



Erie DAWN
Dwellings & Advocacy for Women in Need
2816 Elmwood Ave
Erie, PA 16508
Return Service Requested



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Beginnings

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...



Home for the Holiday!!!

Preparing for the holiday seasons of Thanksgiving and Christmas conjures thoughts of “home” and “family.” **Home** is a place for celebrating traditions with family and friends, a safe and warm place to return to no matter

how far away you are or how long you have been away. Not all people have the same definition of “home” nor the luxury of having warm memories and traditions.

For our Erie DAWN participant Jamie and her two young children, **home** was either a friend’s couch or a shelter. It seems unlikely that either of those locations would be included in our own concepts of “home,” but for Jamie’s family, this was their reality.

Jamie came to Erie DAWN looking for a “hand-up” and that is exactly what we were able to provide. Jamie is living in an apartment that she can now call **home**, a safe place for her children to thrive and make

memories. Jamie has been wrapped in supportive services from career assessment, money management, self-empowerment classes and enrichment activities.

Erie DAWN is proud of Jamie’s achievements and hopeful for her family’s continued success, but this pride is tempered by the daily phone calls of so many other women desperate for help.

Would you consider offering your own “hand-up” through a donation to support this critical work? Making a gift this holiday season will not only make a huge impact in the life of a needy Erie woman, it will also support Erie DAWN’s work toward individual self-sufficiency and overall wellness. Every gift, both large and small, makes a difference in this work.

As you prepare to mark this holiday season in your own **home**, please take a moment to remember those who might define the word a bit differently. Thank you for your continued support of our mission; for this we are grateful.

Have a Wonderful Holiday Season.

-Maureen

A Story of Growth

You can call me Mz. M. –
I also will answer to Mom and Gramma.

Never did I think I would be in a situation with domestic violence, but I found myself and my children sleeping on the floor of relatives’ houses.

I heard about Erie DAWN and decided to reach out to see how they could help me. I found them to be a safety net for women like myself who are struggling to get back on their feet.

What did I have to lose? Things could not get much worse. I was working a full-time job but had no place to call home. Erie DAWN helped me find a place to live with my two sons. My oldest son needed to get a job and they even helped him get into an employment program and he is now able to support my grandson on his own.

Things are still a struggle sometimes, but I feel safe and peaceful in my new apartment. I know if I need anything – even just someone to talk to – Erie DAWN staff are just a phone call away willing to continue to support me in my journey.

Thank you, Erie DAWN, for your caring support!



Mz. M. received a AAA Membership from staff member, Thasia

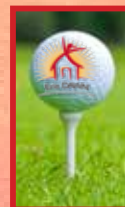
Christmas Wish List

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| Gift Cards
-Aldi
-Walmart
-Giant Eagle
-Tops | Gift Certificates
Children’s Clothes
Laundry Detergent
Light Bulbs
Pots & Pans
Dishes
Silverware | Crockpots
Toasters
Towels
-Bath
-Kitchen
Washcloths
Blankets
Pajamas
Socks |
|--|--|--|

Winter is On the Way!



Many of our women are unprepared for the cold. A number of them are in the process of searching for a more professional job and may struggle with finding the proper winter attire to match the role. We are looking to **YOU** to help our Coat Tree grow its branches! All women’s sizes needed!
Call 453-5921 for more information.



Save the Dates



25th ANNIVERSARY GALA
SATURDAY, MAY 30, 2020
BAYFRONT CONVENTION CENTER

As you can see above, our committee is hard at work in planning the celebration of 25 Years as a shared ministry with the Sisters of Mercy, Sisters of St. Joseph and the Benedictine Sisters of Erie! We will be hosting a gala with music, entertainment and more.
Call (814) 453-5921 for more information.

TEE IT UP FOR ERIE DAWN
MONDAY, JULY 27, 2020
LAKE SHORE COUNTRY CLUB

We are already gearing up for next summer’s golf fundraiser! Team registration and sponsorship opportunities will be announced very soon.

Volunteer Spotlight: Patty Gunesch

"I hope that I will always be a positive influence in someone's life and help give them the confidence that they can achieve anything they set out to accomplish."



