

LOVE NOTES



Winter 2018

Pamela Marcucci, LoveNotes Chair

A Note From the Executive Director and President

As the Maria Love Convalescent Fund celebrates the success of our 114th Annual Charity Ball we reflect on the challenges faced by so many individuals in need. The funds that we raised enable us to fulfill Maria Love's mission. In December alone we were able to fulfill the requests of forty-four individuals and support several pharmaceutical needs through our local hospitals. We are most grateful to Charity Ball co-chairs, Patti Deni and Amy Quinlivan, and their committees for the many hours of planning. The result was a very successful evening; many students thanked us on their way out for a fun night. We appreciate the board members and their spouses who chaperoned. Thank you to the patrons who purchased tickets and a special thank you to our generous Angel level sponsors--your support allows us to make an impact on the lives of many in Western New York.

The Maria Love Convalescent Fund assisted with the purchase of a power wheelchair for a forty-two year old spinal muscle atrophy patient as her insurance only covered fifty percent. We also made a five hundred and fifty dollar payment on a lift chair for an eighty-six year old woman with osteoarthritis; and finally, Maria Love spent four hundred dollars for an allergen remover/air purifier for a ninety-two year old woman who suffers from severe asthma.

We are looking forward to and are extending an invitation to all Maria Love supporters for our Annual Spring Luncheon to be held on Thursday, May 10. Our members enjoy this long standing tradition celebrating the beginning of Spring and connecting with friends who support our second largest fundraiser. Please email us any additional names that you would like to have added to our mailing list or visit our website for a downloadable invitation.

With sincere gratitude, our board members applaud the efforts of our LoveNotes Chair, Pamela Marcucci, and her creative committee.

Very truly yours,
Nancy Stevens & Pamela Catipovic

Nancy B. Stevens
Executive Director

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Patricia Seitz

Nandita Sharma

Mindy Shine

Ellen Serman

Julie Szumigala-Farkash

Karen Taneff

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Sarah Williams

Emily Wyckoff

Cindy Zachau

Darcy Zacher

The Annual Spring Luncheon Thursday May 10, 2018

Country Club of Buffalo

For updates and to download invitation to the Spring Luncheon visit our website:

www.marialovefund.org

SPECIAL GRANT PROFILE: WOMEN'S RESPITE PROGRAM

By Kate Bowen Smith

In fulfillment of the Maria Love Convalescent Fund's mission to provide interim financial assistance to promote independence and enhance the quality of life of Erie County residents with medically related conditions who may be temporarily ineligible for aid from traditional sources, the Fund provides monthly distributions to individuals and also awards Special Grants each year. These Special 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. Women's Respite Program, a part of Francis Center Inc., was a 2017 Special Grants recipient.

The Women's Respite Programs hold weekend retreats at the Stella Niagara Center for Renewal near Lewiston for mothers with low incomes, mothers with children on the autism spectrum, grandmothers raising grandchildren, women with cancer, and alumnae from previous retreats. A common thread among these women, all referred by social workers or social service agencies, is that they are experiencing considerable stressors that can affect their health and wellness. The goal of all the programs is the same: to provide a weekend of rest, relaxation, and renewal. Each attendee is provided a simple, private room, all meals, and opportunities for enrichment and entertainment. Through activities like massage therapy, yoga, reflexology, swimming, arts and crafts, discussion groups, meditation, evening entertainment, or simply taking a walk, participants are given tools to facilitate wellness and healing, create support networks, and spend time in a healthful environment.

The Fund's grant is targeted for the Program's Respite for Women with Cancer weekend in March 2018. The grant provides enough funding for ten of the 25 participants. The women are in various stages of health, ranging from quite ill to in recovery. Those in recovery provide much needed hope, information, and encouragement to those on the other end of the spectrum. All participants benefit from the break in their usual routine and the gift of time to focus on themselves. A cancer diagnosis in addition to the realities of everyday stressors affects every aspect of life not only for the woman, but also for her family. Single moms, women raising children, low-income women, and women currently in treatment are given priority.

