

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

2022 in Review



Heavenly Threads 716 Community Thrift Store

Paying it Forward, with Heavenly Results!

If you wonder if your donations to our thrift store, Heavenly Threads 716, are having an impact, the answer is not just "yes", but yes in a very big way! Your donations of clothing and household goods have made 2022 our best year ever!



This year our dedicated store volunteers, Lorraine, Mary, Stanley, Joy, and even Foster the Bear, have spent hours on end sorting, stocking and designing displays that have created a "boutique" look and feel to our store. Pictures of our store and merchandise that we post on-line are attracting shoppers and treasure hunters from all walks of life, while still serving the needs of our community at affordable prices, and allowing us to lend a hand to those in need. For example, a teacher from Abate Elementary reached out to us in need of clothing to stock her clothes closet for children in need. We loaded her trunk full of everything she needed! Another teacher at Niagara Elementary also was in need of toys, games and supplies for her classroom. Again, we were able to load her trunk up too!



Heavenly Threads 716 Community Thrift Store

This year we also provided much needed assistance to families in need through our voucher assistance program with Heart, Love and Soul, and recently began a voucher assistance program with St. Vincent de Paul Society (Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Parish) and Evergreen Health, Inc.



In addition, we were able to donate clothing to Hearts for the Homeless and the Buffalo City Mission when they reached out in need of infant clothing, and we held a Halloween Costume giveaway, which brought many smiles from many local children.



Heavenly Threads 716 Community Thrift Store



But the real "star" of our store is our volunteer supervisor, Foster the Bear, who also serves as our store mascot. Foster was donated to us many years ago, but because of his size, nobody would buy him. So what does one do with a stuffed bear that large? You dress him up and have fun. You take him to restaurants (yes, we really did), and love him. Foster was officially adopted by Heavenly Threads in 2020, and since has become an internet sensation! He even has his own hashtag! (check him out at #savefoster) Foster promotes our sales and events, takes selfies with customers, YouthWorks and NU students, our foreign exchange students and anyone willing to hug an almost seven foot tall, four foot round bear!



Heavenly Threads 716 Community Thrift Store

It's a new year ahead with many possibilities. In 2023 we would like to expand our "Foster Hearts" program, which will provide clothing to foster families in need, continue to expand our voucher systems, add more clothing racks in the store, and to give back to our community as donations allow.

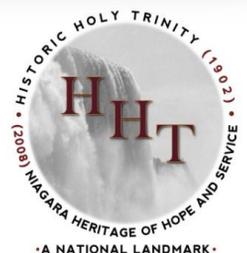


Volunteers

Can helping out a couple hours a week really help? The answer is a big YES! Being a 100% volunteer-based organization since its inception in 2008, Niagara Heritage of Hope and Service would not be where it is today without the many hands that help us. While the summer months are jammed packed with students from our partnership with YouthWorks (as you will see in the next several slides), we are ever grateful for those in our local community that help us throughout the year.



Whether it's help with snow removal around the complex and nearby fire hydrants, college students earning service hours for a class, a local girl scout earning a badge working at Heavenly Threads 716 as well Niagara University Plunge, where incoming students serve the community for a few days before the start of the Fall semester, the many hands are truly a blessing!

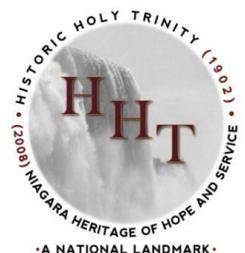


Volunteers

A special thanks to Georgia Robinson Bradberry, President and Lynne Herman, Treasurer of the Niagara Falls Historic Preservation Society, who volunteered their time earlier this year to clean the marker of Historic Holy Trinity as part of the nationwide National Historic Marker Day event. This annual event by the William G. Pomeroy Foundation for History was created to bring communities together across the nation to celebrate and preserve history. Thank you ladies for your time and dedication!



(Pictured are Georgia Robinson Bradberry (on left) and Lynne Herman (far right) of Niagara Falls Historic Preservation Society. Representing Niagara Heritage of Hope and Service, Home of Historic Holy Trinity are Marg Domagalski, President, and Deb Fera, Board Member.)

