

Beginnings

Erie DAWN · 131 West 18th Street · Erie, PA 16501

October 2021

Overcoming Barriers...An ErieDAWN Client's Success Story

Beth immigrated to the United States from Southeastern Asia about ten years ago. She was married to a man who was very abusive. Beth found the courage to leave her abuser and seek a better life for herself and her daughter. She fled with her ten-year old daughter and sought shelter with the SafeNet Bridge Program. As Beth was approaching six months in the Bridge Program she reached out to Erie DAWN, through her counselor, for information about our Rapid Rehousing Program. Even though she is fluent in her homeland language and knew little English, she managed to let us know her needs. She was seeking housing and budgeting assistance as she had limited funds and could not afford to pay the high cost of rent and security deposit that local landlords required.

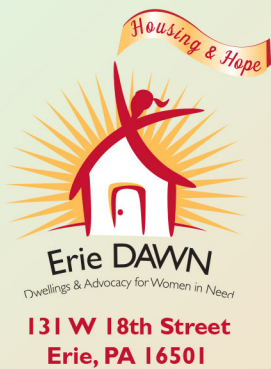
One of the barriers that Beth has experienced is language as she is non-English speaking. When working with her at first, we had to utilize a phone interpreter in order to communicate. Through the course of the conversation, we recognized the will and determination that she had for a better life for herself and her daughter. She has amazed us as she has worked so hard to improve her life.

Over this past year through the pandemic, Beth was able to go from working in a temporary position to being hired full-time at a manufacturing company. She has an incredible work ethic! Beth gets up at 4:30 AM and drives over 25 miles to work and back every day. She often picks up overtime and sometimes weekends. One of the first questions we asked Beth was, "Why do you want to be in the Erie DAWN program and what do you hope to accomplish?" Her response was, "To save money and have my own place."

We are so proud of Beth. Not only has she gained permanent full-time employment, but she has just put a down payment on a home that is soon to be hers! The staff at Erie DAWN describe Beth as appreciative, proud, kind and a model participant. Beth eagerly said, "I am happy and thankful that Erie DAWN has taken care of me and my daughter. I was able to save money for my home. Thank you for the opportunity to be in the Erie DAWN Program. The staff are very good people. I will never forget them!"



Erie DAWN is so excited and proud of Beth as she begins this next journey as a home owner!



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PARTY with a Purpose

We have to be creative with different ways to raise awareness and funds to support the families we serve at Erie DAWN. COVID has made things challenging and we were hoping that things would be better by now – but they are not. If you have that special birthday or anniversary coming up but are still being cautious of getting together, think of having the guest list donate to Erie DAWN in your honor.

When things calm down!!!! - Why not - host a **PARTY WITH A PURPOSE!** A party with a purpose is a fun and tangible way to support the Erie DAWN families while getting your friends and family involved. The **PARTY WITH A PURPOSE** can be your way of giving back to those in need. It can be as simple as a one-time casual party with friends and family in the comfort of your own home or at your neighborhood hang-out. Just to name a few, you could celebrate an upcoming Birthday, Anniversary, or the first day of Winter, Spring, or instead of exchanging Christmas presents with family or friends you could give a gift to a needy mother or child.



Create a Party with a Purpose, make it fun and raise funds to help Erie DAWN change the lives of the families we work with each day. Please call Chris at 453-5921 or email chris@riedawn.org for more information or to book your Party with a Purpose.

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 of Directors

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A Sneak Peak of Christmas!



Believe it or not it is that time of the year again; we are getting ready for the Christmas Celebration! We are planning many fun things this year for our families. We are going to celebrate St. Nicholas Day on December 6th with surprises left at their doors. St. Nicholas is known for selling all his possessions and giving his money to the poor. Many would leave their shoes out the night before and wake up to gifts in their shoes. Sharing traditions with our families is exciting!

We will have a party for the Christmas Celebration. Families will join us at Erie DAWN for a get-together, goodies, and gifts.

We need your help to make their Christmas magical and bright! We will collect gifts for our families. You can see our Christmas Gift List for ideas. We have over 50 families to help make their Christmas a joyful celebration.

You can drop off unwrapped new gifts at Erie DAWN at 131 West 18th Street by Monday, December 6th, 2021 between the hours of 9am - 3pm. For more information call Sheila H. at 814-453-5921.