Patty enjoying time with her mentee!

After retiring from banking four years ago, Patty was searching for an organization at which to volunteer her time and a classmate pointed her in the direction of Erie DAWN.

Seeing the positive impact that the work done at Erie DAWN has on our community and getting to know the wide range of people involved, Patty decided to dedicate her time. She has since regularly participated in and helped to lead both Family Circles sessions and budgeting classes, getting loads of hands-on time with the families, which is a new adventure every time, and admittedly, sometimes a challenge.

Volunteering at Erie DAWN gives Patty the opportunity to work both with and for wonderful people, an experience that she claims gives back to her tenfold what she puts in.

Thank you for your service, Patty. You are so appreciated!



Maureen Dunn and Sr. Bernadette Bell

Board Member Recognition: Sr. Bernadette Bell, RSM

Meet Board Member – Sr. Bernadette Bell, RSM is the Local Development Director of the Sisters of Mercy. In 1996, as a leadership member of the Sisters of Mercy, she was asked to serve on the Erie DAWN Board of Directors – after a hiatus for a few years she returned to the board in 2007. That is a true commitment – and it goes to show she has a passion for women and children and the mission and values of the Sisters of Mercy which are Spirituality, Community, Service and Social Justice.

Sr. Bernadette has been involved in many committees with the Erie DAWN Board. Currently Sister serves as a member of the Resource and Development Committee. Stated by Sr. Bernadette, "From its beginning years Erie DAWN has made a great impact on the Erie Community in several ways. Erie DAWN always needs volunteers for many of their activities.

It is an opportunity to give of yourself and know that you are helping women in many areas. It makes one aware of difficulties that many women are experiencing in their daily life."

With all that Sister Bernadette does for Erie DAWN and the Sisters of Mercy – she does take time to enjoy genealogy, quilt making, reading, walking and history research. She is quite a remarkable woman....loved and respected by all.

Thank You Sr. Bernadette for your ongoing commitment to Erie DAWN.

Keeping in Touch: Angel's Update



Rooney & Luna always ready with a smile!!!

A graduate recently shared this photo of her growing children along with the announcement that she and her husband-to-be will be expecting a new baby in early 2020. Her job, family, and health are all secure; a thought that warms the hearts of us here at Erie DAWN!

Congratulations, Angel!



Thank you to our loyal volunteers!

Carolyn Beck, Carol Snell-Horner, Barb Cullen, Mary Lou Reichard.

We Are Grateful



Golfers always happy to support Erie DAWN!



Lady Golfers enjoy the day at "Tee it Up for Erie DAWN"

We Are Grateful For Their Support!!!



NWPA Food Council disperses Funds

Thank you to the Northwestern PA Food Council who has served as a membership organization for Erie County family-owned grocery stores and local wholesale food suppliers since the 1950s. Recently, the Food Council dissolved, and its board members voted to distribute their remaining assets with assistance from The Erie Community Foundation to some local organizations.

Erie DAWN was blessed to receive some of those funds to continue to support the homeless and needy women and children in our community.



In August, the annual city-wide fundraising day, Erie Gives, raised a grand total of \$12,736.06 for Erie DAWN's families! In total, donors gave \$5,596,161 to nonprofits around the city.

Who We Are

MISSION STATEMENT

Rooted in the belief that all people have the right to live in a setting that safeguards human dignity, Erie DAWN in partnership with area landlords provides safe, affordable, independent transitional housing for low-income women and children. Advocacy and support services are provided so these women can continue to be productive members of the community.

BOARD MEMBERS

Bernadette Bell, RSM	Mary Ellem Plumb, OSB
Kristen Comstock	Bobby Scalise
Mili Chiang-Hanes, Chair	Marci Smith
Anita Kuchcinski	Ann Stephanie Stano, SSJ, PhD
Elizabeth McCormick	Kristin Talarico
Michael Messina, PhD	Debra Uht
Rosemary O'Brien, SSJ	



Thank You to Erie County Bar Association for donating backpacks for the children in the Erie DAWN program.