

# LOVE NOTES



Winter 2019  
Julie Gicewicz,  
LoveNotes Chair

## A Note From the Executive Director and President

As we celebrate the success of our 115<sup>th</sup> Charity Ball, we are grateful for the continued support from our life-long donors, Angel patrons and individual and corporate sponsors. Each ticket sold helps us to make an impact on the lives of many in need in Western New York.

We want to thank our co-chairs, Patti Deni and Amy Quinlivan, for their hard work and tireless dedication. They continue to raise the bar making the Charity Ball ever more successful for the organization and fun for all those attending. The students danced the night away and had a terrific time. This year, for the first time ever, the co-chairs secured donors to enhance the evening. The board members and their spouses that chaperoned the event deserve a big round of applause for their fantastic representation as ambassadors of the Maria Love Convalescent Fund. It is a concerted effort and we couldn't do it without everyone's help.

The funds we raise are critical to fulfilling Miss Love's mission. Her devotion and commitment to assist those in need in our community continues to inspire us and we are very proud to carry on her legacy. In December and January we assisted eighty-three individuals including medication costs and co-pays through hospital pharmacies.

The Distribution Committee, under the thoughtful leadership of Lori Bassett, is reviewing the Annual Special Grant applications. Each January we receive numerous applications from social service agencies in Erie County that are seeking funding ranging from one to ten thousand dollars. The selection process, a tedious yet exciting one, allows each committee member to contribute in helping an agency fulfill their mission.

On May 9, Maria M. Love will host the Spring Luncheon at the Country Club of Buffalo. We invite you all to join us. Let's hope for a "spring like" day to enjoy old and new friends while continuing to carry on Maria Love's mission.

We would like to thank Julie Gicewicz and her committee for their thoughtful attention to detail in the Winter Love Notes edition.

Very truly yours,  
Nancy Stevens & Mary Bacon

Nancy B. Stevens  
Executive Director

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## The Annual Spring Luncheon

Thursday, May 9, 2019

*Country Club of Buffalo*

For updates and to download invitation to the Spring Luncheon  
visit our website: [www.marialovefund.org](http://www.marialovefund.org)

# MARIA M. LOVE SPECIAL GRANT PROFILE: EXPLORE & MORE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

By Kate Bowen Smith

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. The board of the Maria Love Convalescent Fund was very pleased to award \$10,000 to support Explore & More Children's Museum's Au-Some Evenings program.

As Explore & More prepares to open the doors at its beautiful new 43,000 square foot home at Canalside in downtown Buffalo, careful attention has been paid to fulfilling its vision that every child should have the opportunity to learn and play in a comfortable and accessible environment. The museum's Au-Some Evenings program is one way in which it embraces children with autism spectrum disorders and sensory processing disorders and their families.

One night each month, Explore & More opens its doors, free of charge, to these special kids and their families. The programming and environment are supportive and understanding. Thoughtful additions like music therapy and dog therapy are often on tap. Local university graduate students in the fields of physical therapy, occupational therapy, and special education are available to work and provide additional support to children and their families.

The experience is intended to be sensory-friendly with some guided programs as well as free play, depending on the play zone. In the Moving Water zone, children can send boats, carefully designed with Fisher-Price, down the lock system. The boats are designed so that whether you send a single boat down the canal or experiment with adding grain or other goods to one or more boats, every child will be successful. In the Playing Together zone, seating is available on the side for children who may be more comfortable watching others play than joining in. The Children's Hospital zone will help introduce medical language and



Au-Some Evenings Program Children's Activities



Au-Some Evenings Program Children's Activities

alleviate fear about going to the hospital. While Au-Some Evenings are just for these special kids and their families, the museum is designed to be safe and welcoming for all children at all times.

It can often be difficult for families with children with autism spectrum disorders and sensory processing disorders to eat out. The restaurant at the new Explore & More building will be a welcome spot for dinner during Au-some Evenings and lunch at other times. Further, young

adults with autism spectrum disorder or sensory processing disorders often don't have as many support systems in place once they turn 21. To serve this community, cooking skills can be taught in the working kitchen in the Farm to Fork play zone.

