



Spring and new beginnings...

Dear Friends,

Recently, someone said to me, "I thought Community of Caring was closed." Well, we had been closed for six weeks, but now we are open. God was with us every step of the way as we got ready to open. I can say with great enthusiasm, "WE ARE BACK." We are providing shelter for 24 men at the main shelter and 19 women at Mary Rose Sanctuary. We serve breakfast, lunch, and dinner to our residents. Those in the community who are hungry can come each day for breakfast and lunch and dinner on Saturdays. Our food pantry is open on East 21st St. for those in our area on Wednesday and Friday. Each Tuesday from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon we are open for our Diabetic Food Pantry for anyone one in the community with diabetic food needs.

Each day brings us challenges but also new blessings. "And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Jesus Christ." Thomas is blessed because he got a job, and it will be only a matter of a month that he will be out on his own. Desiree is now at a recovery center where she is working on the trauma that has caused her constant relapses. Connor has moved on but comes by each week to help cut the grass.

We would love to have you help us meet our needs. Volunteering at Community of Caring will be a blessing to you. You can help in the kitchen, help with gardening, or sit and chat with one of the residents, just to name a few. Call us and we can make it happen.

Let homelessness be an issue that we are all concerned about. Let us work together to help Community of Caring be the Sanctuary for those who are without a home --- and need a place to come to rest --- heal --- and grow.

We appreciate your support and please know how much of a blessing you are to us and the ones we serve.

Counting our blessings,

Christine Tombaugh
Interim Executive Director

About Community of Caring

Spring is always a time to think of new beginnings and fresh starts and that is what COC has been doing for over **40 years**.

Community of Caring is an Emergency Shelter that opened in 1980 under the guidance and compassionate heart of **Mother Mary Beth Kennedy**.

Mother Kennedy saw the need in our community to serve the vulnerable men and women that are homeless.

Her biggest contribution was her "legacy of love" and her belief that **"love could change the world."**

Many of the individuals that come to Community of Caring have suffered some form of trauma and may suffer from mental illness or some type of addiction.

This population is underserved in the community, and they find it challenging to find appropriate shelter accommodations.

Mary Rose Sanctuary is the program created for women, and we have a separate shelter for the men.

Services provided by Community of Caring range from **providing shelter, food, clothing** and helping the residents identify their individual needs.

Domains of **housing, physical health, mental health, financial stability, employability** are all looked at so proper referrals can be made to connect the residents with mainstream resources.

By the Numbers



Unduplicated Served
211 Men 146 Women
18,675 Meals served
10,820 Shelter beds

Community of Caring Shout Out

Community of caring has much to be proud of and wants you to meet two of our shining stars



“Remarkable Women”

Community of Caring is proud to recognize our Board Member, Colleen Hammon as being the 2023 winner of The Remarkable Women Award.

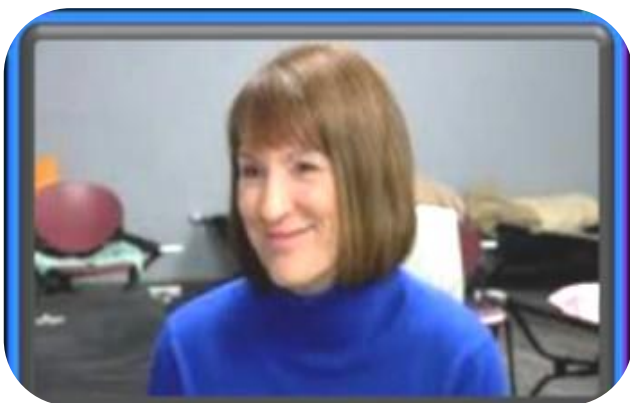
“Remarkable Women” is part of a nationwide Nexstar Media initiative to honor the influence that women have had on public policy, social progress, and the quality of life. As stated in the article by Jennifer Mobilia of WJET News,

“Colleen has made it her life’s work, her mission to help Erie’s homeless. She sees the people who are invisible to so many others.”

Colleen has been a true gift to the Community of Caring and continues her devotion to the mission of Mother Mary Beth Kennedy by serving the vulnerable men and women that are homeless.

Those of us at Community of Caring have known for years that Colleen is a “Remarkable Woman,” and now it is nice to see her being nationally recognized for being who she is. Colleen lights up the room every time she walks in. Her smile puts everyone at ease, and she makes everyone she meets feel listened to and valued.

Retired after 32 years in the Mental Health field, Colleen still serves on numerous boards, but feels her real calling is to “walk with people in need.”



