

2019 Annual Report



Board of Directors

President

Michael Lewis, Ph.D.

Kenmore-Tonawanda Union
Free School District

Finance Committee Chair

Vacant

Secretary

Hon. Kathleen Gariano

Niagara Co. Family Court Judge

Treasurer

Pamela Gatto

Retired

Rev. Lora Allen

Niagara Co. Board of Elections

Susan Green

Retired

Rev. Richard Hague

Mount Erie Baptist Church

Michael Henry

Retired

Dr. Hanan Ismail

MED-VAR

Daniel McMann

Niagara University

Rev. Kathleen Ordiway

J.A. Brundage

John Percy

Destination Niagara USA

Christopher Sheffield

Niagara University

Kim Wisor

Northwest Bank

Henry Wojtaszek, Esq.

Western Regional Off-Track
Betting, Batavia Downs

A Message from our President & CEO

Dear Friends:

Having the opportunity to review the annual report before its release to others gives me the chance to reflect on the abundance of services the agency provides as well as how the organization has grown since my employment with Community Missions began in September 1977. CMI has served thousands of individuals during these past 43 years and provided hundreds of thousands of meals and nights of care in our emergency shelter and food pantry.

The impact that CMI has on the Niagara Frontier continues to be important and significant. For our 95 years, the agency has provided housing for the homeless, food for those who are food insecure, and direct and support services for youth and those with mental health challenges.

While 2019 has provided challenges to the agency as sadly, need continues to grow; it has also given us the opportunity to celebrate the successes that occur when housing is found, employment is secured and food is more plentiful. I invite you to review these successes and learn a little more personally about the good work this dedicated staff supports for those we serve. Your support is what make much of this possible. May God continue to bless CMI through your care and compassion in the coming years.



Robyn L. Krueger, President & CEO



About Community Missions

Established in 1925, Community Missions of Niagara Frontier, Inc. is dedicated to providing individuals and families with an opportunity to discover and find their place in the world. With 19 human service programs offered to individuals and families, our services focus on helping vulnerable people reach their full potential.

Working together with the community, we can help to provide those in need with the resources to implement change for a brighter future. Our goal is to not only meet the basic needs of food, shelter, and clothing, but to transform lives. We do this work through programs based in four divisions, Crisis & Community Services, Mental Health Housing Services, Mental Health Recovery Services, and Youth Services.

Our Mission

Community Missions of Niagara Frontier, Inc. is a community-based, independent, non-profit, religious service agency providing residential and support services to persons and families in need without regard to race, sex, religion, or national origin; in a way that the persons or families served are respected for and can ultimately fulfill their maximum potential.

Our Vision

Through a process of self-determination and independence, Community Missions provides individuals and families with opportunities to discover and find their place in the world.

Our Values

Respect

Conduct that demonstrates regard for an individual's path of self-determination

Spirituality

Our belief is that everyone benefits from spiritual growth; and while the Agency's moral vision is specifically Christian, we provide opportunities and linkages that will enhance a person's spiritual growth and wholeness in the faith/spiritual tradition of choice.

Teamwork

Collaboration amongst all parties designed to creatively and professionally support positive and measurable outcomes

Compassion

Awareness of and empathy for challenges that do not define a person but lead to an opportunity of growth and development

Integrity

A foundation grounded in the dignity of all persons characterized by an atmosphere of trustworthiness, honesty, and a sincere desire for excellence and ethical behavior

Commitment

Assuring the development and implementation of strength-based interventions, communications, and practices that promote individualized and comprehensive services that are resourceful and effective

Responsibility

Accountable and reliable behavior and actions that display a commitment to identify and enhance each person's self-defined potential

From Our Statement of Faith

“As a Christian agency, our chosen role in terms of religion and faith is to express our belief that everyone benefits from spiritual growth. We will provide resources, programs, and community linkages, without proselytizing, that will enhance spiritual growth and wholeness in the faith/spiritual tradition of an individual's choice and support them as they seek to grow in that tradition.”