The Au-Some Evenings program will be one of the first events held at the new Canalside building this spring, and these children and their families will be among the first to experience this new, one-of-a-kind museum that celebrates Western New York from a child's perspective. We at Maria Love Convalescent Fund are thrilled to be a small part of this wonderful program!



Au-Some Evenings Program Children's Activities



THE RALPH C. WILSON, JR.  
CHILDREN'S MUSEUM



## Additional Ways in Supporting Maria M. Love

In addition to the Annual Charity Ball and the Spring Luncheon, there are always other ways of supporting the Maria M. Love Convalescent Fund. Make your tax-deductible donation by clicking on the "Donate" button on the home page of our website at [www.marialovefund.org](http://www.marialovefund.org). Additionally, you can read about long-term ways to give as an individual or corporation on our "Support" page on our website. Inquiries by mail can be made to Maria M. Love Convalescent Fund, P.O. Box 293, Buffalo, NY 14213 or e-mail at [marialovefund@msn.com](mailto:marialovefund@msn.com).

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



# THE ANNUAL SPRING LUNCHEON

By Shannon Mazur

Spring will soon be welcoming us with open arms and we can't wait to host you at this year's Spring Luncheon on Thursday, May 9, 2019, at The Country Club of Buffalo. Over two hundred women will be showing their support to our 100-year-old tradition of giving to the Erie County Community. Please join us for cordial conversation and gracious giving, surrounded by beautiful displays of unique auction items including jewelry, art work, kitchen wares, woman's accessories, designer items, certificates for spa and excursion experiences, local restaurants, and much more; all from local boutiques and dining establishments.

Luncheon reservations per guest are \$65 per ticket or \$125 for a patron sponsor ticket. Additionally, there are opportunities for table sponsorships which will include prestigious acknowledgment on both our website and in the luncheon program.

For further information, please contact co-chairs, Patricia Lawley at [Patti02021@aol.com](mailto:Patti02021@aol.com) or Amy Carnevale at [amycarnevale@yahoo.com](mailto:amycarnevale@yahoo.com). Invitations will be mailed in the coming weeks. Please visit [www.mariamlovefund.org](http://www.mariamlovefund.org) for an electronic version of the invitation. We look forward to seeing you at the spring luncheon!



## 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

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\$ 1,000

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Premium Table for 8  
25 General Auction tickets per guest

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ANNARLETTE**

# Charity Ball 2018

By Beth Golebiewski

Continuing the important work of the Maria M. Love Convalescent Fund, on December 7, 2018, the 115<sup>th</sup> Annual Charity Ball took place at the Buffalo Convention Center. Both Middle and High School attendees enjoyed a fun evening dancing with their friends while raising funds for Maria M. Love. The traditional first dance once again kicked off the evening and the couples danced beautifully.

Not everything was traditional however. This year, we introduced VIP perks with the purchase of an Angel Ticket. Perks included a VIP swag bag with a raffle entry for a chance to win an Apple \$400 gift card! We also offered sponsorship packages providing local companies an opportunity to give. A “red carpet” area was created for the kids to take pictures as they entered the dance floor. Angel Ticket holders received their swag bags at the end of the evening. Included in the bags were Maria Love branded items as well as generous gifts from sponsor Tony Walker.



2018 Charity Ball Opening Dance



2018 Charity Ball Red Carpet Photo Op

Many thanks go to our organized, tireless, and creative chairs Patti Deni and Amy Quinlivan! From taking tickets to stuffing swag bags, the entire Maria Love Board worked together to make the evening go smoothly and provide a safe environment for the participants to attend and support a great cause. We are already looking forward to the 116<sup>th</sup> Charity Ball in December 2019.

Funds from the Charity Ball allow us to provide grants to multiple local organizations, including this issue's Special Grant Profile recipient, Explore & More Children's Museum.

## Charity Ball Sponsors:

Anonymous Friend of Maria M. Love  
Mary Beth Basil  
Dr. Chee Kim and Jung Lee  
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2018 Charity Ball Swag Bags

# SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR 2018 CHARITY BALL ANGELS



Liam Ainslie	Candace Darby	Kierstan Keane	Anderson Osinski	Hasan Siddiqui
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2018 Charity Ball "Glow Stick Dancing"

## A Special Thank You to our Donors, Past Board Members & Friends

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