

LOVE NOTES



Fall 2017

A Note From the Executive Director and President

This remarkable autumn finds the Maria Love Fund board of fifty plus women hard at work preparing for our 114th Annual Charity Ball, to be held on December 8th at the Buffalo Niagara Convention Center. This annual fundraiser is critical to our efforts in assisting the countless individuals we serve in Erie County that have nowhere else to turn.

The fund is fortunate to have the continued support of our former board members, whether it is through monetary donations or sharing information that will improve and benefit the work we do to carry out Maria Love's mission. A former board member, Michele Goldfarb, recently shared that a Symposium, sponsored by the University at Buffalo's Gender Institute, would recognize and honor the accomplishments of three women innovators of Buffalo's late nineteenth century. Maria Love was featured with architect Louise Bethune and urban reformer Harriet Townsend. A social services pioneer, Maria Love opened the first day care center for poor working women in the United States in 1881 in Buffalo.

As we close in on another Annual Charity Ball, we reflect on Miss Love's devoted interest in the welfare of her community and her vision to helping those in need. As a volunteer driven board, we are committed to her ideals and are exceptionally proud to carry on her legacy. We are grateful for your generous support and believe that together we are truly making a difference.

Very truly yours,
Nancy Stevens & Pamela Catipovic



Maria M. Love Convalescent Fund Board, October 2017

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Karen Taneff

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SPECIAL GRANT PROFILE: HERITAGE CHRISTIAN SERVICES

BY PAMELA MARCUCCI, MARIA LOVE BOARD MEMBER & KIMBERLY HUBERT-BICKEL,
DIRECTOR OF RESIDENTIAL SERVICES, HERITAGE CHRISTIAN SERVICES

In addition to its monthly distributions to needy individuals, each year, the Maria Love Fund awards Special Grants of \$1,000 to \$10,000 to social service agencies in Erie County. Last year, of the fourteen agencies that submitted applications, ten received grants to support such things as healthcare hospitality for patients and their families (Kevin Guest House), baby and toddler sign language classes (Deaf Access Services), and the purchase of multisensory playground equipment for disabled children (The Heritage Center Maryvale Campus). Among the awards, the Fund provided \$2,000 to Heritage Christian Services to continue data service on the already purchased TouchStream tablets for five individuals. TouchStream tablets allow increased independence for some of the people who choose their services.



HERITAGE
CHRISTIAN SERVICES

Heritage Christian Services partners with thousands of people throughout Rochester and Buffalo to ensure everyone – including children and people with developmental disabilities – feels valued and respected. Most of the agency's more than 2,000 employees work directly with people who have disabilities so they can find the best place to live and work and build strong community connections. In the Buffalo area, HCS serves almost 500 people. Heritage Christian has much to celebrate about how it served people more broadly in the Rochester and Buffalo communities over the last few years. Each advancement is a building block to offering more choice and continuity of care for people who choose HCS for disability services.

TouchStream is a tablet-based monitoring system that helps people live more independently. The system provides assistance managing medications, chronic health conditions, doctor appointments, and other activities of daily living. It also helps to create a safer living environment by helping families and agency caregivers to detect problems early, before they become a crisis.



Martha (pictured above) is a Resident at HSC, using the TouchStream Tablet.

Martha, a woman who chooses services from HCS came to speak with the Maria Love board last spring about her experience with the TouchStream tablet. She reported that the tablet allowed her more independence and freedom from constant reminders from the support staff in her life, as well as helping her remember her medications, her daily activities, and most of all, her friends' birthdays.

Because of the second grant from the Maria Love Fund, five people will be able to continue to use the TouchStream system. When people are able to move through their days with more independence, they feel more valued and respected as they have been given the opportunity to lead the kind of lives that they want. Everyone wants some say-so in what happens to them.

Choice matters because it provides people with freedom to be themselves. Above all, Heritage Christian Services recognizes that organizations do not achieve personal change, people do. HCS' role is to be a guide, a well-educated, dedicated guide. But the true influence HCS aims to have can only come through personal achievement, one person at a time. TouchStream technology helps that independence and achievement happen.



**Your Angel Ticket Purchase
Makes A Difference.**

114th Annual Charity Ball

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2017

at the
**Buffalo Niagara Convention Center
153 Franklin Street
Buffalo, New York 14202**

TIME:

Middle School Dance

6:00 PM

(Doors Open at 5:30 pm)

High School Dance

9:00 PM

TICKETS:

**Pre-sale Angel Patron Level Tickets (\$125)
Available now at www.marialovefund.org**

**General Admission Tickets (\$60)
On sale November 4th at 9:00 AM**

All tickets are first-come, first-served and subject to sell out.

Being an ANGEL provides additional funding for the Maria Love Convalescent Fund to make a difference in this individuals life and countless others.

To mark this special event, we are asking loyal donors and generous friends of Maria M. Love to be an ANGEL Sponsor.

This annual holiday dance is the major source of funds from which the group fulfills its mission. The mission of the Maria Love Convalescent Fund mission is to provide reliable resources to those who have no place else to turn to for emergency financial assistance due to a medical issue.