Preschool Age



- Crayola crayons and coloring books
- Toy medical kits (Fisher Price)
- Kitchen play items *cash registers, play food, dishes*
- Little Tikes & Fisher Price action structures and parts (*people, animals, & cars*)
- Simple games: *Memory, Candy Land, Chutes & Ladders*
- Transportation tracks (*cars/trains*)
- Wooden puzzles (*peg & latch*)
- Play tools
- Toy musical instruments
- Baby dolls
- Pop up books
- Light up/musical toys
- Play-Doh
- Play-Doh kits
- Bubbles
- Kinetic sand
- Gift cards



School Age



- Games *Headbands, Operation, Connect Four, Sorry, Trouble, Life, Guess Who, Jenga, Battleship, Kerplunk, Trouble, Simon*
- Cards *Uno, Skip-Bo, Phase Ten, playing cards*
- Lego sets
- Craft kits, painting kits, beading kits, jewelry kits, ink stamp kits, wooden item kits
- Matchbox cars/trucks
- Toy dinosaurs, insects, animals
- Action figures
- Dolls & doll clothes & accessories
- 24+ piece puzzles
- Barbie dolls
- Gift Cards



Teens



- Games: *Checkers, Adult Headbands, Scattergories, Trivia games*
- Sketch pads, drawing pencils, colored pencils
- Craft kits: latch hook with hook, bead/string kits, fabric painting, wooden items
- Model kits (*cars, planes, boats*)
- Journals
- New fingernail polish/nail polish removal
- Teen reading books
- Playing cards
- Gift cards (*Amazon, Target, Walmart, etc*)
- Word search, Mad Libs, crossword puzzles & Sudoku books



Moms



- Local gift certificates
- Gift cards: *Walmart, Aldi's, Giant Eagle, Tops, Gas Cards, Movie Theatre, bus passes*
- Paper products
- Bath and kitchen towels
- Pots and pans
- Dishes & silverware
- Crockpots
- Coffee pots
- Toasters
- Can openers
- Mixers
- Sheets (full & twin)
- Comforters (full & twin)
- Pajamas
- Socks
- Sweatshirts & hoodies
- Gloves and hats
- Bath and body lotion & body wash



ErieDAWN Welcomes a New Executive Director!

Erie DAWN is happy to welcome Susanne Kuligowski, Ph.D., as our new Executive Director!

Susanne holds a Ph.D. in Organizational Learning and Leadership as well as a Master's in Public Administration with a concentration in Organizational Leadership. Both degrees were earned at Gannon University. Additionally, she holds a Bachelor's Degree in Clinical Sociology from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

She brings extensive experience, 18 years, working in the non-profit sector focusing her efforts on women and children services. Susanne brings experience in various capacities including a strong financial, marketing, and leadership background. Susanne has a passion for helping others and is an aspiring leader in the Erie Community. She enjoys spending her leisure time with her family and her very spoiled dogs. One of her favorite quotes is from Dr. Seuss, "To the world, you may be one person, but to one person you may be the world." Susanne said, "I am so excited and grateful to be a part of such an amazing team. I hold Erie DAWN'S mission and programs close to my heart."



A Message from the New Executive Director...



Dear Friends,

As the newly appointed Executive Director of Erie DAWN, I have taken some time to reflect on the great work Erie DAWN and its dedicated employees, Board of Directors, and volunteers have contributed to the Erie community. In twenty-six years, Erie DAWN has advocated and served over 1,500 women and their children by providing safe homes and resources with the goal of self-sufficiency. What an accomplishment; however, our work has only just begun!

The mission of Erie DAWN is rooted in the belief that "...all people have the right to live in a setting that safeguards human dignity...". It is with so much excitement, commitment, and passion that we continue this journey forward.

With Autumn in the air and as the leaves of the trees begin to transform into glorious colors, I am reminded of change. I am reminded that change is essential for new beginnings, growth, and opportunity. Particularly during the current times of our world, we are called to adapt to these changes. Erie DAWN will continue to cultivate collaborations and build new relationships. We will continue to serve our clients and enhance our programs through the guidance of our mission. We hope you continue on this exciting adventure with us. It truly is the dawn of a new day!

We are grateful to former Executive Director, Maureen Dunn, for her fourteen years of service with Erie Dawn and the Erie community. Her leadership and investment with Erie DAWN have set a high precedence. We wish her much happiness as she begins the next chapter of her life.

As we navigate these exciting changes and steadily move forward, we are so grateful for your continued support and belief in what we do!