The Women's Respite Program reports that the results of this weekend are that participants have a reduced sense of loneliness and isolation, a greater sense of well-being, and a greater awareness of the tools needed to maintain that well-being. Strong bonds of friendship are often formed. One former attendee said, "At a time in your life when you are feeling great suffering, it's wonderful to be welcomed in such a loving place filled with understanding, hope and peace." Another said, "It is good to get away—forget about everything at home—relax and contemplate—and share with other women who have dealt with or are experiencing similar situations."

We received thirteen applications for the 2018 Special Grants Program which closed on January 30th, 2018. We thank all the applicants for their submissions and applaud the work so many are doing to serve those in need in our community.



**WOMEN'S
RESPITE
PROGRAM**

AGENCY SPOTLIGHT: VISITING NURSES ASSOCIATION

By Joanne Brannen

Founded in 1885, the VNA of Western New York was the first visiting nursing organization in America. Elizabeth Coe Marshall, a Sunday school teacher at the First Presbyterian Church in Buffalo, collected funds to hire a nurse to provide free nursing among the sick poor in the City of Buffalo. Elizabeth thought that home care should be provided for all, regardless of their ability to pay, and created the vision of a non-profit organization dedicated to that concept with nurses traveling to the homes of the sick, recuperating, and disabled Americans. She hired Mary Taylor as the first visiting nurse, fresh from graduation from the Buffalo General School. Elizabeth died just a few years later, in 1892, but by that time the VNA of Western New York was firmly established.

Since then, the VNA has become one of the oldest charities in the nation and remains the largest home health agency in the Western New York region. VNAs in Boston and Philadelphia started on the heels of Elizabeth's dream, and the VNA movement migrated across the country, but the movement began right here in Buffalo, New York.

Maria Love's vision of caring for working women and their children came to be in 1881 when the Fitch Creche opened its doors, the first Creche in the USA, and a model for others nationwide. We wonder if Maria and Elizabeth knew and inspired each other. Buffalo can be very proud of these two incredible pioneers, who set examples of progressive social responsibility in our city.



Today, there are over 500 visiting nurse associations, employing more than 90,000 clinicians, providing health care to more than four million people each year. Maria Love assists patients through the WNY VNA in a variety of ways: durable medical goods, rent or utility payments, medication, and necessary transportation to doctor visits. The VNA is a reliable, high performance partner that we thoroughly enjoy working with.

Mary Klute, LCSW-R, a Social Worker at the VNA since 1990, reports that “The VNA has relied on the Maria Love Fund as a vital resource for our neediest patients for their medical and other needs when all other community resources have been exhausted. We are so grateful to the Maria Love Fund for meeting the needs of the community we serve.”

The Maria M. Love Convalescent Fund supports the following Agencies
Benefitting Individuals in need of Convalescent Care



Celebrating Over  100 years

THE ANNUAL SPRING LUNCHEON

By Marcia Found Hawkes

Save the date for Maria Love's Annual Spring Luncheon that will take place at the Country Club of Buffalo on Thursday, May 10, 2018. This Luncheon brings together over 200 women for an afternoon that is inclusive of a raffle, an auction, an outstanding meal, and a good amount of camaraderie. The raffle items include jewelry, sunglasses, purses, scarves, and gift certificates to gyms, restaurants, and spa services to name a few. There is also a silent auction with high-end items from local boutiques and designers.

Tickets to the event range from \$65 for a luncheon ticket to \$125 for a patron ticket. Luncheon sponsorship opportunities are available. Sponsorships include prominent placement on the Maria Love website, company logo in the luncheon program, a table at the luncheon, general auction tickets per guest, and more. As with all Maria Love activities, all proceeds from the luncheon are used to provide emergency financial assistance to Erie County residents.

Please contact co-chairs, Patricia Lawley at Patti02021@aol.com or Amy Carnevale at amycarnevale@yahoo.com for more information.



LUNCHEON SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

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



MARIA LOVE SPECIAL GRANT RECIPIENT SPEAKERS SERIES



By Julie Gicewicz

Special Grant recipient representatives join our board sessions on a monthly basis. Below is a recap of our most recent speakers.

November 2017: Women's Respite Program: At our November board meeting we heard from Teresa Maciocha, Program Coordinator at the Women's Respite Program. This group provides an important weekend get-away to low income women who are experiencing considerable stressors that can affect their physical and mental health. Your contributions allow the organization the necessary resources to provide important time away for members to restore their mind, body, and spirit.

