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A Message from our President & CEO

Dear Friends:

Another year has already come and gone, and it's time for the Annual Report! At the beginning of the year, it seems to start out slowly and then in a blink, summer is gone, fall is upon us and it's time to celebrate the holidays again!

In 2022, I had the privilege of continuing to welcome guests, program participants, funders, staff, volunteers, and donors to CMI and the work we do on behalf of the Niagara County community. The year has been filled with exciting new things for us at CMI as we welcomed new programming, expanded other services, and opened our doors once again to over 13,000 nights of care in our emergency shelter to otherwise homeless individuals and provided over 218,000 meals to those with food insecurity in our community.



This Annual Report gives the reader a snapshot of what this organization does in a year's time, and how we service those who are most in need. Many people deal with one or two programs, but understanding the breadth of service available in Niagara County is our goal each year. All of these services would not have been possible without the support of our contract funders, staff, volunteers and donors who support the vital work in this community motivated by their care and concern for their fellow human beings. The relationships built over this year have been immeasurable and continue to sustain the work of CMI and those we serve.

In a few short years, we will celebrate our 100th anniversary here in Niagara County. So many have and continue to depend on CMI for a lifeline in their time of need. How fortunate that we are able to offer them assistance and help toward a renewed, chosen, and more stable path. We give thanks for all those who work with us to make the path a reality. Our report offers you a road map to how this path is secured in Niagara County for those who come to our doors! Thank you!



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 23 human service programs offered to individuals and families, our services focus on helping vulnerable people reach find and elevate their place in the world.

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 provides integrated human services that meet people where they are and help them find and elevate their place in the world.

Our Vision

Community Missions will be Western New York's leading integrated support organization.

Our Values

- Compassion Awareness of and empathy for challenges that do not define a person but lead to 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
- **Respect** Conduct that demonstrates regard for an individual's path of self-determination
- **Spirituality** From our Christian foundation, our belief is that everyone benefits from spiritual growth. We enhance a person's spiritual growth and wholeness in the tradition of their choice
- **Commitment** Assuring the development and implementation of strength-based interventions, communications, and practices that promote individualized and comprehensive services that are resourceful and effective
- **Accountability** Reliable behavior and actions that display a commitment to identify and enhance each person's self-defined potential
- **Teamwork** Collaboration designed to creatively and professionally support positive and measurable outcomes

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 Agency Vice President

Grant BabcockVice President Agency Operations

Eric BoerdnerVice President Specialized Services

Sandy Brandon
Vice President - Human
Resources & Compliance

Rev. Mark Breese
Agency Minister
Vice President - Faith Services

Marilee Clark
Vice President - Youth Services

Yvonne Clark
Vice President - Mental
Health Recovery Services

Christian Hoffman Vice President - Public Relations and Development

Lisa MalinowskiVice President - Mental
Health Housing Services

Natalie Mosley Chief Financial Officer

PROGRAMS

- Emergency Housing
- Community Kitchen
- Food Pantry
- Clothes Closet
- Furniture Giveaway
- Mark's Place (HIV/AIDS Residence)
- Parole Re-Entry
- SNUG Niagara Falls
- Rapid Re-Housing

DID YOU KNOW?

- According to the most recent US Census data, 44% of Niagara Falls residents live with an income below 200 percent of poverty level, for which a family of three would be \$49,720.
- The federal poverty level for a family of three is \$24,860, and for a family of four is \$30,000. In Niagara Falls, 31.9% 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. We seek to empower people through respect and caring to promote 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.)









61
Families Served
in Furniture
Giveaway



In October, Community Missions hosted its Inaugural Fall Fiesta. Among the activities at this family-friendly community event were pumpkin decorating, carnival games, and a lot of food. In addition, halloween costumes and other resources were provided to those in need.

Youth Services

Youth Services serves the local at-risk populations of youth and young adults under the age of 25 who may be juvenile justice involved, emotionally challenged, and/or homeless in Niagara County. 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. We provide 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 in-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. The newest offering is Falls Street Station, a Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project serving youth and young adults experiencing homelessness.



936
Days of Care at
Aurora House



915
Girls Circle
Sessions



312
Family Solutions
Program Sessions



359
Family Support
Contacts



364
Days of Care
at Falls Street
Station



During the holidays, McDermid Financial Group supported Aurora House by providing brand new toys for youth in the program. The relationship began a number of years ago, thanks to a connection with our Family Peer Advocate, Michael Powers. They have supported the program in a number of ways through the years, including donations of a propane grill, kitchen items, and lawn decorations.

PROGRAMS

- Aurora House -Youth Community Residence
- Falls Street Station (YHDP)
- Family Solutions Program (FSP)
- Girls Circle
- Juvenile Supported Case Management (JSCM)

DIDYOU KNOW?

