Management -	\$64,000
Occupancy -	\$47,000
Program -	\$567,000
Wages -	\$580,000

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$1,298,500

Guest Testimonials



"We appreciate Family Promise so much.

We had been through a lot the past 7 months and the day we arrived everyone was so kind and helpful.

It was nice getting out of the motel and being in an environment that is family centered.

They made sure we had everything we needed from clothes and food to help with rent when we signed our lease.

Family Promise is a blessing to our family.

**We finally have a place of our own
and without Family Promise
I don't know what my family would have done.**

We love you guys and appreciate everything you have done for us!"



**”We came to Family Promise
after leaving a terrible relationship and
experiencing homelessness for a year and a half.**

**Within one month,
the amazing staff got me back on track
and will continue to help me along.**

The security, warmth and safety were such a blessing
in our time of need!”



“During our stay here, Family Promise meant a lot to us.

The kids and I learned various things that we will always remember and use in our daily lives. **Being here was such an exciting and new learning experience that we never knew we needed.”**



“Being homeless for 6 months before coming here, our family felt unsafe and feared what the next day would bring.

Coming here gave us all relief.

We are so appreciative for every single staff member that helped our family.”

2025 Donors

Gift of \$100,000+

Keybank Foundation

Gift of \$50,000-\$99,999

Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo

The Peter & Elizabeth Tower Foundation

Gift of \$20,000-\$49,999

Beardi, James & Linda

East Hill Foundation

E & W G Foundation

Garman Family Foundation

Monsignor Richard S. Amico Memorial

Charitable Trust

Gift of \$10,000-\$19,999

The Galasso Foundation

The Josephine and Michael Ervolina

Charitable Fund

Gift of \$5,000-\$9,999

Evans-Devereux Memorial

Firestone, Paula

Niland, Eileen and James

The Marks Family Foundation

HDE Electric Inc.

Aprio Foundation

Broadway Federal Credit Union

John Newman Mission Community Inc.

Vaughn, Lewis

The John R. Oishei Foundation

NBT Bank

Orchard Park Presbyterian Church

Buffalo Sabres Foundation

Children's Foundation of Erie County, Inc.

Josephine Goodyear Foundation

Leo, Jack & Luanne

Neumeister, Janette

North Presbyterian Church

The Kamis Family Ministries Fund

The M&T Charitable Foundation

Gift of \$1,000-\$4,999

Gar223 Fund for Lutheran Organizations

The Baird Foundation

Helf, Lisa

Evans Bank

St. Johns Lutheran Church

Van Note, CJ

Bradley, William

Buffalo Academy For Visual & Performing Arts

The Almar Family Foundation Inc.

Trubee, Collins & Co., Inc

Give 716

Eagan, Gayle

Orchard Park Friends Meeting

Storfer, Christopher

Five Star Bank

Extra Extra Pizza

Weiksnar, Melissa

Montalbo, Carolyn

Erbacher, Christine

Barton, Daniel

Callan, Timothy & Kathy

Evans Bank Foundation Fund at the Community

Foundation for Greater Buffalo

Moot, Anne

Rotary Club of West Seneca

Stage, Jordan & Paul

Martino, Tyler

Farrell, Mary

Alice L Say Family Foundation

First Presbyterian Church of East Aurora

Hamburg Sunrise Rotary Club
Majority Leader Leah M. Halton-Pope
Murak, Gerald
Tay Tahk, Charlotte
Clayton
Hoffman, Toni
Brunner, Kathy
CSX Foundation
Farrer, Sharon
Alcamo, Thomas
Baer, Richard
Koch, Richard
Firestone, Pauline
M&M Development Advisors
Aprio Advisory Group LLC
Cipriani, James & Martha
DeMarti, Cindy
Encore Funding
Estate of Mary Ann Pietrzak
Greatbatch, Michele
Hamburg United Methodist Church
Healthsource Marketing, LLC
Hines, Timothy
Hyde, Alison
Kegler, Gary & Marcia
Lappin, Kelly
Montgomery, Carolyn
Pillai Hemanth
Price, Donna
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
Queen City Mix
Ryan Purcell Memorial Fund
St. Vincent de Paul R.C.C.
Suttell, Daniel
The Christos Foundation Inc.
The Mary Ruth Foundation
Zeitz, Linda

