

2016 Annual Report



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

Phone: (716) 285-3403 • Fax: (716) 285-0616 • Web: www.CommunityMissions.org

The artwork shown was composed by a participant within the Niagara Visions PROS Art Therapy program.

Community Missions of Niagara Frontier, Inc.

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From the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Each year, our Annual Report gives readers an opportunity to reflect on the previous year as we take a snapshot of all that was accomplished. My hope is that by reading through these pages, you will see that the stories represent only a brief sampling of the lives affected and people involved with our agency every day.

I am so grateful to serve as the Executive Director of an agency that impacts the lives of so many individuals and families. Donors and volunteers have faith that their dollars and time spent helping CMI impact those who need it most. It goes without saying that this work is only made possible by the dedication of the CMI staff and Board Members, as well as the countless community partners that we have the privilege of working alongside daily.

Without a doubt, the best part of my job is hearing from those we serve about how their experience at Community Missions has enabled them to fulfill their dreams and goals—many they thought would never be possible. These range from a more independent living situation, to new jobs, and to community engagements that enrich their lives. They are each a testament to the power of the collaboration embraced between themselves and the CMI staff and between Community Missions and our partners across Niagara County.

The past year was filled with successes and challenges and yet, the many wonderful opportunities to help those that find their way to our doors as part of their life's journey. We look forward to continued successes in 2017, and say a special thank you for the contributions of all of our supporters!



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robyn".

Mission Statement

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.

From our Statement of Religion and 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.

About Community Missions, Inc.

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**.

My Experience...

...receiving services from Community Missions - Larry Diamond



Growing up in Niagara Falls, Larry Diamond had heard of Community Missions, but wasn't familiar with its services. After moving away, Larry returned to the area a few years ago.

A battle with depression led to a stay at Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center's Behavioral Health Center. While there, they talked to Larry about his discharge, and that Community Missions would be an option for him.

"I had been there for 11 days, and they made arrangements for me to come here. They had a cab waiting, but I said no, I'm walking! I didn't know what the shelter was, but what was in my head, I was walking and just dreading it. But when I walked in I saw Amanda was there greeting me. I walked into a beautiful place, and it was like two anvils were lifted off of my shoulders."

Larry began with the Mission in the Respite program. Today, he has an off-site apartment through the Apartment Treatment Program, and he attends Niagara Visions PROS in downtown Niagara Falls. "I'm climbing my way back up, and the Mission has been very helpful in helping me to take bigger steps than I would have taken if I had been on my own."

...joining Community Missions' Board of Directors - Pamela Gatto



As a long-time employee of the Department of Social Services (DSS) in Niagara County, Pamela Gatto was familiar with Community Missions throughout the many roles she filled in her 37 years there. Her dealings with the agency grew as she took on new responsibilities.

"In 1984 I moved to the Intake Unit, where I processed new applications for cash assistance. It was then that I truly came to learn just how vital CMI was to the community. As I moved up into various positions, I continued to rely on Community Missions and the work they did to assist me with my duties in serving the community. Once I became Director of Eligibility, I was fortunate to hire former Community Missions staff. They came with a true sense of devotion to helping the community and ready to help our clientele. I looked forward to meetings with CMI. I was always grateful for their assistance and happy to help in any way I could."

After her 2016 retirement, Pamela joined the agency's Board of Directors. "I feel honored to serve on the Board and help in any way that I can to assist the Mission with their tireless efforts helping people in the community. I take pride in helping those in need. I can honestly say I have not met a kinder, or more dedicated organization than the people at CMI."

...serving as a Vincentian Scholar at Community Missions - Reilley Larkin & Sunny Pechulis



In Fall 2016, Community Missions welcomed Vincentian Scholars from Niagara University to serve at the agency. The Vincentian Scholars Program is a community service-based leadership program for outstanding NU students following the model of St. Vincent de Paul. The program prescribes undergraduate students to volunteer 50 hours each semester to their assigned work sites, while maintaining a normal class load.