- According to the Homeless Alliance of Western New York, at least 110 youth and young adults (ages 13-24) experienced homelessness in Niagara County in 2021.
- One in six youth aged 6-17 experience a mental health disorder each year, according to the National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI).

PROGRAMS

- Hansen HouseSupervisedCommunityResidence
- Canal View
- Supervised Community Residence
- ApartmentTreatment Program
- Supportive Housing

DID YOU KNOW?

- It is believed that at least one quarter of America's homeless are <u>seriously</u> mentally ill, while 45% have 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. The programs receive funding from the Niagara County Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse.

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.



3,509
Days of Care at
Canal View



3,298
Days of Care at
Hansen House



17,281
Days of Care in Apartment
Treatment



48,554
Days of Care
Supportive
Housing



Since 2015, Community Missions has benefited from the "Stuff the Sneakers" Drive, held annually in tribute to Danny Frawley. Each year, the community donates bags filled with shoes, hygiene products, snacks and encouraging notes for distribution to local organizations. This picture was taken at St. John Vianney Catholic School in Orchard Park, where they prepared over 120 bags for those we serve!

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. We believe that individuals with mental illness have the potential, with proper support, encouragement, opportunity, and time, look forward to and achieve a fuller participation in community life. The programs receive funding from the Niagara County Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse.

The division currently operates four unique programs. Niagara Visions PROS is a day program located in Niagara Falls for as many as 105 individuals who work to achieve self-directed goals. Respite services are offered both in Niagara Falls and Lockport. In Lockport, 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 a mental health 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.



17,777
Visits to Niagara
Visions PROS



1,208
Days of Care in Respite Services



623 Visits to Hope House



10,594 Phone Calls to Hope House



10,776
Transports in
Transportation



In June, we received a visit from Jahkil Jackson of Chicago, representing his Project I Am. He spoke at Niagara Falls High School, and wanted to bless us while in town. Jahkil was acknowledged as one of three influential people of 2017 by President Barack Obama and the Obama Foundation. He was also honored as a CNN Hero Young Wonder, and was named a "Social Entrepreneur to look out for" by Forbes. At only 14, he has distributed over 80,000 blessing bags across the world.

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 experience mental illness in any given year.
- Less than half (47.2%)
 of adults in the United
 States with a mental
 illness received treatment
 in 2021, according to
 the National Alliance on
 Mental Illness (NAMI).

Central Services

Central Services at Community Missions incorporate all of the operations 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, one semester, 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.

Christmas write-up



403
Children
served through
Adopt-A-Family



410
Reflections &
Resources for Faith
Development



702 Volunteers



14,517 Volunteer Hours



In April, attendees of the New York State Public Health Assocation Annual Conference helped us pack 64 boxes of place settings for those moving out of our shelter. The project involved donations from the YWCA of the Niagara Frontier, Delaware North, Promotional Images, and St. John's Episcopal Church in Youngstown.

2022 Financials

Revenue Sources				
Medicaid	\$ 4,375,269			
Contributions, Gifts, Grants, etc.	\$ 3,654,532			
Other Program Service Revenue	\$ 1,560,926			
Residents Income	\$ 795,010			
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$ 69,224			
Total Revenue	\$10,454,961			

Expenses by Division				
Mental Health Housing Services	\$ 3,927,711			
Mental Health Recovery Services	\$ 1,489,707			
Youth Services	\$ 1,079,169			
Crisis Services	\$ 1,343,013			
Agency Overhead	\$ 1,561,214			
Total Expenses	\$ 9,400,814			

2022 Fundraising Events





2022 Highlights

Delaware North Presents \$20,000 in Support of TOWER

In October, Delaware North presented Community Missions with a pair of checks totaling \$20,000 at a ceremony at Niagara Falls State Park. The donation includes support of CMI's TOWER (Training Opportunities for Workforce Employment Readiness) workforce development program and proceeds from a "Round Up for the Region" campaign conducted within Niagara Falls State Park.

"We so appreciate Delaware North for all the ways they partner with us to help our neighbors," said Robyn L. Krueger, Community Missions' President & CEO. "We often talk about how we cannot meet the needs of all those who come to us without community support. Delaware North continues to put its commitment into action by supporting Community Missions through these efforts."



In October, Community Missions was awarded a grant to operate the Niagara Falls SNUG Program.

The NYS SNUG Street Outreach Program (SNUG) uses a public health approach to reduce gun violence by identifying the source, interrupting transmission, and treating it by providing services and resources to individuals and families and changing community norms around gun violence.

"SNUG, with the goal of aiding in the reduction of gun violence, is much needed in the City of Niagara Falls, and I couldn't be more excited for us to partner with the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services to bring this program to our city," said Eric Boerdner, VP – Specialized Services.

