



Annual Report

2024

Haircuts for
Those in Need

Message from Founder & Executive Director

Dear Friends and Supporters,

When Haircuts For Those In Need began back in May 2018, the mission was simple: uplift our community—one free haircut at a time. Whether it was raining or shining, whether I was working alone or with a team of volunteers, and whether I covered the costs myself or relied on generous donations, none of that ever stopped us. We were committed to serving the people of Buffalo.

Reflecting on where we started and where we stand today, the growth is truly remarkable. We've expanded our partnerships, increased the number of events we host, and welcomed more volunteers into our community. We've also begun offering natural hair services like braiding, twists, and locs—providing even more care to those who need it most. Our progress wouldn't be possible without the dedication of our incredible volunteers and board members. Their time, talent, and unwavering commitment are at the heart of everything we do. To our generous donors and sponsors: THANK YOU. Your contributions—whether supplies or financial gifts—are helping us move closer to our goal of launching a mobile haircutting and shower trailer.

This mobile unit will be a game changer. It will allow us to bring our services directly to those who may not otherwise have access—offering not only a haircut, but a full hygienic experience. Imagine being able to take a warm shower, have your scalp washed, and leave with a fresh haircut or protective style. For many of our guests, who haven't had access to basic grooming for months, or even years, this care is deeply meaningful. This year, our board took the first steps toward funding this vision, and we've already seen incredible momentum, from comedy shows and plant sales to community fundraisers at local businesses. Every effort brings us closer to our dream.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you to every individual and organization who has walked with us on this journey. The impact we're making in the Buffalo Niagara region is powerful and personal. Hair care is more than a service; it's a lifeline. We see it every time a guest walks in feeling defeated and walks out with a smile, standing a little taller. Confidence is restored, and that transformation is priceless.

Thank you for helping us change lives—one haircut at a time.

With gratitude,

Charlene Thomas
Founder & Executive Director
Haircuts For Those In Need



Our Story So Far

OUR MISSION

Haircuts For Those In Need is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to providing free haircuts and protective styles to individuals in need throughout Buffalo and Niagara Falls, New York.

We believe that access to basic grooming services can significantly improve self-esteem, mental well-being as well as hair and scalp health.

“If you look good,
you feel good. If
you feel good, the
opportunities are
endless.

Our WHY

Hair services are a luxury that not everyone can afford. If a person is financially struggling or experiencing homelessness, the last thing they have money for is haircare. Proper haircare such as a clean scalp, untangled hair, and a proper haircut or protective style is imperative to a person's mental and physical health. Without proper haircare, people are susceptible to contagious hair and scalp conditions such as lice, ring worm, and various types of infection. HFTIN takes the utmost care to minimize cross contamination. They do this by using disposable supplies and disinfecting all tools that come in contact with a person.



Our 2024 Accomplishments

1

Increased the number of individuals served

In 2024, we saw an increase in need across the populations we serve. We provided almost 1,100 haircuts and braid styles, an increase of over 200 individuals from the previous year.

Housing and job insecurity, reentry after incarceration, homelessness, and families looking for a cost saving measure, has led to an increased need for our services.

Those that have used our services have left with: a boost their their mental wellbeing; knowing that they will not be judged by appearances; with hope that there is a little more money for groceries or bills; or the confidence to go to a job interview with their best foot forward.

2

Increased the number of HFTIN partners

One of the goals of HFTIN in 2024 was to touch all four areas, north, east, south and west, of the City of Buffalo at least twice a year.

By increasing our partners from just two, to now nine, we have been able to accomplish this. With these collaborations, we not only served all of Buffalo, but also areas in Niagara Falls.

Key partnerships include: 716 Community Days, Project Homeless Connect, Resource Council of WNY and Friends of Night.

3

Increased the number of volunteers by double

At HFTIN, we knew that we could not accomplish our previous 2 goals without the help of our volunteers, the heart of our organization.

By increasing marketing and utilizing the POINT volunteer platform we were able to extend our reach and double the number of volunteers, many of whom are repeat volunteers.

We are now able to secure 3 Barbers or Stylists and 1 assistant at each event.

We also can provide protective styles with our volunteer braiders and locticians

4

Fundraised for a mobile haircutting & shower unit

Part of the mission of HFTIN is to ensure people have access to basic grooming services, not only for their self esteem, but also for hair and scalp health. With a mobile unit, we can do that and so much more. This unit will allow people to shower and have washed hair. Many individuals do not have consistently access to showers. This can lead to painful hair matting and skin/scalp issues, which we have seen an increase in cases.

This past year we hosted our first annual Comedy Show Fundraiser. This fundraiser, along with several small ones and private donations, helped us raise over \$10,000 towards the mobile unit. It is a small step towards our goal, but a great start towards ensuring everyone that leaves a haircutting event looks and feels their best.

Income & Expenses

Income Type	Income	%
Individuals	\$2,640	18.7%
Fundraisers	\$10,247	72.5%
Business Sponsors	\$1,250	8.8%
Total Income	\$14,137	100%

Expense Type	Expense	%
Operating Cost	\$1402.00	55.6%
Supply Cost	\$680	27%
Fundraising Cost	\$440	17.4%
Total Expenses	\$2,522	100%

Net Assets	Asset	%
Cash	\$11,677.51	86.3%
Equipment & Supplies	\$1,850	13.7%
Total Assets	\$13,517.51	100%

2025 Goals

\$65,000

Amount needed
for mobile
haircutting unit

10

Number of
volunteers per
event

30

Events scheduled for
the year

1500

Amount of individuals
served





HAIRCUTS FOR THOSE IN NEED

DONATE TODAY



**YOU KNOW HOW GOOD YOUR LAST HAIRCUT
FELT. FOR THE PEOPLE WE SERVE, A
HAIRCUT CAN BE LIFE CHANGING!**

*With your help, we can obtain a mobile unit with sinks
and showers to serve even more people!*

Your entire donation goes directly to
Haircuts for those in Need a 501(c)(3) charity



Before



After

Acknowledgements

Thank you to our all of our sponsors,
partners and volunteers for your
support and dedication to your
mission!

Sponsors

MMB Realty Group
WNY Merchant Consulting
Airo Smith
Salon de Coquette
Studio Sophia Fitness Club
Mister Pizza Amherst
Daydream The DJ
Ilio DiPaolo's Restaurant

Partners

Friends of Night People
Best Self Recovery Community
Genesis Center & St. Simon's Church
Matt Urban Center
Buffalo City Mission
Trusted Gives - 716 Community Day
WNY Heroes - Buffalo Stand Down
Westminster Charter School - Back to School Event
Niagara Falls Community Missions
Village Engaged



Board of Directors

Charlene Thomas - Founder & Executive Director
David Collins - Board Chair
Shannon Ebert - Vice Chair
Shayla McCullough-Collins - Treasurer
Whitney Campell - Secretary
Heather Johnson - Officer
Sara Johnson - Officer

Haircuts for Those In Need, Inc.
P.O. Box 153
Tonawanda, NY 14151
(716) 201-0287
www.haircutsforthoseinneed.org
info@haircutsforthoseinneed.org