Reilley Larkin (on right in picture), a sophomore from Niagara Falls, and Sunny Pechulis (left), a freshman from Penfield, NY, have each volunteered throughout several programs at Community Missions recently. Reilley, who previously served in the St. Vincent dePaul Thrift Store as part of her Vincentian service, has worked primarily in Faith Services and Public Relations, while Sunny has volunteered in the food programs and Public Relations.

"What I found interesting here was working on all of the background things that you don't think about in helping people," said Reilly. "At the thrift store, I was cleaning, or sorting things, like you may think of doing to serve people. Here, it's working on the things that you can forget are necessary. Like how important it is to hand-write the addresses and thank you cards to partners, and how many requests have to go out before you start to see returns. Right now, we're working on sending a request to a publisher for Bibles for our study groups. It's been valuable to see that kind of service."

"I really enjoy being at the Mission," said Sunny. "It is much bigger than I imagined when I first started, but everyone is so welcoming, and it was great to see other people volunteering that are my age. Community Missions does so much in the community that people just don't know about; they help the people that need it most."

Crisis & Community Services - Established 1925

Crisis and Community Services serves those in need in Niagara County with a wide range of programs. Its programs are funded primarily through donors, grants and foundations.



● **Emergency Housing** provides shelter for those in need of temporary housing for a variety of reasons, including homelessness, fire, domestic violence, eviction, discharge from hospital, etc. The shelter offers rooms with bathrooms, and larger rooms are available for families. In 2016, **316 adults** and **65 children** received a total of **4,898 nights of care** through the Emergency Housing program!



● **The Community Soup Kitchen** serves lunch six days a week to hundreds of individuals in Niagara Falls. The program provides a nutritious, well-rounded meal in a clean and enjoyable environment. Guests are also able to take home breads, produce or other items provided by local stores and restaurants. Last year, the program served **30,095 meals** to those in need!



● **The Food Pantry** provides food for families to take home and prepare. The Food Pantry provides food monthly for families within its designated area, while emergency food is also available. Sources of food for the program include the Food Bank of Western New York, the Emergency Food & Shelter Program, individual donations, and food drives by local organizations. In 2016, **4,647 individuals** received **41,823 meals** through the Food Pantry!



● **The Clothes Closet & Furniture Giveaway** programs allow those in need to select clothes, household items and furniture free of charge. These programs rely on the donations of community members and local businesses. The Clothes Closet is open six days weekly, while Furniture Giveaway operates each Friday morning. Last year, **6,744 individuals** were served in the Clothes Closet, while **260 families** were served through Furniture Giveaway!



● **Mark's Place** is a transitional residence for HIV positive persons with an AIDS-specific diagnosis. The program is designed to facilitate advancement to permanent and independent housing within a limit of one year's time. Named after a leading benefactor, Mark's Place has served the community for more than 15 years! In 2016, **98 nights of care** were provided through Mark's Place!



● **Parole Re-Entry** helps those recently released from incarceration with their integration back into the community. The program's mission is to help bridge gaps within the system, aid in better communication and coordination between community agencies, enhance public safety and knowledge, and aid returning offenders in living a healthy, law-abiding life. Last year, Parole Re-Entry helped a total of **317 individuals**, providing **6,006 nights of care**!



● **The Adopt-A-Family Program** links the community with local families to ensure a happy Christmas season for all. The program solicits local businesses, church groups, service organizations, and community members to "adopt" one or more families, and provide gifts and food to make their holiday wishes come true! In 2016, this program provided food and presents to **117 families** and **300 children**!

Mental Health Housing Services - Established 1981

Mental Health Housing Services (CHOICES) serves adults with severe and persistent mental illness (SPMI). The goal of all CHOICES programs is to assist residents/tenants in reaching their maximum potential for independent living.



● **Supervised Community Residences** offer the most intensive level of care for clients needing skills training or a higher level of supervision. The residences include **Canal View** (located in North Tonawanda) and **Hansen House** (located in Niagara Falls). Last year, **17 adults** received **4,159 days of care** at Canal View and **15 adults** received **3,560 days of care** at Hansen House!