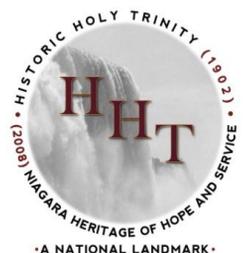


Volunteers

Since the summer of 2011, Niagara Heritage of Hope and Service has worked with YouthWorks, a Christian-based organization that offers mission trips for youth in the summer. The earlier years brought one or two groups to the complex. By 2014, we began partnering with YouthWorks to become the host site for a weekly Poverty Simulation that has the students learn firsthand what it is like to live in poverty. The simulation has specifically been held on a Monday night so the students could then go back out into the community for the remainder of the week and have a greater awareness of what they see and why they are serving in our city. It is always a definite eye opener. At this same time, the Thursday evening community cookout moved from Whirlpool State Park to the complex for ease in the community being able to walk to our location to share a meal and fellowship. It was at this same time that we were blessed to have a group of students and their leaders four days a week for the eight weeks.

Why is that important? For the obvious reason, it a large complex with 4 buildings spanning a full city block. The grass, bushes and weeds are constantly growing, something that takes more than one or two people to maintain on a regular basis. The extra hands truly make a difference keeping the complex looking its best all summer long. Then there are those things that needs to be moved, organized and cleaned in the school, thrift store and grounds. As we always say to the students, many hands make for light work.

But the not so obvious reasons for having crews all summer is the time spent talking and sharing as we work, learning about each other, their unique skills and talents (singing, painting, etc) and what they like to do at school and in their spare time. The “God moments” are the best – when we clearly see God working through us. While the week is meant for the youth to learn and grow, we all grow through these truly special moments!



Volunteers

Summer 2022 was no different. Over 400 students and 115 leaders came from Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Missouri, New Jersey, Kansas, Ohio, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Virginia, Maryland, Minnesota and Connecticut to serve between June 6 and July 28. During this time, Historic Holy Trinity had over 115 students and leaders help around the complex. While its difficult to remember everything that they accomplished, highlights for the summer included:

Landscaping which included weeding (almost every week), removing bushes, mowing the lawn, laying down mulch, creating a flower bed out of the old water fountain next to the church, prepared the garage and outdoors for the summer (bringing out tables for the community cookout), storing winter equipment and bringing out summer items, moving and organizing items in the thrift store, painting, removed old carpeting, created window screens for several windows, creating unique outdoor tables out of electric spools, repairing windows, locks, bikes and repurposing furniture. And there was always time for a quick “power nap,” morning exercise, dancing and having fun!

None of this would have been possible without Rachel, Jackson and Julia, the dedicated Niagara Staff along with Area Manager Bethany. With wake up at 6:30am and lights out by 11:00pm, they worked extremely long hours (with smiles on their faces) for eight straight weeks. Amazing!!

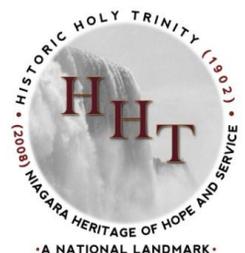
Enjoy the next eight (8) weeks in pictures.



Bethany and Rachel

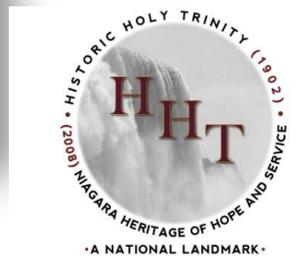


Rachel, Julia and Jackson



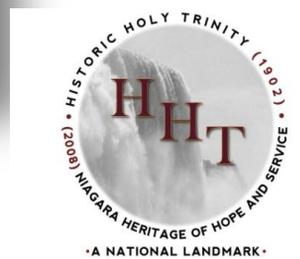
Volunteers

Week One – students from West Virginia, Michigan and Ohio



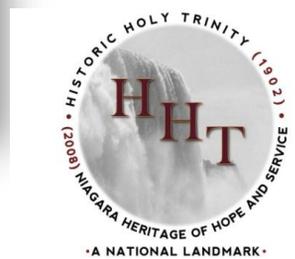
Volunteers

YouthWorks Week 2 – students Ohio, Illinois, Wisconsin and Iowa.



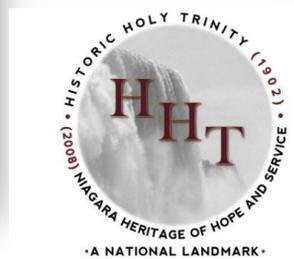
Volunteers

YouthWorks Week 3 – students from Delaware, Pennsylvania and Iowa



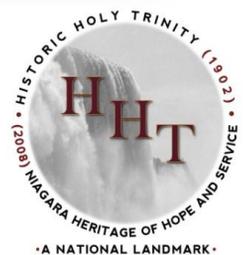
Volunteers

YouthWorks Week 4 – students from Missouri, New Jersey, Kansas, Ohio, and Kentucky.