Warm wishes and blessings to you,

Dr. Susanne

We Are Grateful



This has been a busy year for Erie DAWN – we sorted, we packed, and we MOVED. With all of that hustle and bustle we still carried on the normal everyday activities. We are so grateful to those who stepped up to help us this year.



Mercyhurst University Students who helped us clean!



Thank you to our 2021 Erie DAWN 7th Annual Golf Tournament Sponsors

Lead Tournament Sponsor - Rebich Investments
Lincoln Recycling & Mary Lincoln | Accudyn Products, Inc.
American Tinning & Galvanizing & Robin Scheppner
Chip & Teresa Shamburg | PCMSI
Sisters of St Joseph of Northwestern PA | UPMC Health

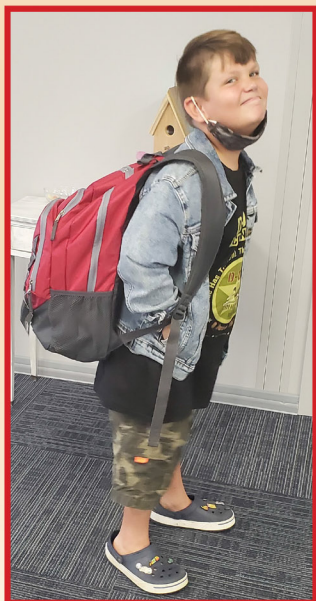
Abby & Jeff Paslowski
Hanes Erie, Inc.
Martha Hilbert
Northwest Bank
Erie News Now
Naomi Harvey
McInnes Rolled Rings
Interim Health Care

Mercyhurst University
Kathy & Jim Dammeyer
Tim & Lisa NeCastro
Reddog Industries, Inc.
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
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National Fuel
Sportsman's Athletic Club

In-kind Sponsors:

Allegheny Beverage, Calamari's, General Exterminating, Loeslein & Jamison, Oasis Tiki Bar and Utz by Schwebel's Bakery

Special Thank You to the Staff at Lake Shore Country Club



The Erie County Bar Association who provided back to school essentials for our kids

••••• *Save the Date* •••••

TEE IT UP FOR ERIE DAWN

MONDAY, JULY 25, 2022

LAKE SHORE COUNTRY CLUB

We are already gearing up for next summer's golf fundraiser! For registration and sponsorship opportunities contact Chris at 814-453-5921



Welcome Lourdes Amador!



Erie DAWN would like to welcome our newest Case Manager, Lourdes Amador! In February 2021 Lourdes came to Erie DAWN as a Student Intern from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania. Upon graduating in May of 2021 with her Bachelor's Degree in Social Work and minor in Sociology, she was hired full-time.

We are excited to have Lourdes as part of the Erie DAWN team. She is bilingual and has helped with Spanish translation with our families. We are proud of her academic accomplishments. Lourdes goes above and beyond to make herself available to Erie DAWN participants and the Erie DAWN staff.

"I was happy to accept the position of Case Manager at Erie DAWN. It has been an incredible experience working with homeless women and children in the Erie community. I continue to be amazed at the services we provide and the progression that our participants make each and every day!"



Working Together



Erie DAWN and Crime Victim Center Upcoming Enrichment Classes for Clients

Career Link Resume Do's and Dont's Workshop

Thursday, October 7th, 2021
5pm - 6pm

Is your resume working for you? Rebecca Whitney will provide participants tips for creating a resume that gets the job done!

For more information contact Sheila Hayes at 814-453-5921.



Erie Federal Credit Union Building your Financial Health

Wednesday, November 3rd, 2021 • 5pm - 6pm

Do you want to build your credit? Do you have a savings or checking account? How can your tax refund work for you? Kim Davis will be discussing these topics and providing information to build your financial literacy!



For more information contact Sheila Hayes at 814-453-5921.

I Give Catholic

Erie DAWN will once again participate in the #iGiveCatholic giving day this year on #GivingTuesday, November 30, 2021. Your generous support makes a meaningful difference to our important work in the community.

Please consider supporting us on the Tuesday, November 30th giving day, or at any time during the Advanced Giving period from November 15th - 30th. Gifts can be made online during this time by searching for Erie DAWN at <http://erie.igivecatholic.org/>, or you can send cash or check directly to Erie DAWN at 131 West 18th Street, Erie PA 16501. With your help, we will reach our fundraising goal. Thank you for "Giving Catholic!"



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