● **The Apartment Treatment Program** assists residents in refining the skills necessary to live independently. The program offers apartments located at a main complex in Niagara Falls for more intensive support and structure. Additional apartments are available throughout the community for those needing less support. In 2016, **74 adults** received **21,063 days of care** through this program!



● **Supported Housing** is a permanent housing option that provides affordable, independent housing for adults with psychiatric disabilities that desire stable housing with some staff support. Last year, **137 adults** were provided with **45,212 days of care** through this program!

Mental Health Recovery Services - Established 1982

Mental Health Recovery Services serves adults with severe and persistent mental illness (SPMI). Its programs are designed to assist those needing additional support to complete vocational, recreational, social, housing, and employment goals to maintain independence.



● **Niagara Visions PROS** (Personalized Recovery Oriented Services) is a comprehensive, recovery-oriented program for those with psychiatric disabilities. The program strives to integrate person-centered planning into each facet of its design, and supports goals as directed by the individual. In 2016, Niagara Visions PROS provided **132 adults** with **22,911 visits!**



● **Hope House-The Peer Recovery Respite Center** provides services to adults with an SPMI diagnosis for hospital diversion in Eastern Niagara County. Services include a recovery (warm) line, therapeutic support and intervention for adults in transition, and four respite beds for short-term use. Peer recovery services are utilized throughout the program. Last year, **172 adults** benefited from **1,769 visits and 9,996 phone calls** to the Center!



● **Niagara Falls Respite Services** provides emergency housing for adults with an SPMI diagnosis. It does so by offering support, encouragement and assistance to individuals on a short-term basis. In 2016, **99 adults** were provided with **1,320 days of care** through Respite Services!



● **The Transportation Program** provides rides to SPMI adults for appointments while also operating daily routes to and from CMI program sites in Niagara Falls, Lockport and North Tonawanda. Last year, **481 adults** were provided with **10,892 transports** through the program!

Youth Services - Established 1965

Youth Services serves the local at-risk, troubled, and emotionally disturbed youth populations of Niagara County



● **Aurora House** is a youth community residence located in Lockport. The facility provides complete care for eight youth, ages 12-17, that are diagnosed as severely emotionally disturbed (SED). The treatment period is estimated to be from 6 months to one year. Youth attend school, work, volunteer, activities, and appointments within the local community. Last year, **17 youth** received **1,881 days of care** at Aurora House!



● **Family Solutions Program (FSP)** delivers early intervention to at-risk youth and their families by working together in groups to strengthen family relationships and prepare youth for successful futures. FSP promotes group social support and community networking, positive parenting practices and skill-building. Last year, **11 families** graduated from FSP and participated in **108 group sessions!**



● **Juvenile Intensive Case Management (JICM)** is designed to provide intensive supervision and support to help juvenile probationers avoid further crime and violence. The program includes weekly group sessions, academic assistance, family support and counseling services, as well as recreation activities. A recent addition was a Supported Case Management program, designed for youth returning from out of home placements. In 2016, **25 youth** received **306 face-to-face contacts** and participated in **146 total hours of programming** through JICM!

Ministry and Community Partnerships - Established 1925



● **Ministry and Community Partnerships** offers opportunities and resources for religious, spiritual, and faith development to those the Mission serves, its staff and the community. These opportunities are developed both internally and in partnership with churches and community ministry groups. Ministry and Community Partnerships provides opportunities to help churches meet their own ministry goals through engagement with the Mission, and works to promote communication and cooperation among churches. In 2016, CMI conducted **182 faith activities through its 74 partnerships!**

Community Missions Hosts 24th Annual Compassion In Action Awards Brunch

Community Missions held its 24th Annual Compassion in Action Awards Brunch on May 25 to honor many of the volunteers and supporters that make its mission possible.

Hosted by The LaSalle Yacht Club, the brunch honors those that help the agency throughout the year, while also recognizing award winners from agency departments. In addition, a Director's Award is presented by Executive Director Robyn L. Krueger.