Niagara Falls joined Utica as the latest New York communities within the state-supported SNUG network, which includes Albany, the Bronx, Buffalo, Hempstead, Mt. Vernon, Newburgh, Poughkeepsie, Syracuse, Rochester, Troy, Wyandanch, and Yonkers.

Community Missions Hosts First Pet Blessing

Community Missions held its inaugural Blessing of the Animals in October. This new event featured local clergy from various faiths blessing pets from the community. The public was invited to bring their furry (or scaly) friends out to be blessed. Along with the opportunity to bless our beloved friends, the event also served to publicize and generate donations for Community Missions' long-running Pet Pantry.

"We are excited to begin a new tradition with offering a Blessing of the Animals here at Community Missions," said Christian Hoffman, VP – Public Relations & Development. "Pets are so important to so many of us, including those that we serve. Bringing attention to our Pet Pantry, and ensuring that we have the resources to be able to help our four-legged friends in need, makes the Blessing a wonderful opportunity for us."







CMI Launches Gratitude Campaign

An idea from a Board member took on life, as Community Missions launched a Gratitude Campaign in 2022. The effort was spearheaded by the words of Sister Beth Brosmer, OSF, a member of the newly re-energized Community & Religious Services committee. In brief, she said that with all of the difficulties in the world, she has decided to make a simple change by thanking those often taken for granted, and to say she appreciated the good they were doing for our community.

In 2022, CMI held events to show gratitude to postal workers, mental health workers, and the Niagara Falls Department of Public Works (pictured at right.)

Deposits 4 Food Initiative Raises \$100,000

In August 2013, Lewiston resident Angelo Sarkees put into action an idea that he had for some time. A recent retiree, Sarkees began collecting bottles and cans at the Lewiston Jazz Festival, with the idea of turning them in to raise funds for local Niagara County food pantries. So began his "Deposits 4 Food" initiative.

Nearly nine years later, Sarkees presented checks to Community Missions and Heart, Love and Soul in April 2022, bringing his total donations to more than \$100,000. The donations were made in honor of Earth Day, in recognition of his efforts to keep these items out of landfills or in the environment.

"It breaks down to \$45,000 that I've given each to Community Missions and Heart, Love and Soul, and \$5,000 each to the Wilson Community Food Pantry and Care N Share Pantry in Ransomville," Sarkees said at a press conference celebrating his work.

Remembering Don Luce

On November 17, 2022, Don Luce, who served for 20 years as our Director of Public Relations & Development, passed away at his home in Niagara Falls. Don joined Community Missions in 1998 and retired in November 2018. He made countless friends along the way. He spent his life aiding and advocating for those in need, both near and far. He literally made an impact around the world, and truly embodied our motto of #CompassionInAction.

In 1958, during the Vietnam War, Luce traveled to Vietnam and served as an agriculture expert and aid worker for the International Voluntary Services, a precursor for the Peace Corps. During his time in Vietnam, he was widely known as an activist who was a true threat to the South Vietnamese military predominantly for uncovering the mistreatment and torture of many war prisoners. After being expelled from the country in 1971, he continued to battle corruption, poverty and oppression around the world. In the 1980's, he directed humanitarian work throughout Asia, raising awareness and money for HIV.

Following his efforts in Asia, Don relocated to Washington, DC, and served as the Director of International Voluntary Services until 1997. He then taught Sociology at Niagara County Community College for two years, before joining CMI. He is survived by his beloved husband, Dr. Mark Bonacci.







Donor List

It is with tremendous gratitude that we proudly list those that have supported our efforts in 2022. We pride ourselves on enabling the community to help the community, through donations, referrals, or other means. We truly could not provide the services that we do without the tremendous community support shown in the following pages!

