



Buffalo's 'Charity Ball' to Make an In-Person Return NOVEMBER 6, 2021

Nation's longest running ball sets plans for a new venue, new date, and a new vibe! Purchase tickets and sponsorships at www.MariaLoveCharityBall.com.

BUFFALO, NY - The Maria M. Love Convalescent Fund recently announced that the non-profit's largest annual fundraiser, "Charity Ball," will return to an in-person gathering for its 118th year. Charity Ball 2021, aka "CB21," will take place on Saturday, November 6th at 6 p.m. at Buffalo RiverWorks. The event will be hosted live and in person by famed local entertainers DJ Yes and DJ Milk, adding DJ Marley Maidment, a local Nichols high school senior, to this year's line-up as well. Angel and General Admission tickets are now on sale [here](#).

"CB21 will be a semi formal night featuring great music and special guest entertainment in a fun new venue," said Kristine Hornung-Pottle, co-chair of Charity Ball 2021. "With windows open to amazing Buffalo River views, it feels more sophisticated, and a bit more like a club." The DJ team of Yes and Milk have been incredible; they entertained Charity Ball audiences during last year's virtual Charity Ball and are returning this year. "We are excited to have these DJs back and performing in-person," Hornung-Pottle continued. "They throw a great party, so this will definitely not be your parent's charity ball!"

Charity Ball organizers wanted to make this year's event special for all the high school students who have missed out on so many social activities due to the pandemic. "Buffalo RiverWorks was selected as the venue for this year's dance because we wanted to make Charity Ball a unique and memorable experience for kids all over WNY," said Charity Ball co-chair, Darcy Zacher. "We moved the date of the event forward on the calendar, and we are doing everything possible to create a once-in-a-lifetime event, while ensuring the safest possible environment for the evening," Zacher added.

While The Charity Ball has traditionally hosted two separate dances for middle school and high school aged students, due to current COVID immunization availability and restrictions, CB21 will be exclusive to high school students. The event organizers will adhere to all health department and RiverWorks facility rules and regulations to support a safe environment for the evening. Attendees must be prepared to present their student ID, along with proof of a current COVID vaccination through the NYS Excelsior Pass Wallet App OR a negative COVID test from our partners at either Brighton-Eggert Pharmacy or Niagara Apothecary. The Maria Love Fund has partnered with Brighton-Eggert Pharmacy to offer discounted COVID tests to anyone holding a CB21 ticket. #ShareTheLove

Greetings from the Maria Love Fund President

What a year! We are pleased to share that because of you, our loyal supporters, the Maria Love Fund Board of Directors has continued the mission to provide assistance to individuals and families in need of medical and convalescent care needs,—even during the last 20 months of the Covid-19 global pandemic. Our Executive Director, Nancy Stevens, has done an incredible job of parsing and prioritizing needs. And when a request has been received for an amount greater than our individual grant limit allows, Nancy has been very successful at putting together funding partnerships with other community resources that allowed the Fund to meet the need. We are so grateful to Nancy and her commitment to our community.

To continue to facilitate our mission, we have two very important fundraisers coming up in October and November.

The 118th Maria Love Charity Ball will return to an in-person gathering at a new venue, on a new date, and for Covid-safe purposes, for high school students only! Doors will open to the longest-running Charity Ball in America (aka "CB21") on Saturday, November 6th at 6 p.m. at Buffalo RiverWorks!! Co-Chairs Darcy Zacher, Kirsten Maidment, Kristie Pottle, Dana Stoffman, and Heather Jermack are doing a wonderful job of

getting the community engaged with sales and sponsorships! Tickets & Sponsorships, including a "Donate an Angel Ticket" option are available for sale [here](#).

On Wednesday, October 20th, at 7:00 p.m. The Maria Love Fund is pleased to present the second in a series; *Behind the Mask 2.0: Thriving - the virtual Mental Health Forum* for teens, young adults, parents, teachers, and coaches, featuring mental health advocate, teacher, Director of Wellness at the Geffen Academy at UCLA, and author, Ross Szabo. Registration and donations may be made [here](#).