Approximately 120 attendees, including Robert Welch representing Senator Robert Ort, Risky Sanabria representing Assemblyman John Ceretto, and City of Niagara Falls Mayor Paul Dyster, honored the following award winners:



The 2016 Award Winners

Mental Health Housing Services (CHOICES) Award

Sr. Nora Sweeney, Mount St. Mary's Neighborhood Health Center

Mental Health Recovery Services Award

Ms. Robin Stroud, Niagara County Adult Protective Services

Youth Services (REACH) Award

Ms. Mary Len, LCSW

Crisis & Community Services Award

Ms. Angela Barraclough

Ministry and Community Partnerships Award

First Presbyterian Church of Youngstown and Rev. Rex Stewart

Public Relations/Fundraising Award

Mr. Michael Ryan

Public Relations/Media Award

Mr. Josh Maloni, Niagara Frontier Publications

Finance Award

Mr. Andy Pascarella, Lawley Insurance

Director's Award

LaSalle Yacht Club

Community Missions' Fourth Annual Giving Tuesday A Great Success!

For the fourth straight year, Community Missions joined thousands of organizations from across the world to participate in **#GivingTuesday**, an event encouraging people to take collaborative action to give back in better, smarter ways to the charities and causes they support. The event took place on November 29, the Tuesday after Thanksgiving.

The Mission partnered with numerous organizations and businesses to make the day a success. Among the initiatives accomplished for 2016 #GivingTuesday...

- Mayor Paul A. Dyster proclaimed the day as #GivingTuesday in the City of Niagara Falls, where *Community Missions* was joined by representatives from *Niagara University Alumni, Niagara Catholic, Power City Eatery, Third Street Retreat and The Village Bake Shoppe*.
- Approximately 100 members of the *Leadership for the Youth of Niagara County (LYNC)*, the high school division of Leadership Niagara, volunteered to spread holiday cheer throughout the Mission, decorating, wrapping presents, and working in the Soup Kitchen and Clothes Closet.
- Eight local restaurants participated in the Mission's Dining for Dollars program on #GivingTuesday, giving back a portion of their sales to Community Missions. This included *Rainforest Cafe, TGI Friday's, Niagara American Grill, Power City Eatery, Third Street Retreat, Submariners, The Village Bake Shoppe* and *Panera Bread*. This initiative raised over \$1,100!
- Seven students from Niagara University volunteered to serve breakfast to residents at the Mission, and arrived at 6:15 a.m. through the Vincentian Scholars program.
- More than 20 different stories ran across all media regarding the Mission's participation in #GivingTuesday. This included coverage by WGRZ TV-2, WIVB TV-4, WKBW TV-7, Time Warner Cable News, Buffalo Business First, Niagara Gazette, Niagara Frontier Publications, and WJLL 1440 AM.

The agency plans to again participate in the event in 2017, with the date set for Tuesday, November 28.



Just a few pictures from the busiest day of the year at Community Missions!

Isaiah 61 Lays New Floor in Community Missions' Main Lobby

In March, the lobby at Community Missions' main site received an upgrade thanks to a partnership between The Isaiah 61 Project and the Volunteer Generation Fund (VGF), managed by The Service Collaborative of WNY.

The Isaiah 61 Project provides 500 hours of free construction skills training to local residents. The primary means to facilitate this training is to have the students work on rehabilitating a house, however, this does not allow them to experience all of the skills necessary for a well-rounded training. The flooring project at Community Missions provided the students and instructors a chance for real-world, on-the-job training.

Funds to purchase the flooring were provided by the VGF, and the volunteer opportunity was advertised on its www.VolunteerWNY.org website. The students spent a week laying down the floor, which has provided the agency a much easier to clean solution for its highest traffic area.

In previous years, Isaiah 61 laid down floors in the Missions' four Food Pantry rooms around its #GivingTuesday events.



Gov. Cuomo Clears Way for CMI Duck Race at Canal Fest of the Tonwandas

In July, it was learned that the annual Duck Race, held by Community Missions at Canal Fest of the Tonwandas for the past several years, would not be allowed to continue, due to New York State Gaming laws, forbidding games of chance on state waterways, such as the Erie Canal.

