



115th Annual Charity Ball

BY BETH GOLEBIEWSKI

Mark your calendars for the 115th Maria M. Love Charity Ball on December 7th, 2018 at the Buffalo Niagara Convention Center! Many things have changed since 1905 when the Charity Ball and Maria M. Love Convalescent Fund began. However, one fact remains the same: The Charity Ball is the largest fundraiser each year for this charitable foundation. Middle School and High School children enjoy a fun-filled, safe dance, and ticket sales support many people throughout Erie County.

The mission of the Maria M. Love Convalescent Fund is to provide interim financial assistance in order to promote independence and enhance the quality of life. Maria Love helps countless individuals in Erie County with medically related conditions who may be temporarily ineligible for aid from traditional sources. We are able to provide additional assistance in the area of basic human needs for those who have nowhere else to turn.

Both General Admission and Angel Tickets remain for the 115th Charity Ball. Consider purchasing an Angel Ticket and further your impact on the lives of Erie County residents in need. Additionally, for the first time, get VIP perks with your Angel Ticket purchase. Receive a VIP swag bag and an entry in a raffle for a chance to win an Apple \$400 gift card. Tickets may be purchased on the Maria M. Love Convalescent Fund website www.marialovefund.org. If you do not have children of age to participate in the dance, you may also purchase a ticket for a child in our community. All Charity Ball details can be found on the website! We hope you and your children will help support the Charity Ball once again.

From the Executive Director and President

As we approach Thanksgiving, we are busy preparing for the 115th Charity Ball. It is amazing and sobering to think that this organization has been contributing to Erie County residents in need for over 115 years. Maria Love created such a beautiful legacy, advocating for those in need by starting the Fitch Crèche, the first day care center in the US in 1881. The crèche allowed single mothers to continue working while their children were lovingly taken care of with baths, clean clothing and three square meals a day, but, most importantly, she created an atmosphere which would give the children a reason for hope and self respect. Her work went further, providing vocational training for unskilled women, employment opportunities for working women, parent training programs as well as a myriad of other programs all to promote women and children. She was way ahead of her time and we are in awe of her!

As we prepare for the 115th Charity ball, to be held on December 7th at the Buffalo Convention Center, we look forward to carrying out Maria Love's message. The Fund's consistent mission of providing a reliable source of support for those in need of temporary assistance, due to a medical condition, has made a great deal of difference in the lives of thousands of individuals over the years.

Very truly yours,
Nancy Stevens & Mary Bacon

SPECIAL GRANT PROFILE: WESTERN NEW YORK KIDNEY FOUNDATION

BY SHANNON MAZUR

Ticket Sales Impacting our Community

One of the ways that the Maria Love Convalescent Fund fulfills its mission is by awarding Special Grants each year. These grants, which range from \$1,000 to \$10,000, are used toward programming or operational costs of non-profit organizations that benefit Erie County residents. Two of the most recent examples of how your Charity Ball tickets have impacted our community are the grants given to both the WNY Kidney Foundation and The Buffalo Therapeutic Riding Center (BTRC).

The Kidney Foundation of Western New York, has been supporting our community since 2015. The foundation provides community awareness, prevention education and health services for patients and families affected by kidney disease, related illnesses and disabilities.

This October we were delighted to welcome Barbara Breckinridge, Director of Patient Services and Community Outreach, and Jeremy Morlock, Foundations Manager, who both presented to our Board. Barbara is a twenty-year kidney recipient herself and has continued to be an advocate for kidney health while counseling dialysis/transplant patients and families through treatment. Barbara also coordinates an extremely effective outreach group through ECMC. Jeremy's roll with the foundation includes overseeing efforts in community presence and volunteer services.



Jeremy Morlock and Barbara Breckinridge



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different ranging from financial assistance, transportation, nutritional supplements for kidney health, emergency medical identification jewelry and family counseling.