Executive Staff

Robyn Krueger
President & CEO

Joseph Sbarbati
Associate Director

Grant Babcock
Director of Operations

Sandy Brandon
Director of Human Resources
& Compliance

Rev. Mark Breese
Director of Ministry &
Community Partnerships

Marilee Clark
Director of Youth Services

Yvonne Clark
Director of Mental Health
Recovery Services

Christian Hoffman
Director of Public Relations
and Development

Lisa Malinowski
Director of Mental Health
Housing Services

Natalie Mosley
Director of Finance

Programs

- Emergency Housing
- Community Kitchen
- Food Pantry
- Clothes Closet
- Furniture Giveaway
- Mark's Place
- Parole Re-Entry
- Rapid Re-Housing

Did You Know?

* According to the most recent US Census data, 49% of Niagara Falls residents live with an income below 200 percent of poverty level, for which a family of three would be \$42,660.

* The federal poverty level for a family of three is \$21,330, and for a family of four is \$25,750. In Niagara Falls, 38.8% of families with children fall below this.

Crisis & Community Services

Dating back to its founding in 1925, Community Missions has been a source of help for the vulnerable populations of Niagara Falls and Niagara County. Crisis & Community Services is dedicated to restoring the fundamental basic human needs of food, shelter, clothing, and safety to all persons and families in crisis in a way that assists beyond the immediate need and seeks to empower people through respect and caring to gain human dignity, personal accountability, and self-sufficiency.

Today, these programs make Community Missions the largest private provider of basic human needs in Niagara County. Current offerings include housing and assistance for individuals experiencing homelessness (to also include individuals recently released from incarceration and those with HIV/AIDS), and wraparound services for community members that may be struggling to make ends meet (including help with food, clothing, and furniture.)



13,142
Nights of Shelter



112,562
Meals for the
Hungry



148
Individuals
Recently
Released from
Incarceration



5,085
Visits to the
Clothes Closet



315
Families Served
in Furniture
Giveaway



When he retired in 2013, Angelo Sarkees began developing an idea he had always harbored, wanting to collect bottles and cans in order to donate the deposits to local food pantries. Since the time his Deposits 4 Food initiative began, he has collected more than \$80,000 that he has donated to Community Missions, Heart Love & Soul, and the Ransomville Food Pantry.

Pictured with Community Missions' Associate Director Joe Sbarbati (left) and former Heart Love & Soul Director Sister Beth Brosmer (center), Mr. Sarkees collects bottles, cans, scrap metal, and other donations to add to his total. His tireless commitment to the community is an inspiration, and a true embodiment of our tagline, Compassion In Action.

Youth Services

Youth Services serves the local at-risk, troubled, emotionally disturbed, and homeless populations of youth under the age of 21. Staff provide a professional, nurturing, and supportive structure to allow youth and their families to achieve the most desirable and appropriate level of family reintegration, while providing guidance and encouragement for youth to recognize their full potential and to accept responsibility for their decisions and actions.

The programs offered through Youth Services feature an array of target populations. Aurora House serves up to eight youth diagnosed as severely emotionally disturbed in a residential setting in Eastern Niagara County. Girls Circle provides after-school programming to young women in grades 5-8 in the Niagara Falls City School District. Family Solutions Program provides family counseling sessions in both Niagara Falls and Lockport, while Juvenile Supported Case Management (JSCM) works with the Niagara County Department of Social Services to provide service coordination, supervision and support to youth ages 10-17.



2,058
Days of Care at
Aurora House



684
Girls Circle
Sessions



93
Family Solutions
Program Sessions



652
JSCM Face-to-
Face Contacts



In October 2019, a group from Leadership Niagara raised funds to support Aurora House, and arranged a workday to help beautify the facility. While landscaping was done outside, a mural was also painted in the basement as part of a calming area for residents.

