

THE MARIA M. LOVE 116th CHARITY BALL

In 1903, Buffalo celebrated its first Charity Ball. Now, over one hundred years later, the **116th Maria M. Love Charity Ball** will be held on Friday, December 13, 2019 at the Buffalo Niagara Convention Center! The Middle School dance will be from 6 PM - 8 PM while the traditional High School dance is from 9 - 11 PM. This year we are putting a special focus on encouraging all of our current and past board members to consider purchasing an Angel Ticket. Whether you have one or more children who are eligible to attend or would like to sponsor a child in the community, your

gracious contribution will go toward helping to improve the lives of some of the most need-worthy individuals and organizations in our community. Through an agency referral process, the Maria M. Love Convalescent Fund helps those whose needs are not met by traditional resources. Funds are distributed to pay for prescription co-pays, durable medical goods, and special assistance needs. Requests are also reviewed by our board members to provide grants to a variety of organizations focused on the needs of children and families in our community. Only through your contributions are we able to increase our distribution of individual and organizational grants.

The Maria M. Love Convalescent Fund
Proudly Announces the



116th Annual Charity Ball



Advanced sales of Angel tickets assure admission as General Admission tickets are limited.



All Angel ticket holders will receive a **fun swag** bag at the end of the evening!



Increased funds from Angel ticket sales enable the Maria Love Fund to help more people in our community.

While regular tickets are also now on sale, your Angel Ticket purchase includes a VIP swag bag and an entry in a raffle for a chance to win other prizes. Tickets may be purchased on the Maria M. Love Convalescent Fund website www.marialovefund.org/charity-ball/ All Charity Ball details including sponsorship opportunities can be found on the website!

Thank you to board members Heather Gibson, Jen Bernacki Smith, and Kate Bowen Smith for graciously chairing this year's ball!



A Note from the Executive Director and President

Thanksgiving has passed and as we ready ourselves for another holiday season, we prepare for our biggest fundraiser of the year, the 116th Charity Ball. We reflect on the important things in life and how a small gesture of kindness goes such a long way. This is an excerpt from a thank you note we recently received from a patient we assisted through the Olmsted Center's Low Vision Clinic; whose insurance would not cover a necessary step in his eye care.

"...because of your generosity I am able to receive the necessary eye therapy that is needed for me to continue to be a Father and a Health field worker with Traumatic Brain Injured patients. I am a father of three beautiful girls ranging from 4 years old to 15 years old. This assistance will allow me to hopefully sustain stable vision so I can continue to witness them blossom into women one day."

This is one of many heartfelt stories of the many individuals we serve in our community. Without the support of our donors and the success of our fundraisers, we could not help those that need our help the most. The purchase of an advance sale Angel ticket to the Charity Ball assures us of more funds to assist someone in need. Some examples of assistance are: helping a diabetic whose insurance has lapsed and cannot afford their insulin, helping someone purchase prescription eye glasses that is on a fixed income, purchasing a soft and cozy G-tube belt cover for a toddler that uses a feeding tube, working with a local contractor to install a necessary handrail for an elderly couple so they can stay in their home, or covering the co-pay for a cancer patient that needs a third party consult. These are just a few examples of the many ways that we can fulfill a need. The Fund is uniquely poised to respond in a short period of time and we aim to be a bridge to independence and put people back on track. We want to thank you for trusting us to shepherd your money into the community where it can be most impactful.

With grateful hearts, 

Nancy Stevens & Mary Bacon

Sponsorships, Shopping, and Other Ways to Give

Please continue to consider making your gift to Maria M. Love while you shop! Simply logon to your existing Amazon account by going to smile.amazon.com; click on "MyAccount", "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 ensure 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 today and for the many tomorrows.



MARIA M. LOVE SPECIAL GRANTS IN OUR COMMUNITY

Special Grants in our Community

This November we were honored to welcome and hear from Frank Cerny, Executive Director of the Rural Outreach Center (ROC) located in E. Aurora, NY. Frank started this program because while there is so much attention on urban plight, he found that there was a large rural community right in our own back yard with extensive and excessive needs, noting that 60% of poverty is outside the urban area. Often times the rural community is an "invisible" population widely dispersed with few services and even less solutions; including transportation.

