

THE MARIA LOVE FUND LOVE NOTES

FALL 2022 EDITION



Julie VanDyke Gicewicz
Board President

WELCOME TO THE 119TH YEAR!



Nancy B. Stevens
Executive Director

Dear Friends of the Maria Love Fund,

Welcome to the 119th year of the Maria Love Convalescent Fund! We are excited to be working with our current and past board members as we share a commitment to serve, sustain, and grow the Mission of Maria Love through our gifts of time, financial resources, fund-raising, and teamwork! Because of your generosity, the fund is uniquely poised to respond in a short period of time to put people back on track.

This summer, our Executive Committee met individually and as a group; and engaged Samantha Stead from Think First Serve (TFS) consulting to develop our strategic architecture for the coming years.

TFS has worked with organizations like Ronald McDonald House, Nichols School, Cleveland Clinic, and Fisher Price. Samantha graciously volunteered her time as we worked through the plan, including the rollout of our core values, refreshed mission, purpose, and vision at our first board meeting of the fiscal year. Branding being one of our initiatives, we invite you to visit our updated website at marialovefund.org to see our refreshed look and feel!

Be sure to mark your calendar for the *119th Annual Charity Ball* scheduled for Saturday, November 5, 2022 at Buffalo RiverWorks for both a Middle School and High School dance. Julie Plata, Jamie Kelly, and Jill Metz will be our co-chairs for this year's event! To purchase an Angel Ticket for either dance, visit marialovecharityball.com. To donate your ticket, simply select "donate angel ticket".

We are incredibly grateful for your commitment to the Maria Love Fund and believe that *together* we are truly making a difference in the lives of our Erie County neighbors in need.

With warm regards,

Julie and Nancy

119TH CHARITY BALL

The 119th Annual Charity Ball will be held at Buffalo RiverWorks on Saturday, November 5th from 5:30 – 7:30 PM for Middle School children in grades 5-8; and from 8:30 – 10:30 PM for High School students grades 9-12.

Tickets include admission to the dance, a donation to the Maria Love Fund, music and entertainment by DJ Yes and DJ Milk, an ice cream sundae bar, various stations including a photo booth, and other fun planned by *Charity Ball Co-Chairs Julie Plata, Jamie Kelly, and Jill Metz*. Open to the public, tickets may be purchased or donated to a student in need at marialovecharityball.com or by scanning the icon!



STRATEGIC ARCHITECTURE

Since 1903, our guiding principles have been shaped by hundreds of dedicated women throughout Western New York; all following the ideals of our founder, Maria Maltby Love. Our story and other details can be found on our new website at marialovefund.org. Whether you are considering membership on our board or simply care about the future of our community, we hope you will embrace these ideals as we all work together to raise funds for the people of Erie County with convalescent care needs.

...OUR VALUES...

COMMUNICATION

We value consistent, positive, and mission-related communication to our fellow board members, potential and existing donors who support us, and the agencies we serve.

COMMITMENT TO SERVICE

As leaders in the community we share a commitment to serve, sustain, and grow the Mission of Maria Love through our gifts of time, financial resources, fund-raising, and teamwork.

WISDOM

We value the many talents of our board members to serve, innovate, and collaborate with accountability as outlined in our shared bylaws, strategy, and vision.

BEAUTY

We see the inherent beauty in each other to trust, focus, and empathize with each other to reach our common goals.

"We are a bridge to independence providing immediate financial assistance to the people of Erie County with convalescent care needs"

The Mission

2022-2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Director

Nancy B. Stevens

Board of Directors

Julie VanDyke Gicewicz, Board President

Nandita Sharma, Vice President

Terry Anderson, Treasurer

Marcia Found Hawkes, Secretary

Patti Deni, Membership

Mary Bacon, Past President

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Jessica Baird

Amy Bard

Kate Bowen-Smith

Amy Carnevale

Candace Darby

Kristin DiCunzolo

Erin Doepp

Jennifer Dulac-Silverman

Elise Edwards

Amy Habib Rittling

Jane Hamilton

Kate Hibbard

Beth Holmwood

Molly Hugar

Melissa Jerge

Heather Jermak

Allana Kelly-Beaton

Jamie Kelly

Patti Lawley

Kirsten Maidment

Angela McLellan-Desai

Jill Metz

Amy Murray

Amy Nagy

Melissa Norman

Julie Plata

Amy Quinlivan

Jennifer Bernacki Smith

Julie Szumigala-Farkash

Karen Walcott

Sarah Williams, Past President

Darcy Zacher

"Heartfelt thanks to our Founders Sponsors, 1903 Luncheon Sponsors and those who support our mission throughout the year! "

-The Maria Love Fund
Board of Directors



Melissa Jerge Sarah Williams



SARAH AMBRUS, TERRY ANDERSON,
ALLANNA KELLY-BEATON, PATRICIA DENI,
BETH HOLMWOOD, ALICE JACOBS,
MICHELLE LEE, DEBORAH SORGE, RACHEL STENCLIK,
JULIE SZUMIGALA-FARKASH, ALEXANDRA WEHR

Founder's Corner is a new segment shared at our board meetings. This excerpt was read by long-time board member Jane Hamilton at our September 2022 meeting.

"The inception of the "Children's Charity Ball" opened the way to generating an income which, when combined with the annual subscriptions to the Creche Fund and partial proceeds from the Charity Ball, would provide in large measure for the support of the Fitch Creche. The first Children's Charity Ball in 1903 netted \$737.78. In 1916 it netted \$3,243.00.

In 1958 the board reported: The Ball is the sole contributor to an amazing and unusual community service. Services provided include two weeks convalescent care in a selected home in the city or country, milk, eggs, and cheese to those needing special diet, drugs, orthopedic shoes, braces, and wheelchairs. Hospital beds are made available to those financially unable to procure them. Provisions also are made for the kind of convalescent care which requires a change of scenery, such as a visit to friends or relatives. The Board tries to follow any plan a doctor recommends for his patient's convalescence."

Historical information from the book, *MARIA M. LOVE THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF A SOCIAL WORK PIONEER*, by Karen Berner Little.

