



**Erie DAWN**  
Dwellings & Advocacy for Women in Need  
2816 Elmwood Ave  
Erie, PA 16508  
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*Save The Dates*



**July 29, 2019**  
**"Tee it Up" Golf Outing**  
**Lake Shore Country Club**



**May 9, 2019**  
**Annual Spring Event**  
**Belaire Clarion**

November 2018



# Housing and Hope

Erie DAWN · 2816 Elmwood Ave · Erie, PA 16508  
A Shared Ministry of the Sisters of Mercy, Sisters of St. Joseph and the Benedictine Sisters of Erie

## A Message from Maureen...



### Giving And Gratitude

You will see how much we have to be grateful for as you read through this newsletter. At this time of year the Erie DAWN staff, Board and volunteers are busy making sure that each mom and her family have a Thanksgiving and Christmas to remember. We do this through the kindness and donations from strangers as well as old friends and supporters.

At Erie DAWN we like to think we are providing the magic of Christmas to our families all year long.

- Every time we provide safe housing for a mom and her children... that is magical.
- Every time we connect a woman to a living wage job... that is magical.
- Every time we help a woman earn her GED... that is magical.
- Every time we help a woman find her voice... that is magical.

As you read Karen and Donna's words of gratitude you should feel proud that you have contributed in some way to their accomplishments and helped transform their lives. With your continued support through this 2018 Annual Appeal, you can be assured that Erie DAWN will continue to provide housing and hope to the woman and families we serve.

**On behalf of Erie DAWN's board, staff, volunteers and participants, thank you for all your support in 2018. We look forward to many "Miracles of Hope" in 2019 because of YOU.**

## Karen's Story!

I have been in recovery for 9 years of opiate addiction, grief, shame, debt, a criminal record and most recently a PFA against my son's father. I am growing tired of not having enough and of being worried and knowing that I am simply not doing quite enough to make a difference and reach my potential.

Today I live sober and open minded with determination and motivation to heal and to live with financial and emotional security. When I connected with Erie DAWN, I was met with a patient ear and peaceful guidance as I worked in the office to prepare a resume, pick up job flyers and do research. The case manager even sat by me in court for the PFA hearing against my son's father. With the support of Erie DAWN, through their housing and case management, I had the courage and strength to apply for and be accepted to Mercyhurst University North East and the Sisters of Mercy Women's with Children program.

This opportunity is life changing. I'm now on my way to provide a better life for myself and my son.

*-Karen*





## One Word...

### Why We Give...

"We absolutely love the mission of Erie DAWN and are constantly blown away by the positive results we have seen from these women."



### Larry & Marcia Russell

Larry and Marcia are true gifts to Erie DAWN. They support us with the gift of their time and treasure. They are ambassadors for Erie DAWN all year long.

### Why We Volunteer...

"Everyday we wake up, we feel it is an opportunity to serve those not as fortunate and make their life better."



### Chip & Teresa Shamburg

Chip and Teresa are valued supporters of Erie DAWN. They always give with a smile and are the first to ask "what can we do to help?"

## Gratitude in Action!



Erie Dawn was my saving grace this past year! Not only was I homeless but I was in the last stage of a year on chemo from skin cancer. They were a blessing to me and my family. They helped me move out of a shelter into my own home with my 2 boys 21 and 25. I am not sure if Erie DAWN knows how grateful I am to them for all their support. They gave me the opportunity to be a full-time mom again. They brought purpose back into my life and lifted my spirits. They helped me with my budgeting and how important it is to be financially stable. They reminded me how powerful I could be in the world - after this rollercoaster I was on stopped. Being part of the Erie DAWN program has changed my family's life for the better. We are hopeful! We are empowered! They have lifted our spirits!

*Thank you Erie DAWN for bringing light back into my life - that light I will follow always!*



Meet our newest toddler. Getting ready to move to her new house with mommy, loving her new toy.

## Who We Serve

- Erie Vital Signs reports that 18% of women are living in poverty.
- Our women range from the age 21-62 with the average age in their early 30's. 57.5% of the city's poor are female.
- Children under the age of 18 living in poverty has risen to 45.5% from 36.5% seven years ago.

## Gratitude!



Thank you to Erie Insurance for their donation from the Giving Network



Thank you to all who donated to Erie Gives to support Erie DAWN with \$13,375, we are so grateful.



Erie DAWN is grateful to the Sisters of St. Joseph Foundation for their continued support with helping us provide critical housing assistance and case-management to women and children in need.



Thank you to Bruce Baumgartner for helping make out 2018 "Tee it Up" for Erie DAWN a success!

## MISSION STATEMENT

### Who We Are

Founded in 1995 as a shared ministry of the Benedictine Sisters, Sisters of Mercy and the Sisters of St. Joseph, Erie DAWN addresses the underlying root causes of homelessness by working with women to build assets - both tangible and intangible - for their future. Our goal is to provide women, with or without children, with housing while giving them the support, resources and tools they need to achieve economic self-sufficiency and remain in permanent housing.

## BOARD MEMBERS

Kristen Comstock, Chair	Rosemary O'Brien, SSJ
Bernadette Bell, RSM	Mary Ellen Plumb, OSB
Mili Chiang-Hanes	Marci Smith
Jill DiMattio	Ann Stephanie Stano, SSJ, PhD
Kelli Gambill	Kristin Talarico
Paul Hakel	Debbie Uht
Elizabeth McCormick	Christine Yost
Michael Messina, PhD	

## Party with a Purpose



### Erie Dawn is Grateful to Jane Ross!

In celebration of her 60th birthday, she had a Party with a Purpose...Jane (second from the right) had her guests give donations to Erie Dawn in lieu of presents to her. She presented Erie Dawn with a check for \$600! Thank you Jane!