The mission of ROC is to break the cycle of generational poverty. Their innovation model allows staff to work with individuals to set goals, whether it be building skills, gaining knowledge through education, or simply agreeing to improve in a life-skill area. There are established "contracts" with real measurements to help motivate individuals and families to reach their goals. Currently there are over 200 families working toward their goals including 100 children. Kids programs are based on the popular Character Counts program. They are also incentivized with books and other items through the ROC store.

Rural Outreach Center is a measurable program demonstrating 50% improvement from their families with the greatest changes made from an emotional, employment, health, and housing perspective. They have experienced over 40% growth year over year.

The contributions you have made through the Charity Ball, Spring Luncheon, and individual donations have helped organizations like ROC achieve real growth and real change in our community.

At the conclusion of the ROC presentation, without a dry eye in the meeting, individual board members signed up to sponsor families under the Rural Outreach Center's umbrella for the holidays.

For more information, the Rural Outreach Center may be contacted at 716-240-2220 or frank@pathwayfellowship.org. Web address is <http://theroc.co> and they are located at 730 Olean Road, East Aurora, NY 14052.

MARIA M. LOVE CONVALESCENT FUND
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OUR FOUNDER: MARIA M. LOVE

Our Founder

This year we have a special focus in honoring our founder, Maria M. Love, and spreading awareness of her good deeds and intentions for growth throughout Erie County. Miss Love was recently recognized for her many contributions to our community and inducted into the WNY Business Hall of Fame. Other notable community awareness includes the Maria Love Fund being featured in "Change Maker," a publication distributed by the Community Foundation of Greater Buffalo in honor of their centennial celebration. WGRZ TV has filmed a piece on Miss Love for their Daybreak feature, "Unknown Stories of WNY," which will air in the coming weeks.

Our leadership committee has spent a significant amount of time visiting our grant recipients and supporting their accomplishments. These include Olmsted Center's fundraiser, "Dining in the Dark;" Child Advocacy Center's "An Evening of Storytelling; Through the Darkness into the Light" which featured a journey of the future site of the new CAC at BestSelf and firsthand stories of courage; and we celebrated with City Year Buffalo for their Opening Day Pep rally to welcome the AmeriCorps members as they embarked on their school year.

For our October board meeting, we were hosted by Canterbury Woods Gates Circle and heard from our 3rd Executive Director, Karen Berner Little, author of *Maria M. Love: The life and legacy of a social work pioneer*. Karen continues to spread the word about our founder through her monologue while in-character as Maria M. Love. We learned "first-hand" about the founding of the Fitch Creche in 1881, the first daycare center in the nation, and of the first kindergarten at the creche in 1884, and more about Miss Love's focus in helping families find respite in the community. As current board members, we were especially pleased to learn about the first official board meeting in 1903. One of the most interesting facts was that the Charity Ball was originally a ball for adults and wasn't repurposed for children until more modern times.

Finally, we shared stories and enjoyed a special evening with current and former board members and their spouses at a Cocktail Party at the Garrett Club on November 13th. We look forward to continuing this on an annual basis to reconnect and thank all of the many women in our community who have given their time and shared their passion and talents to carry on Maria Love's legacy.

Nancy B. Stevens <i>Executive Director</i>	Amy Bair Jessica Baird Amy Bard Lori Bassett Kristin Bauer Karen Bisson Kate Bowen Smith Amy Carnevale Pamela Catipovic Cynthia Ciminelli Candace Darby	Jessica Enstice Marcia Found-Hawkes Heather Gibson Julie Gicewicz Allison Gioia Flammer Amy Habib Rittling Jane Hamilton Beth Holmwood Melissa Jerge Heather Jermak Patty Lawley	Betsy Locke Angela McLellan-Desai Ann Mikols Amy Murray Sally Obletz Jodi Osinski Terri Parsell Himley Julie Plata Odie Porter Kristine Pottle Amy Quinlivan	Nandita Sharma Jennifer Bernacki Smith Dana Stoffman Julie Szumigala-Farkash Karen Taneff Karen Walcott Sarah Williams Rachel Weissfeld Cindy Zachau Darcy Zachar
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Mary Bacon - President				
Sarah Williams - VP				
Amy Nagy - Treasurer				
Liz Berghash - Treasurer-Elect				
Terry Anderson - Secretary				
Patti Deni - Membership				