In a whirlwind evening less than a week before the festival was to begin, Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo provided a way for Community Missions, and other such organizations throughout the state, to conduct such fundraisers legally.

"Each year, Community Missions' charitable duck race raises thousands of dollars to support the organization's important work for the city's most vulnerable populations," said Governor Cuomo. "After discussions with the New York State Gaming Commission, we've determined a lawful pathway for this popular event to take place on the Erie Canal this year and in the years ahead. The Commission has reached out to city officials and Community Missions to ensure the proper steps are taken so that the raffle may be legally conducted."

Focus on the event brought unprecedented media coverage and public attention to the event, and to Community Missions.



Gov. Cuomo inspects the ducks that he sponsored in Community Missions' 2016 Duck Race.

CMI & NFMCC Present Annual Community Prayer Service for Mental Illness

In October, Community Missions teamed with Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center for the sixth annual Community Prayer Service for Mental Illness Recovery and Understanding. The event was held on Oct. 5 at First Congregational United Church of Christ in Niagara Falls.

At the interfaith service, an array of religious leaders spoke regarding the understanding of, and hope of recovery, associated with mental illness from their various faith traditions. The event is designed to raise public awareness regarding the topic, and break down the stigma that too often discourages people from seeking help.

"There is a great deal of misunderstanding and fear about mental illness," said the Rev. Mark Breese, agency minister at Community Missions. "Many believe there is no hope for people with mental illness. But there is hope and we need to give that hope to families, friends, and neighbors who struggle with mental illness."

"This interfaith gathering gives our entire community an opportunity to show support for neighbors, friends and family members who are often unfairly stigmatized and misunderstood because they suffer from depression, anxiety or other forms of mental illness," said Memorial Medical Center President & CEO Joseph A. Ruffolo.



Fr. Joseph L. Levesque, President Emeritus at Niagara University, speaks at the Community Prayer Service.

Here Are Just Some of the 1,458 Volunteers at the Agency in 2016



Angelo Sarkees' Deposits For Food program, supported by Modern Corporation, produced donations throughout 2016 for several local food pantries.



Dan Kline from Niagara Falls Target store makes one of several donations in 2016.



Stephen Rhodenizer's Eagle Scout project included improvements to the Mission's community garden, and a massive toiletry drive for its Food Pantry program.



For several weeks each summer, Community Missions hosts teens from across the country that come to Niagara Falls for a week of service through YouthWorks.



The Sunday Cabaret kicked off its fifth season in September 2016, allowing Mission guests and community members to enjoy a monthly night of food and fellowship.



Gardens of Compassion enjoyed its fourth year in 2016 of joining Community Missions' consumers with community volunteers at St. James United Methodist Church.

2016 Fundraising Events

February 6 - Sweetheart Dinner



The 19th Annual Sweetheart Dinner, chaired by Joe & Jaime Ruggiero, was held at the Conference & Event Center Niagara Falls. The event raised over \$16,000!

May 8-June 19 - Parents' Day Campaign



The 11th Annual Parents' Day Campaign, a donation matching event which runs from Mothers' Day to Fathers' Day, raised over \$40,000!

April 30 - Walk for Niagara



The agency held its annual Walk for Niagara at Whirlpool State Park on April 30th. This event raised over \$7,000

June 8 - Par Fore A Mission Golf Classic



The 15th Annual Par Fore A Mission Golf Classic took place on June 8th at Seneca Hickory Stick Golf Course and raised over \$17,000!

July 23 - Canal Fest Duck Race



The Annual Duck Race of the Tonawandas was held on July 23rd on the Erie Canal in North Tonawanda. This event raised over \$5,000!

November 13 - Antiques Auction



Community Missions held its Sixth Annual Antiques Auction on November 13th at First Presbyterian Church of Youngstown. This event raised over \$4,000!

