

LOVE NOTES

2018-2019 Special Grant Recipients

BY JULIE GICEWICZ

In anticipation of our Annual Spring Luncheon and Auction scheduled for Thursday, May 10, 2018, at The Country Club of Buffalo, we are delighted to share our 2018 Grant Recipient list. The dollars you contribute through both the upcoming Annual Luncheon and Charity Ball help support these important programs.

During our March and April board meetings, we heard from two grant recipients, the Community Music School and The Center for Handicapped Children.

Jennifer Koch, Executive Director of the Community Music School, presented at our March board meeting. What turned out to be a truly enlightening program, this organization provides music therapy to individuals with a wide range of physical and cognitive disabilities. It is designed to promote wellness, manage stress, alleviate pain, express feelings, enhance memory and physical rehab. It was most interesting to hear the stories of individuals whom had tried numerous other therapies prior to coming to the Community Music School; to finally find relief through their methodology. Our funds provide eleven scholarships to help cover remaining costs of music therapy. Some expenses are covered by insurance and private pay.

Executive Director of The Center for Handicapped Children, Janice Gentz, joined us at our board meeting this past week. This group was able to purchase a new mechanical lift for the school through your giving. The vast majority of students at this model school are non-ambulatory, have very limited voluntary movement and use wheelchairs. This lift "lifts" the child, positions them and helps with mobility needs. Founded by two parents who had a need for their daughter, CHC has served the needs of students with multiple disabilities and their families since 1971. Genuine love and compassion for every student was evident during their presentation.

Newly awarded grant recipients for 2018-2019 include the Buffalo Therapeutic Riding Center which offers a certified therapeutic horseback riding program to children ages 6-18 with physical/medical, emotional, psychological and learning disabilities. This progressive form of therapy enhances the child's quality of life. Most children in the program are from low income families and our grant will provide scholarships to all students who need them.

Suburban Adult Services, Inc. (SASI) also provides a certified therapeutic horseback riding program, "High Hurdles". Your funds helped them secure an equicizer which allows High Hurdles to assess the medical needs of their riders. It offers a safe alternative to riding while teaching the participant how to engage and target different muscle groups.

Explore and More Children's Museum at Canalside provides an environment for play and learning through hands-on exhibits, programs and activities that inspire creativity, curiosity and imagination. Our support will defray expenses so that families may enjoy their new "Au-Some" evening music therapist and therapy dog programs. This will impact over 1100 community members per year.

Our funding is also providing 130 medical ID bracelets, transportation assistance for thirty patients, and nutritional supplements to kidney patients who demonstrate financial need through the Kidney Foundation of WNY.

Early Spring 2018

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Special Grant Recipients Con'd.

A special grant to the Catholic Health System Continuing Care Foundation provided 598 car seats to needy families through the SafeKids WNY Buckle Up program.

Community Services for the Developmentally Disabled, Inc. is a past recipient and we are pleased to help them once again as they move forward with their renovation and enhancement to an existing outdoor playground to develop core sensory, motor and socialization skills.

Learning Disabilities Association of WNY, Inc. is a service provider for children and adults with learning and/or developmental disabilities. Our funding will provide a behavioral specialist for three-hours a week into their LEAD16 program to provide support to staff. Approximately 80 children in our community will benefit from this specialist.

The Olmsted Center for Sight is a community-based organization that provides traditional blind rehabilitation and ancillary vision-related services to the sight-impaired. Your support is helping those individuals with low-vision rehabilitation so that they may still live functionally without being transferred into assisted living facilities.

Rural Outreach Center works to assist, empower and elevate the impoverished rural populations in Southern Erie County. Your funds support those who are in need of emergency medical support and long-term chronic illness therapies that are not covered by insurance. Many individuals in our communities suffer from the basic need to nearby medical treatment.

Seneca Street Community Development Corporation addresses the needs of our neighbors in the Seneca Babcock community. Currently, they offer a safe and structured after school teen and summer program, as well as, a community garden to all students. Your gift will allow them to purchase necessary equipment for a satellite health clinic at their site.

Serving the families of the youngest in our community, the Western New York Perinatal Bereavement Network provides bereavement support for those facing the unexpected tragic loss of their baby. Your continued support of Maria M Love allows us to support their purchase of burial needs as well as the maintenance and upkeep of various memorial gardens established throughout Western New York.

For over 35 years, Haven House has been working to prevent domestic violence and promote peace in the home. Your continuous giving allows us to help them in their mission of supporting a fully inclusive emergency shelter.

Spring is in the Air!

Spring Luncheon Sponsorship Opportunities

While our final board meeting for the season will be in May, important work to serve our community continues throughout the year. Please make every effort to join us for our Spring Luncheon and Auction on Thursday, May 10, 2018. There are many ways to participate, from a Luncheon Reservation of \$65, to a Patron Level Table of 8 for \$1,000, or, to a corporate sponsorship. Bring a group of girlfriends or ask to be placed at a table to meet someone new!

All contributions of \$30 or more are tax deductible and will support the many worthy grant recipients we assist in our community. Below are the details.

For further information, please call Luncheon Co-Chairs Patricia Lawley 716.432.0555 or Amy Carnevale 716.352.6022.

The Annual Spring Luncheon

Thursday May 10, 2018

11 a.m. Auction – 12:30 p.m. Luncheon

Country Club of Buffalo

250 N. Youngs Road, Williamsville, 14221

To download an invitation to the Spring Luncheon, please visit our website:

www.marialovefund.org

Love

\$ 2,500

Logo displayed on Maria Love Website
Company Logo displayed on guest tables
Premium Table for 10
25 General Auction tickets per guest
Wine for the table
Premium Gift Bag per guest

Hope

\$ 1,500

Logo displayed on Maria Love Website
Premium Table for 10
25 General Auction tickets per guest
Wine for the table

Caring

\$ 1,000

Listing on Maria Love Website
Premium Table for 8
25 General Auction tickets per guest