Thank you for being an ANGEL to someone in need.



A Special Thank You to Past Board Members & Friends of Maria Love

**GOLD ANGEL
\$500 OR MORE
Francie Hace**

**SILVER ANGEL
\$250 TO \$499
Amy Habib**

Katherine Vanderhorst

**ANGEL
UP TO \$125
Catherine Beltz
Kathryn Bradley
Sharyn Buyers
Bev DeCarlo
Michele Goldfarb
Cameron Greene
Carolynn Moy
Mrs. John N. Walsh**

Maria M. Love Fund Special Grants 2018

What: Grants of \$1,000 to \$10,000

Eligible Applicants: Erie County Social Service Agencies

Applications Open: December 29, 2017

Submission Deadline: January 29, 2018

How: Application will be available on the
Maria LoveFund website:
www.marialovefund.org

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR 2016 CHARITY BALL ANGELS



PLATINUM ANGEL \$1000 OR MORE

Anne Marie Hepser
Laura Rifkin

GOLD ANGEL \$500 OR MORE

Kristin Bauer
Danielle Celani
Cynthia Ciminelli
Jennifer Derrick
Brian Donovan
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MARIA LOVE CONVALESCENT FUND BOARD MEMBERS

The Maria Love Convalescent Fund is Pleased to Welcome
Seven New Members to the Board

Kate Bowen Smith is a legacy Maria Love (ML) board member whose grandmother was a past president. Kate relocated back to Buffalo from the Washington, DC area in 2016 with her husband and two daughters. She serves on the Buffalo Seminary's Board of Trustees and is a parent volunteer at Elmwood Franklin School. Kate is inspired by the wonderful work the ML Fund is doing in our community and looks forward to working with fellow board members to help sustain the organization for years to come.

Heather Gibson is a legacy ML board member whose grandmother was a past member. Heather is a speech pathologist who lives in the Elmwood Village with her husband and two children. She is on the Buffalo Seminary Alumni Board and is a parent volunteer at Saint Marks.

Allison Gioia Flamer is a legacy ML board member whose mother was a past member. Allison is an attorney living with her husband and two children in Amherst. She is involved with the Roswell Park Alliance Community Advisory Board, Carly's Club and is a volunteer at the Stephen's Fund Day at the Buffalo Therapeutic Riding Center, Nardin Academy, and St. Benedict School.

Amy Habib Rittling is a legacy ML board member whose mother was a past member. Amy lives in Snyder with her husband and four children. An attorney, Amy is Vice President Buffalo Zoo and a member of the BPO Board; EFS Board; and Children's Hospital Board. Her past board involvement includes the Catholic Board of Buffalo and the Buffalo Seminary.

A past Vice President at The Travel Team, Inc. and Jim Kelly Enterprises, Julie Gicewicz lives with her husband and four children in Orchard Park. Julie is a past board member of WNY Against Drug and Alcohol Abuse, the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Buffalo and East Aurora Visitors Association, Nardin Character Committee, and Make A Wish Volunteer. She is currently a member of the Nichols Parent Council and Ambassador program.

Amy Murray lives with her husband and child in Amherst. Amy is involved with the Special Olympics and is an EFS Parent Volunteer.

Karen Walcott lives with her husband and four children in Buffalo. Karen is an ophthalmologist who is a member of the UB Medical School Alumni Board and the Against the Grain Theater Board. Karen is also a coach for Girls on the Run. Karen is looking forward to joining the legacy of Maria Love in supporting the western New York community.

2017 Annual Spring Luncheon

BY BETH GOLEBIEWSKI

On May 11, over 200 guests gathered at the Country Club of Buffalo for the 114th Annual Spring Luncheon. A fabulous setting as always, the luncheon was the first major event after the Club's renovation. There were many baskets to raffle and a variety of silent auction items up for bid. During lunch, a fashion show worked its way through the rooms showcasing designs generously sponsored by Annarlette. As one of our two main fundraisers, over forty thousand dollars were raised this year to help support the charitable giving of the Maria M. Love Convalescent Fund. Thank you to our co-chairs Melissa Jerge and Angela McLellan-Desai, our Corporate Sponsors, Table & Individual Patrons as well as all of our attendees. We couldn't have accomplished this without you.



With Heartfelt Thanks . . .

Members of the Maria Love Board would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Donna Pottle, former Maria Love Board President, for hosting a J. McLaughlin Trunk Show at the Hotel Henry on September 23. Partial proceeds of the sales were donated to the Maria Love Convalescent Fund. A luncheon and private tour of the Richardson Olmsted Campus was coordinated by Kristie Pottle. The weather was Fall perfect and a lovely time was had by all. Thank you to everyone who supported the fundraiser and to Lori Bassett for arranging all of the details.

Thank You

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Special Thanks

Dr. Craig Chertack
Flowers by Kristi Dauria
Tony Walker & Co.

The Maria M. Love Convalescent Fund Board is a 501 (c)(3) corporation responsible for raising the funds necessary to carry on its mission and the vision of Maria M. Love.