



Niagara Heritage of Hope and Service, Inc.
Home of Historic Holy Trinity



December 2021

Dear Friends and Family,

In the Roman Catholic faith, 2021 has been the Year of St. Joseph. Deemed as a year for us to provide, to love and live with courage, trust and faith. St. Joseph was a man of strength, love, courage, trust and faith. He listened to God's plan for his life and his role to love and support Mary and to nurture Jesus during his early years. Joseph lived a simple life as a carpenter, and as a husband and father to provide for his family as he worked behind the scenes. It is appropriate to have had 2021 dedicated to him as it has been another year that has tested everyone's faith, trust and courage.

Due to COVID restrictions in 2021, we had a late opening and were not able to offer our usual fundraising events of concerts and dinners, nor host our Polkafest. People were cautious in heading out into the world again which gave a slow start to our thrift store proceeds. But despite it all, we surged ahead with our faith, trust and courage, and we had an amazing year!

Let's start with our thrift store, Heavenly Threads 716, which celebrated its 10th anniversary on April 30th. Even though we have not been able to open our doors for donations from the general public, our dedicated volunteers were able to sort previously donated merchandise from you, our generous supporters, and from estate sales. We were able to remain fully stocked with clothing, household items and furniture. We have been able to increase our social media exposure which increased the amount of patrons visiting our store. Patrons shopping in our store on Wednesdays and Saturdays, from just 10am to 1pm, have helped us keep up with the monthly utilities of your beautiful historic complex. If we had the volunteer manpower to open the store for longer hours, or more days, we would. With COVID however, it has been challenging to attract additional volunteers. In April we held a "fun" fundraiser to secure the adoption of "Foster Bear", our giant, white, stuffed bear that so many people have fallen in love with. He was officially adopted by us and now serves as the store's mascot. He has since gained a large social media following and is available in the store for a photo opportunity, which many shoppers have enjoyed. Watch for his next chapter in 2022, where he will be introducing a new program that will help foster children of Niagara County. You can get to know Foster and follow his antics on our Facebook page or on our Instagram account. He can be found at #savefoster.

We were additionally blessed this year with the generosity of the Gadawski Family, who donated a dozen of their homemade Pierogi each month in 2021 as the first prize in our annual raffle. Each month the second prize was a gift certificate to a different local business, supporting our community's small businesses that also struggled due to COVID. It was a win-win for everyone because of your support for Historic Holy Trinity, the Gadawski's, and because of our community. Thank you!

It was uncertain at the beginning of the year if we would be hosting YouthWorks, but prayers were answered when we were able to welcome YouthWorks 2021 for the summer! Our partnership expanded to become the host location for the YouthWorks boys. For eight weeks the lower level of the school was filled with sleeping bags (following all COVID restrictions) and was buzzing with activity. On Monday nights the church was filled with song, worship, and our poverty simulation. Thursday evenings saw scaled down versions of their cookout. Students and their



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leaders volunteered at the complex several days a week helping with outdoor projects, learning new carpentry skills by building clothing racks for the store, painting and refinishing furniture, and so much more. Their eagerness to learn and their genuine desire to be of service is an inspiration to all.

This year we once again partnered with the DoubleTree Hotel and we hosted eight international students from Columbia and Turkey. For twelve weeks we brushed up on our Spanish, learned some Turkish phrases, and shared together our customs and cultures. Thank you Scott Swagler, general manager of the DoubleTree Hotel.

During the last two years of this pandemic, we have learned more than ever, to live by love, trust and faith. We thank all of you for your love and support that has helped us through these very difficult times. As we prepare for 2022, we are faced with new challenges. The monthly utilities and regular upkeep will always exist, however we must focus our efforts on unclogging gutters for two buildings (which cause flooding when it rains) and replacing the stairs at the front entry of the church. Both projects are needed to maintain the integrity and safety of the buildings. Both are challenging projects to complete, but with faith, trust, courage, and your continued support, we can do it! Your continued support since 2008 motivates us to keep going and preserve this wonderful historic complex for generations to come.

Here's how you can help. Purchase raffle tickets for 2022 Monthly Raffle, shop at Heavenly Threads 716 Thrift store (or spread the word by telling others about us), use AmazonSmile (<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/26-3954765>), volunteer with us (even one hour a week helping in our store is a blessing) or, if you prefer, a monetary donation is always humbly welcomed with a check to:

Holy Trinity Preservation
1419 Falls Street
Niagara Falls, NY 14303

No amount is too small. All donations are tax deductible and can also be made on-line at <https://niagara-heritage-of-hope-and-service-inc.square.site/donations>

We thank you for your continued financial support. Niagara Heritage of Hope and Service, home of Historic Holy Trinity, cannot continue without you and the support of our community.

May your home be filled with the warmth, comfort and blessings from above, and your heart be filled with strength, love, courage, trust, and above all, faith.

Merry Christmas and a blessed Happy New Year ahead!
Niagara Heritage of Hope and Service Board of Directors

Marg

Florian

Ken

Jackson

Deb

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<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/26-3954765>.*

*Please consider remembering Niagara Heritage of Hope and Service in your will or estate planning.
This ensures the preservation of this National Landmark and our work can continue for years to come.*



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