February 2018: Canopy of Neighbors: Most recently, we were joined by Sasha Yerkovich, Executive Director, Canopy of Neighbors. This organization was originally developed to address the need for basic human interaction and assistance to the elderly in our community.

Your donations contributed to a subsidized membership to low income seniors who do not have the means to pay full membership for the services offered. Canopy mobilizes an army of volunteers and resources to address both medical and social needs. Their services range from a simple check-in phone call or birthday card, to transportation to doctor appointments and other important day to day humanitarian needs.

Our Special Grant Recipient Speakers Series continues this spring. We invite all current and former Board Members to join us on the dates listed below. All speakers arrive at 8:30 AM and present after roll call of our Board Members.

Tuesday, March 6, 2018: Community Music School: Join us at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, March 6, 2018, to hear from Jennifer Koch, Executive Director of the Community Music School. 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. Our funds provide eleven scholarships to help cover remaining costs of music therapy. Some expenses are covered by insurance and private pay.

Tuesday, April 10, 2018: The Center for Handicapped Children, Inc.: We look forward to welcoming Janice Gent, Executive Director of the Center for Handicapped Children. With a grant from the Maria M. Love Convalescent Fund, this group purchased a new mechanical lift for the school. The vast majority of students at the school are non-ambulatory, have very limited voluntary movement and use wheelchairs. This lift "lifts" the child, positions them and helps with mobility needs.

Maria Love 2017 Special Grants Recipients

WNY Chapter of Cure SMA
(Spinal Muscular Atrophy):
\$1,000 awarded

Kaely's Kindness Foundation:
\$2,750 awarded

Women's Respite Program:
\$1,500 awarded.

Community Music School:
\$2,750 awarded

Canopy of Neighbors:
\$5,000 awarded

Heritage Christian Services:
\$2,000 awarded

People Inc:
\$2,035 awarded

Center for Handicapped Children:
\$6,000 awarded

Ken-Ton Meals on Wheels:
\$700 awarded

Yearly Grants: \$3,000 Awarded
Haven House, bus tokens:
\$1,000 awarded

Food Bank Infant Formula:
\$1,000 awarded

Catholic Health System
Continuing Care Foundation:
\$1,000 awarded



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

Charity Ball 2017

By Beth Golebiewski

Sixteen middle-school aged children took to the dance floor on December 8, 2017 to begin the 114th Maria Love Convalescent Fund Charity Ball at the Buffalo Convention Center. The children practiced with the Malkowicz Dance Studio prior to the Charity Ball and under the direction of Mrs. Martha Malkowicz Studio prior to the Charity Ball and under the direction of Mrs. Martha Malkowicz danced beautifully for the traditional first waltz. After the first dance, hundreds of children from many schools joined in for another successful Charity Ball.



2017 Charity Ball Opening Dance

The High School Dance began later in the evening and was another success. Again, the students came from area high schools. This year through the generosity of multiple Maria Love Board members and other donors, tickets were given gratis to students from Buffalo Prep who otherwise would not have been able to afford the cost of the ticket to attend.



2017 Charity Ball

Ticket sales from both dances raise a huge portion of the funds that are distributed monthly to the people of Erie County who benefit from the mission of the Maria Love Fund. This year was no different and the funds raised will continue to move the mission forward. Huge thanks go out to the Charity Ball co-chairs, Patti Deni and Amy Quinlivan, and all of the board members who worked tirelessly to organize the event and make it run so well. And thank you to all who attended. Mark your calendars as the next Charity Ball will be December 7, 2018!

SAVE THE DATE

115th Annual Charity Ball

DECEMBER 7, 2018

Buffalo Niagara Convention Center



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

Platinum Angel: \$1000 & Above

Robert D. Flickinger Foundation
(Hallie Schneeweiss, former board member)

Angel: Up To \$125

Jenna Brinkworth

Kathryn T. Bradley

(In honor of her mother, former board member, Mrs. Franklin P. Taylor
and Friends)

Mrs. John N. Walsh

(In memory of Ursula B. Keating)