Gift of \$500-\$999

Keith, Melissa
McAllister, Timothy and Noreen

Bakowski, Evelyn
St. James UCC
Fay, Thomas & Mary
State Employees Federated Appeal Niagara
Frontier
United Way
Charities Aid Foundation America
Hybrid Building Solutions
United Way of Greater Rochester & Finger
Lakes
Ledyard, Richard
Lumsden & McCormick, LLP
Wynne, Robert & Audra
All Saints Lutheran Church
Ss. Columba-Brigid Church
Blackman, Bruce
WNY Helping Bags
Thrivent Financial
Johnson, Maxine
Michael & Jenn Bishara
Warner, Robert
Gardens Buffalo Niagara
Becton, Matthew
O'Connor, Keith & Wendy
Defries, Ryan & Tammy
McKay, Bruce and Phoebe
Church of the Nativity
Hamilton, Joseph and Jill
Heimer, Axel
Kayla Williams
Stroud, Meagan
Frazer, BetsyVan Note, Crystal
Blackley, Carol
Buttino, Thomas J. & Amy G.
DiCamillo, William & Lorrei
Dickman, Kathy
Eberl Iron Works, Inc.
Eberl, John Egan, Mary and Edmund
Felician Sisters of North America, Inc.

Fox Fruit Farms LLC
Hanna, John FMTC IRA Custodian
Hogenboom, Timothy & Jennifer
House, Gerald
Johnson, Amy
Kelkenberg, Kathleen
Kenmore Lions Club
Knights of Columbus - Father Justin Council
Metzger, Sarah
Nobel, Sanford M.
Orchard Park Presbyterian Women
Powers, Justine
Public Employees Federation
Schaaf, Norman & Joann
Sieracki, Roger & Kathleen
St. David's Episcopal Church
Stewart, Ryan & Megan
The Woodforest Charitable Foundation
UpsAndDowns
Wach, Donald & Linda

Gifts of \$100-\$499

Walz, Mark
Hoffman, Christian
Schneggenburger, Julie
First United Church
Knights of Columbus
Lyle, Stephen
Morrow, Donna & Michael
Winer, Sharon
WNY Mothers of Multiples
Jarrett, John & Susan 3
Hines, Michael & Candace
National Fuel Gas Distribution Corporation
Beyer, Jim
Van Remman, June
Aldrich, Timothy & Donata
Ss. Peter & Paul Church
Wynne, Jane
Toy, Kelly Ann
Smith, Stephanie

Eiseman, James
John Svec & Kandy Krampitz
Anderson, Diana
Dingboom, Grace
Wixson, Stephen
Newton, Sarah
Cucinotta, Michael F. & Mary Beth Priore
Kristich, Rudy
Griffin, Brendan
Marong, Kara
Maras, Amber
Battistoni, Linda
Bossemeyer, Matt & Jillian
Grimaldi, Eileen
Joy, Shirley
Kelkenberg, Linda
Oczytko, Barbara
Schneegold, Andrew
Stylze by Stass
United Alloy's R & D Inc.
Moran, Clara
Niagara Frontier Conference
Rost, Tracey
Klaus, Mary
Every Little Handprint
Ash, Gregory
Carpenter, Doug & Amy
Montgomery, Paul
Shipman, Robin
Coleman, Jennifer
Odrobina, Barb
Smith, Gary & Judy
Berger, Sandy
Dann, Jeffrey and Maureen
Evans, Stanley & Anne
Hayes, Bob and Kathy
Kney, Jeffrey & Jane
Meador, W. John and Barbara
Mercy Flight Inc. Sunshine Club
Mount St. Mary Academy
Parker, Richard & Mary
Penfold, Richard C. & Karen E.
Pollak, Robert

Sanko, Lee
Susanne Kelley
The Power of One Church Ministries
COGIC
United Women in Faith
Walsh, Michael
Women of Trinity
Marschke, Stephanie
Mickel, Sharon
Scott, Leanne
Wilson, James & Meredith
Romance, Terrence
Timothy and Noreen McAllister
Gambacorta, Claire
Anastas, Tony & Catherine
Phil Frost
Smith, Dale
Spohn, Mary and Ronald
Paladino, Katherine
Schutte, Mary and Al
Bauda, Shari
Hoffman, Joseph & Patricia
Evans, Lee & Lindsay
Adams, Lisa
Bauda, Barbara
Buttino, Anthony
Cheektowaga Baptist Church
Dengler, William and Mary
Girl Scouts of WNY Inc.
House, Cheryl & Anthony
Kourkounis, Barbara
Lewis, John
Patterson, Yvonne
Roeder, Michael & Anastasia
Sager, Alan and Suzanne
Sheibley Philanthropic
Spahn, Joseph H.
Tunmore Oldsmobile
Van Remmen, Jeffrey & Teresa
Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph

Amherst Community Church
Moran, Nellie
Garbutt, Bethany
Eppolito, David
Connolly, James & Patricia
Evans, Bridget
Zaino, Samantha
Desiderio, Marissa
Charlotte Ave Elementary
Andersen-Strait, Susan
Angelbeck, Elizabeth
Bauman, Matthew & Ann
Beuler, Robert M. & Colleen M.
Crowley, Patricia
Godwin, Sean
Orchard Park United Methodist Church
Ortiz Weinmann, Amelida
Sherman, Joseph and Mary
Zahm, Jeffrey
Zelasko, Nicole
Blood, Jennifer
Johnson, Kristen
Bukowski, Edward and Anne
Tracy, Megan
Vanremmen, June Campbell
Wayne County Town Clerk
Beecher, Ilia
Waite, Beth
Baier, Michael & Clarine
Chmiel, Ryli
Bosinski, Linda and Paul
Anderson, Michael
Christian Pavlakis Charitable Fund
Delano, Glen & Cheryl
Fay, Peter
Orf, Scott
West, Sandra
Interlichia, Kate
Madoff, Ben

Dunning, Anne Marie
Murak, Michael
Szmczak, Janine
Capezzi, Rita
Cannon, Gloria
Pawarski, Bonnie
Rider, Janna
Spear, Stephen
Duggan, Andrea
Collins, Bill
Fasanello-Mold, David & Rebecca
Genco, Laura
Griffin, Kathleen
Lenski, Mark
Matteliano, Mary
Mecca, Daniel
Musialowski, Ellen
Odum, David & Heather
Suda, Amy
Webb, Janet
Fagan, Shannon
Barron, Kevin & Cathleen
Begier, Dawn
Benton, Mary Lynn
Bockrath, Diane
Brickman, Laurence & Celeste
Brown, Charles & Alice
Christine Hoyler
Colvin, Deborah and Joseph
Dannebrock, William & Audrey
Denman, Robert & Marguerite
Dersam, Kristy
Desiderio, David & Mary Ann
Deubell, Dustin & Amy
Diggins, Maureen
Durkin, Michael & Karan
East Aurora Rotary Club Foundation Inc.
Ehlinger-Saj, Jen
Foster, Katrina & Timothy
Graves Towers, Lynn

Holden, Hannah
Jankowski, Gerardine
Koelmel, Carolyn
Kostusiak, Jane
Lewis, Susan
Logue, M.C.
Luppino-Gholston, Kristen
Makey, Brian and Ellen
Mallak, Robert
Margaret Steele
Marrano, Carol
Martin, Mary
Maxwell, Paula
McKeone, Maureen & John
McMullan, T
Mitrovits, Joseph
Montagnes, Rosemary
Naylon, Maurice and Jeanne
Nichols School
Ohl, Joseph & Alice
Ortiz, Lynn
Pawarski, David
Reinagel, TH & TM
Robbins, Jane & Westphal, Peter
Signore, Julianne
Snyder, Kate & Ruth
Somerville, Jeffrey & Lynda
Sonner, Jacob
Sozanski, John M. & Marilyn
Starke, Shawna
Steinwachs, Jamie
Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo
Van Baak, David & Nancy
Ventura, Mike & Bev
W.O.W. of St Pauls
Will, Charlene
WNY Insurance Association Inc
Yakovac, Joseph

Gifts under \$100

Trinity Old Lutheran Church, Inc.