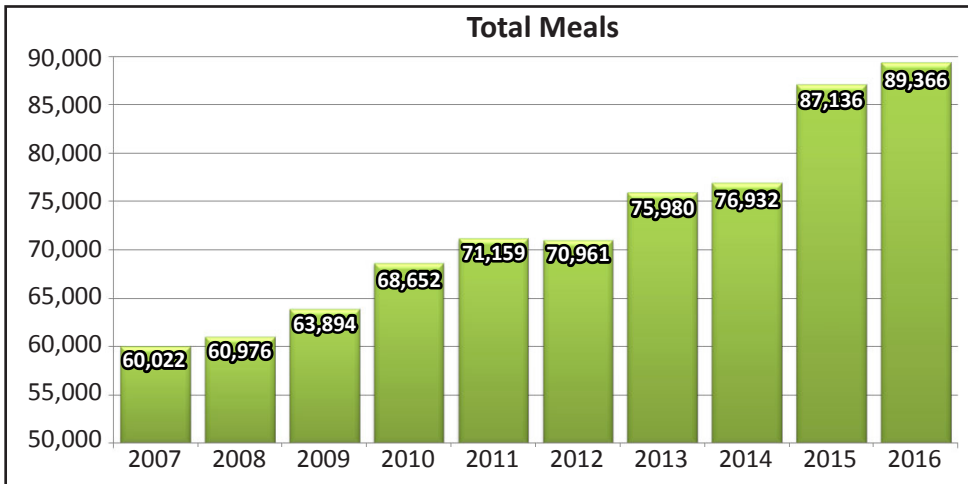
The Need Is Increasing!

Last year, Community Missions saw record numbers in several of its programs. While this fact is not surprising, it makes the reality of these numbers no less critical.

This increased demand has been shown in the Missions' Crisis & Community Services, as well as its programs focused on Mental Health. See below how the numbers of those utilizing the Mission's food programs, Crisis Housing and Niagara Visions PROS have risen dramatically in the past several years.

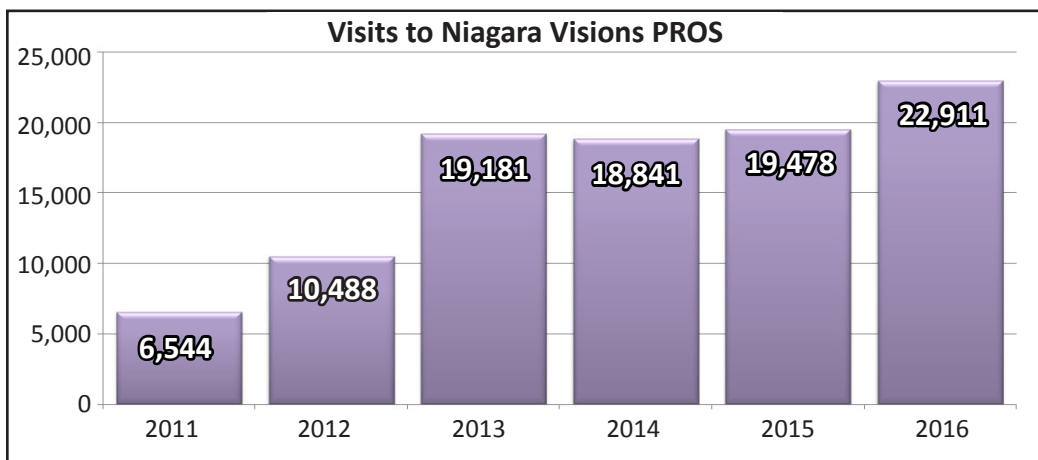
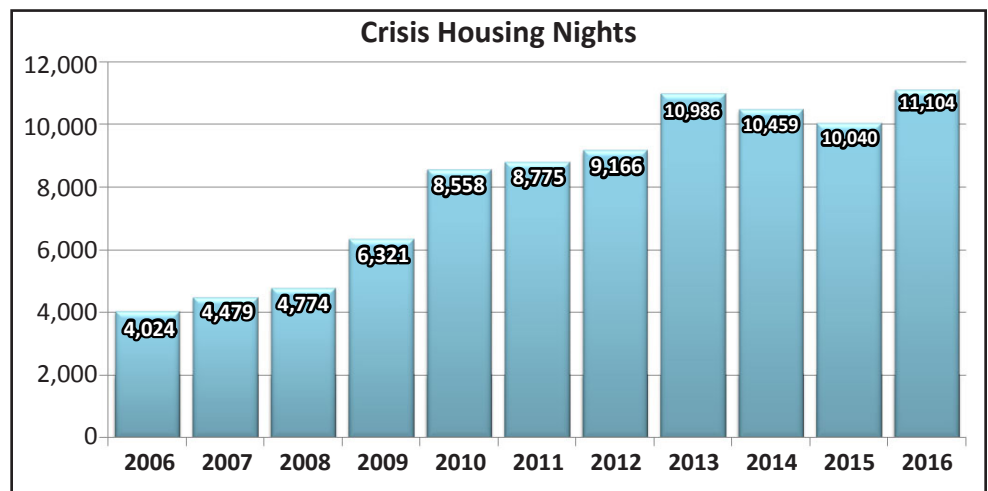
Did You Know?

