

## LOVE NOTES



Spring 2017

### A Note From the Executive Director and President

The Maria Love Convalescent Fund continues to make a difference in the lives of so many individuals in our community. We currently serve over nine hundred Erie County residents yearly through more than one hundred agencies. The gratitude we encounter with these personal thanks is so precious. Giving a hand up to those in need is truly rewarding.

Most recently, an elderly woman shared her gracious thanks for the sixty-nine dollar microwave that Maria Love purchased. Having never owned a stove or a microwave, she is now able to accept a provided meal to be reheated. After learning to use the appliance, the social worker sent us a photo – the smile on her face captured it all.

An eighty-nine year old man living on a fixed income needed support with medication management. For less than seventy dollars, Maria Love purchased a medication dispenser for him. His family wrote to say thank you and noted that the purchase changed their lives and allowed them to effectively monitor his medications.

The needs of individuals in our community are many and constant. We are continually grateful for the support from those who believe in the mission of Maria Love, no matter how large or small the contribution. Thanks to generous donors through our 110<sup>th</sup> Capital Campaign and increasingly successful fundraisers, the Charity Ball and Spring Luncheon, we have been able to steadily increase monthly distributions. In the early seventies distributions were a modest thirty dollars a month; and in the past fifteen years we have doubled our investment in the community to more than \$10,000 monthly, providing critical funding for those who have nowhere else to turn. This year the Finance Committee recommended moving our financial portfolio to The Community Foundation of Buffalo, a great partner and advocate for non-profit organizations.

Maria Love is a unique organization, fully driven by our devoted volunteer board of fifty or more women who provide strong leadership to support our efforts. All of the funds raised stay in our community; approval for requests such as necessary prescriptions or a walker upon hospital discharge can be fulfilled the same day.

The Maria Love Fund gratefully accepts donations throughout the year. If you are interested in learning more about the opportunities to make a gift, or include the fund in your planned giving, please contact us.

Very truly yours,  
Nancy Stevens & Pamela Catipovic



*Committed to the mission of Maria M. Love, Pamela Marcucci, legacy board member, continues the family tradition of community service and helping those in need. Pictured standing are Mrs. Linda Wadsworth (left), Pamela Marcucci (right), seated Mrs. Betty Kittinger.*

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Executive Director

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# Monthly Distributions and Special Grants From The Maria M. Love Convalescent Fund

PAMELA MARCUCCI & BETH GOLEBIEWSKI

Each month, the Maria M. Love Convalescent Fund (Maria Love Fund) makes allocations totaling about \$10,000 to Erie County residents at the request of their social service agencies in areas that are not covered by traditional sources including:

- Convalescent care aids and adaptive equipment such as light up doorbells for the deaf and walkers for the elderly.
- Medication or pharmaceutical supplies such as prescription payments for individuals in crisis.
- Medical-related transportation such as cab fare to get someone to a critical doctor's appointment and moving costs for a stair lift for an elderly woman with severe osteoporosis.
- Food or specialized dietary needs such as feeding lessons for a girl with behavioral issues.
- Utilities such as security deposits and heat.

In addition to these monthly allocations to individuals, each year, the Maria Love Fund awards Special Grants to a variety of social service agencies in Erie County for particular projects. The requests and awards are diverse and have a unique impact upon the agency. Here are some past projects that have received funding from Maria Love's Special Grants:

- *The Kevin Guest House* offered 24 overnight stays at its healthcare hospitality house. It offers a home away from home for families with loved ones in the hospital. It was the first independent healthcare hospitality house in the country.

- The physically disabled will be able to enjoy an accessible playground at *The Heritage Center Maryvale Campus* once it's completed this spring. The children have a broad range of disabilities and the grant was put towards the multi-sensory equipment.



Maryvale campus playground

- Baby and toddler Sign Language Classes are offered by *Deaf Access Services* through the grant. It is a much-needed service in the community and teaches the youngest deaf children a way to communicate.

- Touch Stream devices offer independence to residents of *The Heritage Christian Centers*. The device reminds them to take medication, do required tasks, and even sends out a message to care givers who may need to check on the resident's medical condition. All of these occur without intrusion from the staff.

- Sensory equipment such as kinetic sand, body-hugging beanbags, maracas and a waterproof, LED light-changing Genesis Egg are available for five after-school respite programs for children with sensory deficits at *People, Inc.* All of the items are used daily.



Afterschool Respite Program at People Inc.