COLLEEN HAMMON

MAY 2023

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

TIMEREE RICKERT



Timi started her journey here at Community of Caring on Nov. 23, 2021. She has always been a rising star, extremely caring and supportive to both the residents and the staff.

Timi always goes above and beyond as she did with a lady named Paula that came to Community of Caring for help. Paula was shuffled from place to place and by the time she got to Community of Caring she was exhausted and frustrated. Paula needed more medical care than the Community of Caring could provide. Timi went into action and with the help of other service providers found the right place for Paula. Timi showed Paula genuine compassion as she consoled her, telling her that we would make sure she had the right place to go. For all these reasons, Timi was an easy pick for **Community of Caring’s May 2023 Employee of the Month.**

COC Administrative Team

Interim Executive Director – Christine Tombaugh

Director of Development – Maureen Dunn

Director of Operations – Jerome Williams

Team Leader – Vannisha Fleming

Team Leader - Randall Harris

Administrative Assistant – Michelle Blanchard

Thank you!



SERVIERIE

ServErie is a volunteer mobilization organization serving Erie, PA. Their goal is to connect volunteers with existing agencies such as Community of Caring.

We were blessed to have ServErie volunteers come to Community of Caring's Dayenu House on April 22, 2023, to spend that rainy Saturday beautifying our property.



MEMORIALS

Community of Caring wants to express our sympathy as well as appreciation to the families of two amazing women that were devoted supporters of Community of Caring:
Cynthia Manna and Betty Beck-Blatner.

Cynthia Manna passed away in February of 2020. Cynthia was a kind and gentle woman who was on our board for many years, and she spent her life doing good for others. Community of Caring was privileged to receive Cynthia's generosity of time and prayers up until the time of her death. Our residents are continuously blessed by Cynthia, as Community of Caring was fortunate to be remembered in her Estate.

Betty Beck-Blatner passed away in February 2023. Betty had a long history with Community of Caring as Betty was one of the first Board Members. Betty was known for her open heart and open-door policy, especially during the Holidays. She was happy to include guests at her family gatherings that would otherwise be alone. Betty will be remembered for her strength of character, graciousness, humor, resilience, and compassion, and she used these rare gifts to be a source of encouragement to all she knew. Betty was generous to Community of Caring even in her passing, as Community of Caring was designated as the recipient of memorial gifts.

Both Cynthia and Betty led lives of joyful service and were a blessing to all who knew them.

How You Can Help

Party with a Purpose

Host a party with family, friends or coworkers to support and raise money for Community of Caring.

If you are having a birthday, anniversary or graduation, in lieu of gifts, consider asking your guests to make a donation to Community of Caring.

Donate

Bedding
Toiletries
Clothing
Outerwear
Cleaning Supp.
Office Supplies
Kitchen Supp.

Please contact Michelle at 814-456-6661 for more information

Volunteer

Food Servers
Painters
Yard Work
Maintenance
Small Projects
Mailing
Misc.

'Fresh Start' Bags

The women that come to us, come with almost nothing. Most are coming from the streets, overnight shelters or fleeing domestic violence. We provide Fresh Start bags at intake, which include clean clothing and hygiene products; having them readily available is critical. Consider donating items for our "Fresh Start" bags.

Community of Caring
245 E. 8th St.
Erie, PA 16503

COC BOARD MEMBERS

Gary Carver, Chair
Colleen Hammon, Vice Chair
James McCormack
Robert McNutt
Carol Mosko
Jorie Novacek, Secretary/Treasurer
Elizabeth Rooks
Attorney Nathan Venesky

Our Mission

*We meet basic
human needs in
a caring way!*

SAVE THE DATE

Erie Gives

Tuesday, August 8, 2023



The Erie Community Foundation connects donors to causes that matter to them. Erie Gives is the one day when everyone can be a philanthropist with a gift of just \$25 or more. You can donate to Community of Caring on August 8, 2023, from 8am - 8pm at eriegives.org.

Crop Walk

Sunday, September 24, 2023



The CROP Hunger Walk is a nationwide movement sponsored by Church World Service to raise funds to end hunger and poverty in all communities. Community of Caring has been blessed to benefit from this walk.

Get your team together and join us on Sunday, September 24, 2023.

Bingo

Saturday, October 7, 2023



Community of Caring is excited to announce our 1st Purses & Prizes Bingo Fundraiser!

- Location: JPTF: 2319 W. 38th St.
- Date: Saturday, October 7
- Time: Doors open at 1 P.M.
- Bingo: Starts at 3 P.M.

Get your friends together and spend the afternoon having fun and supporting a wonderful cause.