- According to recent census numbers, **26.7%** of Niagara Falls' residents live below the poverty line, compared to **15.4%** of those living in New York and **13.5%** nationally.
- Niagara Falls' median household income registers just **\$31,560**, compared to **\$59,269** state-wide and **\$53,889** nationally.



The chart at left shows the increase in total meals provided by Community Missions, through its Community Soup Kitchen and Food Pantry over the past nine years. As is shown, this total has increased in nine of the past ten years, including a remarkable 26% increase in the past four years.

The chart at right shows the increased demand for crisis housing over the past 11 years. The chart shows a **176% increase over the past 11 years** in overall crisis housing nights.



The chart at left shows the increased demand in the Niagara Visions PROS program since it opened in 2011. This program provides recovery-based support to individuals with mental health concerns. This chart shows a **250% increase since 2011** in visits to the Niagara Visions PROS program.

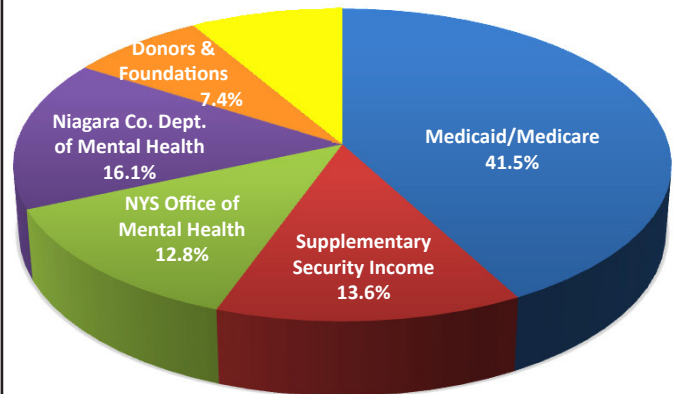
2016 Financial Breakdown

Revenue Sources

(unaudited)

Medicaid/Medicare	\$ 2,893,356
Niagara Co. Department of Mental Health	\$ 1,123,397
Supplemental Security Income	\$ 944,522
NYS Office of Mental Health	\$ 891,618
Private Donors and Foundation Grants	\$ 518,897
Niagara Co. Department of Social Services	\$ 286,485
Niagara Co. Probation Department	\$ 172,454
Rental Income	\$ 107,580
Family & Children's Service of Niagara	\$ 12,445
Emergency Food and Shelter Program	\$ 16,025
<u>Division of Parole Income</u>	<u>\$ 1,975</u>
Total Revenue	\$ 6,968,754