Social workers coordinate closely with the patients undergoing dialysis care while they are on the transplant list. Typically, visits to the dialysis center are three times a week for three to five hours of treatments. Patients will continue to receive health support after the kidney transplant, which includes recovery and adjustment to life-long medications and nutritional needs. One in seven people will be affected by kidney disease, with 220 individuals currently waiting in the Buffalo area alone. Over 2,000 people throughout an eight-county area of Western New York are on the kidney transplant list.



SPECIAL GRANT PROFILE: THE BUFFALO THERAPEUTIC RIDING CENTER

BY KATE BOWEN SMITH

The Buffalo Therapeutic Riding Center (BTRC), located in North Buffalo in a former indoor polo facility, serves children between the ages of six and 18 who are mentally and/or emotionally impaired, learning disabled, developmentally challenged, or who have other medical conditions. Regardless of whether a child has autism, cancer, or emotional disturbances, research shows that their time spent interacting with horses offers physical, psychological, social, and educational benefits. Or as the BTRC says, “There is a unique bond between horses and people that can be particularly meaningful to children with disabilities.”

The BTRC is the only therapeutic riding program in Western New York accredited by the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH). The horses in the program, which runs every Monday from April to November, are donated from around the country for this purpose. Trained volunteers are vital to the program and do everything from tacking horses to leading riders. Classes are limited to no more than four students with anywhere from one to three volunteers per student. The program served 175 students this year, and, as Susan Schoellkopf, Executive Director of Buffalo Therapeutic Riding Center, shared during her presentation to the Maria Love November Board Meeting, “this is one of the gems of Buffalo.”



Buffalo Therapeutic
Riding Center

Reflecting similar sentiments, a parent testimonial reads: “Each week, I find myself holding back tears of joy when I watch her. I've never seen her look so proud... We know life is tough for her, and this gives her an opportunity to forget. We only wish we found this program sooner.”

The Fund's grant provided scholarships for participants unable to cover the full cost of lessons. The Maria Love Convalescent Fund Board of Directors was pleased to have been able to help local children benefit from this wonderful program.



Buffalo Therapeutic Riding Center

More Ways to Give

New for the holidays this year, consider making your gift to Maria M. Love while you shop! Simply log on to your existing Amazon account by going to smile.amazon.com; click on “My Account”, “Your Amazon Smile”, then type in Maria M Love Convalescent Fund in the search box. Press “return” to make this selection and begin giving! If you do not already have an account, simply click on “create account” on the smile.amazon.com home page. It's a fun and easy way to insure a percentage of all of your Amazon purchases will go to Maria M. Love for the holidays and throughout the year!

We are thrilled to share that there is now a “donate now” button available on the Maria M. Love website at www.marialovefund.org. Simply click and give to support the many individuals who need your help in our community!

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Looking to the Future . . . A Worthy Collaboration

The Executive Board recently met with The Community Foundation of Greater Buffalo who have been managing our funds for almost three years. As the Maria Love Convalescent Fund celebrates its 115th year, Community Foundation celebrates their 100th year as an organization...a perfect fit!

Past Maria Love Board Treasurer, Jodi Osinski, had the following to share regarding the move to The Community Foundation: "In 2015 The Maria Love Convalescent Fund Finance Committee began the process of evaluating investment managers. The Committee interviewed many highly qualified managers – and The Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo rose to the top. Established in 1919, The Community Foundation has a long history of successful investment performance that continuously outperforms endowments and foundations nationwide. They provide access to investment managers with high investment minimums, as well as legal advice and compliance regarding endowments."

As our volunteer board of talented women work diligently exploring ways to increase our presence in the community and increase funding, the Board voted to move our investment account to The Community Foundation in 2016. Aligning with the Community Foundation has been a win-win for both organizations.



Maria M. Love Convalescent Fund Board

From September through October, Maria M. Love has distributed:

\$13,410 for Convalescent Care

\$350 for Transportation

\$2,516 for Utilities

\$1,846 for Medications

\$2,675 for Rent

Total: \$20,797