- *The Mental Health Association* used the grant to send some of their clients to a summer camp specifically for children with Mental Health disorders at the Heritage Center. The parent of a child camper explained that there aren't as many options available for these children. However, her child was able to attend and had a very positive experience as a result of the grant.

The Maria Love Fund would also like to acknowledge and thank the Cameron and Jane Baird Foundation for its generous donation. It will go into the Love Fund and be used for more Special Grants in 2017.

## Another Successful Charity Ball

113TH ANNUAL CHARITY BALL

Over 2,200 middle and high school students attended Maria Love's Charity Ball in December 2016. The Charity Ball, the largest fundraiser for Maria Love, now in its 114<sup>th</sup> year, accounts for almost 80 percent of its total revenue. It netted \$184,000 in 2016, a five percent increase over the previous year. These funds will be used to directly affect the lives of people in need in Erie County. The main reason for the increased revenue was the growth in the number of angel tickets sold. These higher priced tickets provide supporters with the opportunity to buy tickets before the regular tickets go on sale.

The Charity Ball, which involves hundreds if not thousands of volunteer hours, has been chaired for the past two years by Liz Conron. When asked why she agreed to take it on for a second time in 2016, Liz responded, "Chairing the event has allowed me to have a direct role in ensuring a good



Charity Ball 2016

time was had by all students. Most of all, chairing this event has allowed me to participate, with my fellow board members, in helping those in need. This is not just a dance. This is an event that changes lives, for the better. It is so rewarding and worth every volunteer hour ten times over."

### THANKING OUR DEDICATED SUPPORTERS

The Charity Ball could not happen without the support of a range of



Steve Kellogg

volunteers who are not part of the board. These include the iconic announcement of the opening dancers by Steve Kellogg and Mrs. Martha Malkiewicz, who prepares our young dancers for the opening dance. Other volunteer positions include the ushering duties by board members' children as well as chaperoning by member's husbands.

## Maria M. Love

A SOCIAL SERVICES PIONEER

Maria M. Love worked unwaveringly on behalf of those less fortunate in the Buffalo community during the late 19th century and early part of the 20th century. She established and ran the first day care center in the United States. The Fitch Crèche, as it was known, was designed to care for children of working mothers and served as a model that was copied around the country. Recognizing that many women had difficulty finding work, the Crèche also created a "labor bureau" that provided them with employment opportunities.

In 1903, Maria M. Love, organized a group of 31 Buffalo women on the Crèche's Advisory Board to raise funds and implement a program of convalescent respite care for poor mothers and their children. This was the beginning of the Maria M. Love Convalescent Fund, which continues today.

Demonstrating thinking that was years ahead of its time, Maria Love recognized that healthy, educated children are the key to future prosperity. The Crèche provided children with meals, clothing, baths, naps, physical exams, play time, and instruction. Maria Love was the Executive Director of the Crèche for 50 years and visited it every day until she was 90 years old.



## The Annual Spring Luncheon

Save the date for Maria M. Love's Annual Spring Luncheon to be held on Thursday, May 11, 2017. The luncheon brings together over 200 women at the Country Club of Buffalo for conversation, shopping and a delicious lunch. The luncheon features a combination of raffle and auction during which the guests buy raffle tickets and place them in bags next to items ranging from fashion accessories including purses, sunglasses, and gloves to gift certificates to gyms, restaurants, and spa services. At the end of the lunch, one ticket is pulled from each bag and the items are awarded to the winners. The luncheon also features a silent auction with high-end items from local boutiques and designers. As with all Maria Love activities, proceeds from the luncheon are used to provide short-term emergency financial assistance to Erie County residents with qualifying medical conditions whose needs are not met through traditional sources.



*Spring Luncheon and Auction*  
**THE COUNTRY CLUB OF BUFFALO**  
 to download invitation visit [www.marialovefund.org](http://www.marialovefund.org)

Sponsorship opportunities for the Luncheon are available. (See below) 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. Please contact co-chairs, Angela McLellan-Desai ([mclllandesai@gmail.com](mailto:mclllandesai@gmail.com)) or Melissa Jerge ([jjerge1643@aol.com](mailto:jjerge1643@aol.com)) for more information.

*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

**SAVE THE DATE**

**114th Annual Charity Ball**

**DECEMBER 8, 2017**

Buffalo Niagara Convention Center

For updates and information about the Maria M. Love Convalescent Fund, visit our website:

[www.marialovefund.org](http://www.marialovefund.org)

*Celebrating over 100 years*

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.

visit us on facebook!