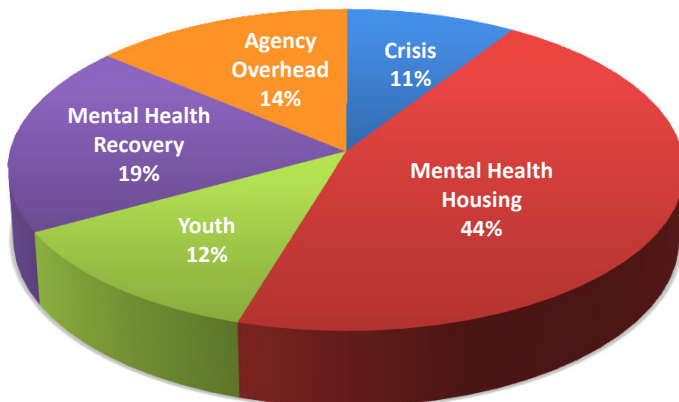
Distribution of Revenue Sources



The **yellow** portion represents an aggregate of the following:

- Niagara County Department of Social Services - 4.1%
- Niagara County Probation Dept. - 2.5%
- Rental Income - 1.5%
- Family & Childrens' Service of Niagara - 0.2%
- Emergency Food & Shelter Program - 0.2%
- Division of Parole Income - 0.1%

Distribution of Expenses



Expenses by Division

(unaudited)

Mental Health Housing Services	\$ 2,901,186
Mental Health Recovery Services	\$ 1,254,347
Youth Services	\$ 791,443
Crisis Services	\$ 679,148
<u>Agency Overhead</u>	<u>\$ 999,952</u>
Total Expenses	\$ 6,619,076

Fundraising Efforts

Each year, the Community Missions' Public Relations & Development department work to raise the support necessary to keep its Crisis & Community Service programs. In 2016, the department brought in over \$518,000! This was thanks to the overwhelming support of the following events, campaigns and foundations.

Grants

Community Missions annually seeks funding from philanthropic organizations whose missions mirror those of the agency. In 2016, CMI received over \$196,000 in grants that helped to fund programmatic and operational expenses.

Fundraising & Awareness Events

The agency hosts a number of fundraising and awareness events each year at locations throughout Niagara County. In 2016, the agency held six events that raised over \$90,000 for the agency's Crisis & Community Services.

Mailings and Campaigns

An important piece of funding for the agency are its annual mailing appeal campaigns. CMI conducts three large mailings throughout the year, and several other campaigns. Last year, over \$222,000 was donated to the agency!

How Can I Help?

As Niagara County's largest private provider of basic human needs and varied mental health and recovery services, it is our mission to make a difference in the lives of those we serve.

You can make that difference. With **your** help – we can make a positive impact in **our** community. Here are just a few of the ways that you can help us meet that need:

- ◆ **Every Dollar Helps.** Your tax-deductible monetary donation is carefully used and deeply appreciated; 87¢ of every dollar goes directly to those we serve.
- ◆ **Provide support** by attending, volunteering and/or donating to one of our many annual events. Donations of auction baskets, gift cards, and/or admission passes help make our events successful.



◆ **Donate items** to those in need such as food, clothing, and household items, etc. Visit www.communitymissions.org for a list of current needs.

◆ **Consider** ensuring the future work of Community Missions through your will or planned giving. We'll work with you to find the right gift.

◆ **Looking to get involved individually or as a group?** You or your group can help serve meals at our Community Kitchen, paint and clean up a room, help with food and clothing distributions, or design a project with us!

◆ Another great way to get involved is to **host an event** of your own, such as a fundraising dinner, bake sale, flea market, food drive, sleep-out, penny drive, or other similar activity.

◆ **Volunteers serve a special purpose** – we have a great need for those who can volunteer on a regular basis by helping to serve meals, work events, provide office support, or share any other skills you might offer.

◆ **Spread holiday cheer** by bringing a turkey, ham and/or food for holiday meals to the Mission, donating toys or gifts for kids and families, or providing grocery gift cards.

◆ **Arrange for a speaker** from Community Missions to visit your church, business or civic group! We have several speakers that can come to raise awareness on many different issues affecting the Niagara community, including the 19 different programs that we operate.

◆ **Adopt a family** during our Christmas holiday program. Each year, CMI links community members, businesses and churches with local families in need. It's a great way to brighten someone's holidays.



Get Involved Today!

For more information on any of these programs or ideas, or to suggest an option that we may not have considered, contact us at 716-285-3403 x.2247.

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

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