\$1,000 +	Bacon Memorial Presbyterian Church	Cliff & Annemarie Cornell	Michael Sosenko	Carl Ambuske
Deborah Arias	BXI Consultants	Darrin Costantini	Kevin Stephens	Roy & Sharon Anderson
Frederick & Elaine Baxter	Delaware North	Raymond & Janet Critelli	A. T. & Padmaja Trivikram	Jerome & Claudia Andres
Mark Bonacci	DePaul	Jean Dziewit	Rocco & Ann Venuto	Wendy Andrus
Gary Brockman, Jr.	Fashion Outlets of Niagara Falls	David & Bernadette Franjoine	Michael & Janice Vitch	Marion Andrus
Mary Bronson	First Presbyterian Church	Frank Grandinetti	William & Rheesa Westadt	Ross & Rhonda Arsenault
Henry & Ingrid Bryk	Garman Foundation for Lutheran	Michael & Nancy Groff	Paul Williams	John & Rose Attanasio
Daniel & Desaree Chalanick	Organizations	Randy & Diane Haseley	Jeffrey Williams	Janet Babcock
Mike Clough	Geraldine J Mann Elem. School	Anita Hawley	James & Patsy Winkler	Grant & Sue Babcock
Alicia Coccho	H.W. Bryk & Sons	Laurie Hewitt	Henry & Caroline Wojtaszek	Mark Baetzhold
Thomas Dunn	Hodgson Russ Charitable Foundation	John & Lisa Higgins	All Fence LLC	Lisa Bagdonas
Pamela Gatto	Lawley	Kenneth & Janet Hoffman	American Niagara Hospitality	Carl Bailey
Vera Giuliano	New Hope Baptist Church	Malynda Irby	Basil Ford of Niagara Falls	Gaelan Baillie
Susan Green	Niagara Apothecary	Robert Kolaga	Cascades New York	Peter Barstys
Sally Guthrie	Parkview Health Services	Chyme Krzyscin	Compu-Mail	Margaret Bastian
Maryanne Harvey	PCA Technology Group	David Kulbago	Edward Jones	Steven Baum
Robyn Krueger	Pendleton Lions Club Activity Fund	Valerie Lehman	EEECO North	Ken Bedore
Christine Learman	Securities America	Stewart Lindsay	Haun Welding Supply	F. Thomas & Marcia Bellonte
Michael Lewis	First Presbyterian Church of Youngstown	Thomas Lynch	Ibaugh Family Fund	Joanne Beresny
GTC Revocable Living Trust	United Healthcare Services	James & Eileen Matthews	J G Marshall/Charities	Brad Berner
Estate of Jean Hackenheimer	Vogt Sprinkler Service	Jason Mayle	Joe Cecconi's Chrysler Complex	Walter & Diane Bielinski
Barbara Northan	Walter S. Johnson Building Co.	Daniel McMann	LaSalle Yacht Club	Gregory & Viola Bieniecki
John Percy	Wegmans	Thomas McMeekin	Mosquito Joe of Greater Buffalo	Robert & Karen Billingsley
Stephen & Sharon Plumeri		Christopher Meyer	Mount St. Mary's Hospital	James & Vickie Birjukow
Estate of Noel Rebello	<u>\$500-\$999</u>	Derek Miller	National Fire Adjustment	Susan Bland
Angelo Sarkees	Geraldine Amendola	Donald & Catherine Miller	NFMMC Foundation	Eric & Tracy Bloom
Thomas Schelberg	David & Sallylee Anderson	Michael & Liz Mitchell	North Tonawanda Catholic Club	Robert Bloom
Charles Scrufari	Carl & Bonita Antholzner, Jr.	Michael Mroczka	N. Tonawanda Neighborhood Watch	Eric & Lyz Boerdner
Frederick Sdao	Chris & Marybeth Aquino	Ann Oakes	Pendleton Center UMC	Daniel & Mary Boland
Christopher Sheffield	Donald and JoAnn Armstrong	Jaime & Linda Pabilonia	Pulaski Baptist Church	Jonathan Bolents
John & Sharman Staschak	Donald Bartels	Kenneth Radig	SDN Insurance Agency	Frances Borget
Yvette Stein	John & Laurie Battaglia	Otto & Polly Redanz	St. Martin Lutheran Church	Karen Bouvy
Priscilla Thibault	Richard Braas	Rebecca Romanow	Suburban Pest Control	Ian Bower
Jeffrey & Dana Thompson	Marjorie Brackett	Kathleen Rood	Youngstown Lions Club	Michael Brady
Marlane Weber McGarry	Stanley & Cynthia Bucholtz	Roger Rowland	Zajac Funeral Home	Randall & Kathie Brandt
Jeffrey Wiedeman	Bill Burg	John & Staci Scherrer		Rita Brandt
Richard Winter	Russell Callesto	Matt Shanahan	<u>\$100-\$499</u>	Richard & Carmen Brandt
Beverly Witkop	Susan Canavan	Ian Shorthouse	Bill & Lisa Ackendorf	James & Jayne Brasser
American Baptist Womens	Albert Cavallari	Carl & Elisabeth Slenk	Christopher & Barbara Aikin	Gerald & E. Mareen Brauen
Ministries of NYS	Gerald Ciccarelli	Pamela Smith	Bruce Aikin	Maureen Brennan
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Volunteers

Volunteers are the engine that makes so many of Community Missions' programs run at full capacity. Each day, those volunteering their time can be found in the Community Kitchen, Clothes Closet, Food Pantry, and throughout other programs that directly impact the lives of those in need. A sincere thank you goes to the following volunteers that gave more than 50 hours of service in 2022, and to the hundreds of other volunteers that passed through our doors last year!

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