Swihart, Wendy

Ensminger, Eric

Nightengale, Patricia

Miranda Fritz

Ryerse, Jessica

Blass, Stephen

Thomas, Gary

Bauer, Dale

Hall, Rashika

Marks, Ted

Murak, Leigh

Testa, Maria

Cavers, Deborah

Cavo, Kelli

Charity, Jennie

Diamond, Margaret

Gauchat, Erin

Hackford, Robert

Hayes, Elaina

Howe, James

Hunt, John

James, Minnie

Jones, Amy

Kegler, Johanna

Kwiatkowski, Kathleen

Manhart, Edward

Marr, Candace

Wrinn, Thomas and Carolyn

Wrobel, Dorothy

Knab, Margot

Violanti, Richard

Arcara, Mark

Boyd, Robin

Brown, Laura

Casterline, Eileen

Filbert, Karen

Lester, Jeffrey

Arnold, Bonnie

Batterson, Ronda

Bonisch, Manfred

Brady, Karen

Galloway, Deborah

Kuhaneck, Mary

LaVigne, Colleen

Lester, Deborah

Marchese, Melody

Metzger, Jonathan

Peterson, Kathleen

Strauch, Daniel

Ma, Kexin

Sterman, James

Dance Spectrum

Snider, Larry & Amy

Sawicz, Karen

Weaver, Carol L.

Mesler, Annette

Dibble, Katherine

Doherty, Susan

Rosen, Elizabeth

Fuller, Suzanne

Messinger, Michelle

Stenroos, Judith

Daley, Katherine

Aungst, Babette

Doly, Lillian

Gordon, Tom

Huetter, Paige

Vacca, Louis

Valachos, Jacob

Ward, Rolanda

Bowman, Ray & Jeanne

Alberalla, Thomas & Mary Ann

Balzano, Gregory

Bartley, Jim

Bradley, Virginia

Brady, Jane

Burke, Patricia

Collins, Bonnie

Crawford, Lance M. & Sandra M.

DeMarco, Jacqueline
Dick, Homer & Margaret
Elma Meadows Womens Golf Club
Emminger, Clifford & Donna
Fichte, Lesa
Fumerelle, Anthony & Marlene
Gensler, Terry & Maureen
Gould, Karen
Grotty, Anita & Patrick
Guyker, James & Ruth
Hunt, Dennis & Paula
Irmer, Marsha
Juratovic, Lynne
Kaney, James & Ellen
Kielaszek, Roxanne & Daniel
Klawitter, David
Klick, Gina
Krueger, Robyn
Laura Huff
Lavis, Marie K.
Meli, Diane
Moncznski, Peter & Donna
Mowry, Shannon
Murphy, Nancy
Murphy, Rosemary
Nobel, Margery
Nobel, Nicole
Pfister, Susan M.
Poodry, Joseph & Doris
Rivera, Carmen
Sisterhood of Temple Beth Zion
Smith, Gerald
St. Peter's United Church of Christ
Strassburg, Denise and Bruce
Tunmore, Roger and Bonnie
Women of the Moose
Szewc, Daniel
Herzbrun, Marta
Kowalewski, Patricia

Kueker, Elena
Ramirez, Jacinta
Cammarata, Frank
Conway-Habes, Erin
Fleischauer, Amy
Foster, Richard
Heyes, Bob
Lester, Thomas
Owens, Jim & Diane
Pearl Nails & Bar
Ryan, Bridget
Van Note, Mary
McCleskey, Christina
Gainey, Jessica
Nagy, Mollie
Burrirt, William & Judith
Lennon, Mike & Marsha
Keddie, Eli & Alex
Doyno, Ellen
Molnar, Diane and Joseph
Janet Bratos
Kiblin, Kathleen
Arcangel, Cheryl
Babcock, Perry & Linda
Blatz, Sandra
Deonarine, Phedra
Grim, Erin
Miles, Shakira
Smallwood, Sandra
Leggett, Amelia
Andol Moeller, Jeanine
Askew, Dawn
Bingley, Johnnie
Biondo, Donald
Cheryl Vargo
Cole, Tayler
Cooley, Raymond & Jeanne
Dietrich, Mary Lou

Dolyk, Maria
Freier, Shelly
Kaiser, Gregory
Kelleher, Kathleen
Kildal, Heidi
Mullaney, Eileen
Olszewski, Mark
Rajiv & Ansu Singh
Scinta, Nan
Sobczak, Kenneth & Martha
Thomas, Cheryl
Tunmore, Jay
Wilkins, Nancy
Woolingham, Dianne & Kenneth
Work, Kenneth & Yvonne
Solanke, Gwendolyn
Borden, Hannah
Schmidt, David & Mary Linda
Vargo, Raymond
Wojcinski, Louann
Benson, Keely
Morales, Luz
Fabiano, Jude & Eileen
Boag, Sandra
Ransom, Venus
Villa, Sandra
Stockmeyer, Gerard & Linda
Lipson, Jesse
Blanco Laure, Karina