

DECEMBER 2016

# Niagara Heritage of Hope and Service, Inc.,

## Home of Historic Holy Trinity

### 2016 IN REVIEW

November 8 marked the 8th anniversary of the inception of Niagara Heritage of Hope and Service. It seems like just yesterday the journey started, with a limited budget, limited resources and faith to accomplish the impossible. Each year we have seen new successes and new challenges and this year is no different. The number 8 seems to be popping up as we reflect on 2016 so here at 8 things we are thankful for over the last 12 months:

- Our core volunteers
- Community Thrift Store & Donation Center
- Our community partners - Gary Sage, Gadawski's Restaurant, Fiddler Roofing, Heart, Love & Soul, Niagara University, Harmonia, YouthWorks, Niagara River Explorers
- 8 (and a half) beautiful summer evenings for YouthWorks Thursday Community picnics
- William C. Pomeroy Foundation
- The ability to start a matching funds program
- Summer Tours
- Returning YouthWorks friends for weekend visits



### SACRED SITES WEEKEND—MAY 20, 2016

The organization officially celebrated the achievement of obtaining National Landmark status with the dedication of a historic plaque from the William C. Pomeroy Foundation. Assemblyman John Cerretto presented a citation, flowers adorned the plaque and a brief history was read during the ceremony. A celebratory concert by Buffalo's Harmonia with choirs from Niagara Falls and Sweet Home High Schools followed.



## APRIL 30, 2016

The Community Thrift Store & Donation Center, which started as a "clothes closet" in 2011, achieved a milestone this year celebrating its 5th year serving the community. Volunteers welcomed customers with cookies and coffee throughout the day and served a delicious tomato soup for lunch.



## MATCHING FUNDS PROGRAM

Niagara Heritage of Hope and Service launched a matching funds campaign in September; for every dollar donated, a 100% match has been made. Our goal is to raise funds to repair the church steps and to replace the school furnace. We are happy to report that 25% of our fundraising goal has been raised since September and we will be able to continue the program into 2017. If you have not had a chance to send in your tax deductible donation, there is still time. All contributions received by December 31, 2016 will be acknowledged for this year. Donations received in January will count for 2017. Thank you to all for your generosity!

*Wishing you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2017!*

## SUMMER ACTIVITY

Summer is always a busy time around the Complex and this year was no different. Historic Tours continued every Friday from June through September.

The Niagara River Explorers Boys' Choir performed on July 8. On August 8, students from Gary Sage Studios performed a medley of tunes followed by a delicious Polish dinner at Gadawski's Restaurant.



Several members of Holy Trinity's alumni stopped in for a tour this summer and shared memories of their time as students.

## SERVICE 2016

For nine weeks this summer, the complex had a flurry of activity with 219 YouthWorks students and their leaders from Illinois, Kentucky, Indiana, Michigan, North Carolina and Wisconsin. They gave of their time to help renovate two days a week (1,008 hours of service), attend a poverty simulation on Wednesday evenings and brought their dance moves to the Community picnic on Thursdays.



Niagara Plunge started off the Fall bringing over 40 students from Niagara University to the complex for two days Labor Day weekend. Members of NU's Men's Soccer Team, ASA Sorority and St. Vincent DePaul Society helped out as well. Additionally, ExploreNU can be seen around the complex twice a month. Many hands have made for light work around the complex.



Our Friday Church tours continue in December on 2, 9, and 16, 2016.

A Christmas concert by Gary Sage Studios and the Divine Mercy Choir on December 9 at 7:30 pm.

Concert by Niagara River Explorers Boys' Choir on December 16 at 7pm.

We welcome new volunteers to help us continue to achieve our mission.

## LOOKING FORWARD IN 2017

Our 2017 goal is to expand youth programs and services throughout the year. In addition, to continue saving towards repairing the church steps and for the purchase of new furnaces for the school and rectory. We thank you for your continued support in all of our fundraising activities.

*Board of Directors - Eda, Florian, Marg and Zyta*