



BUFFALO PEACE HOUSE

Year-End Newsletter

BPH 2016 Wrap Up

Our Annual Fall Fling was a great success. Guests enjoyed a Thanksgiving-style dinner of turkey and the fixins topped off with homemade desserts. An awesome array of baskets provided ample opportunities for bidding. Congratulations again to our 2016 award winners: St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Trinity Episcopal Church of Hamburg, and the Wesleyan Church of Hamburg. We're very grateful for their ongoing and generous support.

BPH welcomed the Junior League of Buffalo for their second volunteer extravaganza, "game night". We are now looking forward to the Junior League offer to "re-do" our living room in February. The house has also welcomed St. Francis volunteers who hosted an ice cream social for the residents

This month D'Youville College students made a presentation on mental health related issues. Residents also took advantage of a free opportunity to have professional portraits taken by help-portraitbuffalo.com. Vans were arranged to transport residents to the location, where they had their hair and makeup done prior to their photo. Our residents felt very pampered and appreciated.

We are especially thankful to our friends at St. Mary's on the Lake and St. Vincent de Paul for donating turkeys to BPH for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Because of our generous supporters our residents celebrated a wonderful Holiday Season, some for the first time. Thank you is our prayer and our response to our thirty-one volunteers, as well as community and religious groups. In addition almost one hundred individuals have given generously during 2016 to keep the BPH going. Some have sent multiple donations. Merci to all!



2017 Wish List – Top 5

- An additional building (larger)
- Continued support of wonderful, caring people
- New computer and software
- Living room and dining room renovations
- Paper towels, Kleenex and lightbulbs

Make your year-end donation to the Buffalo Peace House at our web site:

www.buffalopeacehouse.org

Donations can be made by credit card through the link on our site – and they are safe and secure!

Impact

I have learned that cross-cultural friendships can sometimes be difficult but they are so worthwhile. We have different views on the roles of women in the household. They don't always understand my American euphemisms, and there are always language barriers. However, there is always plenty of new food to try, and laughter to be shared at cultural faux pas. Because of my time spent at BPH, I have learned patience and I have learned to love. For many years of my life, I have known that God has wanted me to serve overseas as a missionary. But it has been through my time spent at BPH that God has confirmed this call on my life.

It is because of BPH that I am pursuing this new career. Each resident, with their different life stories, religions, and passions has made a strong impact on me. I am grateful that each one that I have met in the last year has let me be a part of their lives. I wouldn't have the happy heart for people from other cultures that I have today without their influence in my life.

-Mindy Lowe

Impact (Part II)

The BPH changes people who spend time with us, and we are also profoundly influenced by the many people who enter our doors as residents, volunteers or visitors. Life is better in our BPH family because of the abundance of good will from all who are involved in our mission and our day to day survival. This year has brought out the best in our supporters, our new Board members, and long-time believers. We end this "surreal" year with totally grateful hearts and the will to go forward and continue to serve the least of our sisters and brothers.

Let Old Acquaintance Be Forgot...!

This year Fr. Roy's Christmas letter proclaimed that "To the world you may be only one person, but to one person you may be the world". Our New Year prayer for every BPH acquaintance is that each may find a way, however small, to answer the need of another.

I am in awe of the many remarkably giving and caring BPH supporters who make life better for others. Invariably, the "givers" are happy in – and because of – their sharing and thoughtfulness. Givers and doers inspire us and show us what the world would be like if their example were spread widely.

Sadly, in our world we also run into arrogance, selfishness – or even worse. The under-side of our humanness demeans us all! So, in the spirit of January 2017 resolutions, let's try harder as BPH family to lift each other up. We are strong as individuals, and together our resolve to "light one candle" will somehow bring about a brighter, more grace-filled world. At the very least, even our never achieved ideals are worth striving for as they provide an example for those who come after us.

THANK YOU... THANK YOU... THANK YOU, ONE AND ALL!

Buffalo Peace House
4263 St Francis Dr
Hamburg, NY 14075



www.buffalopeacehouse.org

An End of the Year Thank You.