A world-renown author and speaker, Ross recently visited Western New York giving powerful addresses to the Erie County Bar Association, the UB Athletics Department, Nichols School students and parents, and Hamburg High School coaches, teachers, and staff. We feel strongly about his message, and the need to support the young people who attend Charity Ball... making our work possible. The Zoom webinar is being offered free to the community. Please share these links with your network of friends, family and associates. Adolescent mental health matters *(continued on page 2)*.

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Greetings from the President continued.

In May we enjoyed a lovely Spring Luncheon and Auction at the Country Club of Buffalo! Many thanks to our amazing Luncheon & Auction Chairs—Julie Gicewicz, Terry Anderson, Amy Carnevale, and Patty Lawley. They planned a beautiful event with arrangements for every limitation and contingency. Miraculously, the “mask mandate” was lifted on the very day of the Luncheon! We are grateful to all who were able to attend including guest speakers Frank Czerny, Executive Director of The Rural Outreach Center, and Kim Pegula, President, Pegula Sports Entertainment (Virtually). It was our pleasure to honor Sally Walsh with our Founders Award, Mary Ann Joyce (posthumously), and long-time board

member Jodi Osinski. Be sure to visit our website at www.marialovefund.org to view Sally's delightful video message.

Fundraising during a pandemic is not easy, but with abundant creativity and dedication, the Executive Team, Committee Chairs, and the Maria Love Convalescent Fund Board of Directors continue to make the seemingly impossible possible.

Thank you for your continued interest, your generous support of the Fund, and for helping us #sharethelove!

Sincerely,
Sarah Williams
President, The Maria Love Fund Board of Directors

Behind the Mask 2.0: Thriving

The Maria Love Fund Board of Directors invite you to Behind the Mask 2.0: Thriving - the virtual Mental Health Forum featuring nationally-renown mental health advocate, teacher, Director of Wellness at the Geffen Academy at UCLA, and author, Ross Szabo. The event will take place via Zoom Webinar on Wednesday, October 20th, at 7:00 p.m. Registration is free to the community. [Register today.](#)

Relatable, authentic, and even entertaining and humorous, Ross engages audiences with stories from his own life. The presentation is directed toward teens, young adults, parents, teachers and coaches.

Ross will talk about how to manage anxiety and other tough emotions. He will also provide strategies for



coping, selfcare, and self-compassion. The one-hour discussion will be moderated by Danielle Vallas, LMHC, of D&G Wellness Consulting.

We are also thankful to our partners in these efforts—Matthew Benedict's One Last Goal, and Danielle Vallas of D&G Wellness Consulting.

The first Maria Love Fund mental health community presentation was given by Ross in March 2021. Both presentations were underwritten by funds raised during the Maria Love Fund's Annual Charity Ball 2020 (held virtually) for the express purpose of offering support to the great number of young people in Western New York who are struggling with mental health concerns and the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Maria Love Fund Refresher

Our Namesake

Named in honor of Maria M. Love, a Buffalo social services pioneer, Ms. Love established the first day care center in the United States, and in 1903 organized a group of 31 prominent Buffalo women to raise funds and implement a program of convalescent respite care for mothers and their children.

Origin Story

Founded in 1903, the Maria Love Fund promotes health and wellness among Erie County residents by providing interim financial assistance during times of medically related hardship. When illness strikes, the Maria Love Fund is a quality-of-life saving safety net, helping to pay for high cost medication co-pays, durable medical goods, transportation to medical appointments, and assistance for rent, utilities, and basic human needs when surgeries or medical treatments strain financial resources.

Impact

Today, the Fund provides more than \$120,000 in financial assistance directly to more than 600 individuals with medically related conditions who meet the Fund's criteria for aid.