Programs

- **Aurora House - Youth Community Residence**
- **Family Solutions Program (FSP)**
- **Juvenile Supported Case Management (JSCM)**
- **Girls Circle**

Did You Know?

- * On October 1, 2018, the first phase of the Raise the Age law took effect in New York State, as the state no longer automatically charges all 16-year-olds as adults.
- * Nearly 28,000 16 and 17-year olds are arrested and face the possibility of prosecution as adults in criminal court each year – the vast majority for minor crimes (72% are misdemeanors).

Programs

- **Hansen House - Supervised Community Residence**
- **Canal View - Supervised Community Residence**
- **Apartment Treatment Program**
- **Supportive Housing**

Did You Know?

- *It is believed that at least one quarter of America's homeless are seriously mentally ill, while 45% had some form of mental illness.*
- *Fifty percent of Americans will meet the criteria for a diagnosable mental health condition sometime in their life, while half of those people will develop conditions by the age of 14.*

Mental Health Housing Services

Mental Health Housing Services (CHOICES) provides an enriching and supportive living environment for those who experience mental illness. The goal of all its programs is to assist residents/tenants in reaching their maximum potential for independent living.

Its programs are transitional in nature (with the exception of Supportive Housing, which is permanent) and have a recovery focus. Clients are expected to participate with program staff in developing a service plan and working on goals and objectives that will assist them in living successfully in the community.

CHOICES provides an alternative to prospective residents/tenants who may benefit from more independent living. These services include a pair of Supervised Community Residences in Canal View (12-bed facility in North Tonawanda), and Hansen House (10-bed facility in Niagara Falls). Other programs include a 62-bed Apartment Treatment Program, which has 30 beds on-site in Niagara Falls and 32 beds in the community, and a Supportive Housing program that assists up to 135 individuals living in the Niagara County community of their choice.



4,039
Days of Care at
Canal View



3,498
Days of Care at
Hansen House



17,677
Days of Care
in Apartment
Treatment



47,236
Days of Care
Supportive
Housing



In October 2019, Community Missions hosted its Ninth Annual Interfaith Community Prayer Service for Mental Illness Recovery & Understanding at First Congregational United Church of Christ. This event is part of Mental Illness Week, a national event designed to raise public awareness about mental illness and break down the stigma that too often discourages people from seeking help when needed.

At the 2019 event, representatives from Christian, Jewish, Sikh, and Native American communities spoke to offer hope, support, and encouragement to those touched by mental illness. Pictured is Rev. Joseph L. Levesque, C.M. – President Emeritus, Niagara University.

Mental Health Recovery Services

Mental Health Recovery Services is dedicated to providing a recovery-oriented, community-based and restorative environment for people experiencing the effects of psychiatric challenges. Mental Health Recovery Services believes that individuals with mental illness have the potential and can with proper support, encouragement, opportunity, and time, look forward to and achieve a fuller participation in community life.

The division currently operates four unique programs. Niagara Visions PROS is a day program located in Niagara Falls for as many as 105 individuals with mental illness, where they achieve self-directed goals. Respite services are offered in Niagara Falls and Lockport, where they are co-located at Hope House, a hospital diversion program serving Eastern Niagara County. Hope House also houses a Recovery (Warm) Line, providing face-to-face meetings and/or phone support to prevent the onset of an emotional crisis. Transportation Services provide for the transit of individuals with psychiatric challenges within Niagara County for day programs, medical and rehabilitation appointments, and other necessary stops.



18,667

Visits to Niagara
Visions PROS



1,441

Days of Care in
Respite Services



1,548

Visits to
Hope House



10,878

Phone Calls to
Hope House



11,439

Transports in
Transportation



In June 2019, Niagara Visions PROS held an art showing at Wine on Third in downtown Niagara Falls, featuring pieces created within the Art for Mental Health program at PROS.

The goal of PROS is to help individuals move beyond simply “managing” mental illness and toward living full, productive lives within the context of their own unique personal goals and aspirations.

Programs

- **Niagara Visions PROS**
- **Hope House - The Peer Recovery Respite Center**
- **Niagara Falls Respite Services**
- **Transportation**

Did You Know?

- *One in five American adults will have a diagnosable mental health condition in any given year.*
- *Fifty percent of Americans will meet the criteria for a diagnosable mental health condition sometime in their life, while half of those people will develop conditions by the age of 14.*

Central Services

Central Services at Community Missions incorporate all of the functions that serve the entire agency and its programs. These include functions like Finance, Human Resources, Fundraising, Public Relations, Volunteer Management, and Faith & Community Partnerships.

Community Missions believes in caring for the whole person. This includes providing assistance and care for spiritual needs. To meet the agency's aim of nurturing and supporting spiritual wholeness in those we serve and our staff, faith opportunities are integrated into all CMI program areas. To accomplish this, we strive to create voluntary and meaningful opportunities to promote spiritual wholeness. These efforts are supported by our full-time Agency Minister, who provides pastoral and theological leadership in matters of faith and religion across CMI.

Volunteer opportunities at Community Missions include those lasting one day, one week, ongoing, or something in between. Throughout the year, Community Missions entertains many different groups and hundreds of individuals looking to give back to their community in a meaningful way. In addition, high school youth groups and college groups visit Community Missions several times each year, looking to combine community service and a fun sightseeing trip.



77
Ministry
Partnerships



192
Faith
Development
Opportunities



1,642
Volunteers



16,463
Volunteer Hours



Local community groups are always welcome to volunteer! This group volunteered as part of the Sunday Cabaret, which typically brings together two churches or community groups to prepare a meal and a program for anyone interested on the last Sunday night of the month.



In 2019, Gardens of Compassion enjoyed its seventh year of bringing together community members and program participants for fun weekly gardening. The program is held at St. James United Methodist Church in partnership with CMI's Niagara Visions PROS and Faith Services.

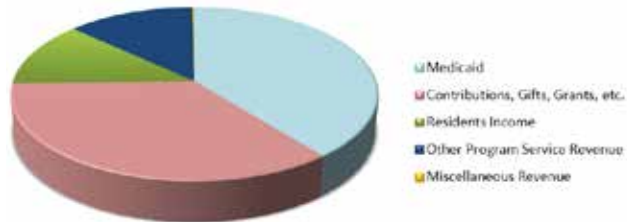


Groups like this Alternative Break trip from Saginaw Valley State University (Mich.) regularly visit Community Missions from out of the area, combining sightseeing and community service.

2019 Financials

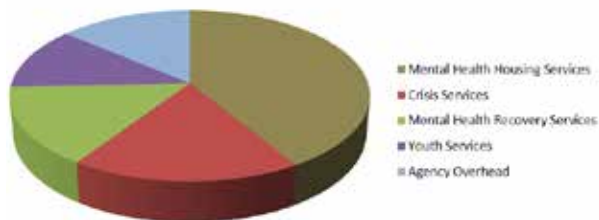
Revenue Sources

Medicaid	\$ 2,821,884
Contributions, Gifts, Grants, etc.	\$ 2,853,186
Residents Income	\$ 922,862
Other Program Service Revenue	\$ 994,411
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$ 9,433
Total Expenses	\$ 7,601,776



Expenses by Division

Mental Health Housing Services	\$ 3,223,277
Crisis Services	\$ 1,009,420
Mental Health Recovery Services	\$ 1,297,299
Youth Services	\$ 1,009,429
Agency Overhead	\$ 1,033,776
Total Expenses	\$ 7,573,201



2019 Events



Community Missions of Niagara Frontier, Inc.
1570 Buffalo Ave. • Niagara Falls, NY 14303-1599

(716) 285-3403

www.CommunityMissions.org

#CompassionInAction