Volunteers

YouthWorks Week 5 – students from Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, and Virginia



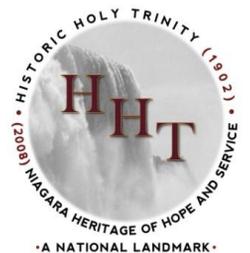
Volunteers

YouthWorks Week 6 – students from Minnesota and Connecticut



Volunteers

YouthWorks Week 7 – students from Iowa, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Missouri and Maryland



Volunteers

YouthWorks Week 8 - all were from Minnesota.



Year Long Monthly Pierogi Raffle

We were blessed again this year with the generosity of the Gadawski Family, who donated a dozen of their homemade Pierogi each month as the first prize in our annual raffle. We continued with two prizes, the second prize was a gift certificate to a different local business, to support our community's small businesses.

Because of you support, it was a win-win for everyone – for Historic Holy Trinity, for the Gadawski's, and for our community. Thank you!

Historic Holy Trinity



2022 YEAR-LONG MONTHLY RAFFLE
2 PRIZES EACH MONTH



1ST PRIZE:
ONE DOZEN HOMEMADE PIEROGI
BY **GADAWSKI'S RESTAURANT**
choices: cheese; sauerkraut; potato; mushroom
12 of one or combination of your choice
(Value: \$20)

2nd Prize:
Different vendor each month
(\$10 value)



TICKETS: \$10 EACH OR 3 FOR \$25

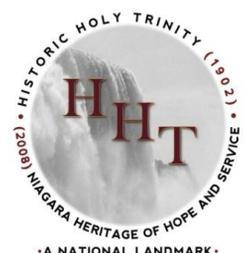
Tickets are available
online* at www.historicHT.org/events,
Heavenly Threads 716 - Community Thrift Store
and
Gadawski's Restaurant

*Service Fee added to online tickets

Sponsors: Gadawski's Restaurant and Thrivent Financial

Proceeds to benefit Niagara Heritage of Hope and Service, a National Landmark

www.historicHT.org | Call 716-299-0799 | Facebook: Historic Holy Trinity

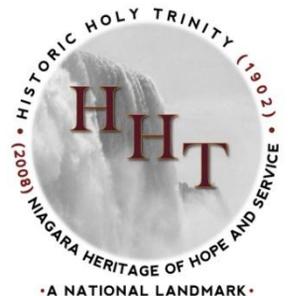


Complex Renovations

For the last several years, a major project on our wish list has been to repair all 3 sets of stairs to the church, two of which have been roped off as a safety measure since 2015. COVID put a longer hold on this project until that time that we could raise the funds. Without another Polkafest since 2019, we thought it would take a few more years.

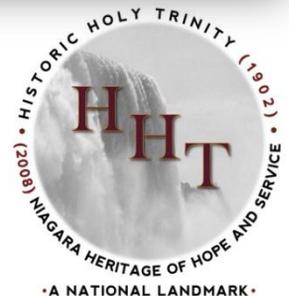


Summertime always brings about a flurry of activity. Through the power of daily prayer to our Dear Lord and a special daily Prayer to Our Lady of Perpetual Help, our prayers were answered this past Spring.



Complex Renovations

A heartfelt thank you to the two individuals who support our mission and made it possible for us, through their extremely generous donations, to bid out and secure the work by Niagara Custom Concrete. Thank you to James and his crew for their commitment, professionalism and great work to complete project before summer, just in time to celebrate 12 years of being added to the National Register of Historic Landmarks. We are thrilled that we are now able to use all doors into the church, just in time for the summer.



Complex Renovations

We were blessed with the ability to complete a second important project before June to help us maintain our beautiful National landmark.

Fiddler Roofing made needed repairs on the East, West and South sides of the church roof and gutters, replaced a missing gutter on the Business Center, inspected a potential issue with vents on the school and sealed the area by the school door (no more bees!).



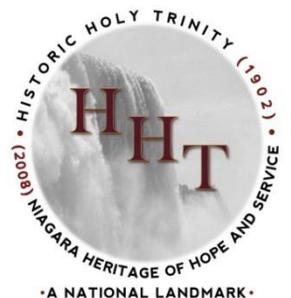
All of this work requires funding. It was only through the generosity of our donors that we were able to complete these needed repairs.

A heartfelt thank you to James of Niagara Custom Concrete, John of Fiddler Roofing and to all who support our efforts.



Holy Trinity 1972 8th Grade Class 50th Reunion

For one weekend in September, we were honored to host several members of the 1972 8th grade class at the complex for their 50th anniversary. Their adventures started Friday night with dinner at Gadawski's.



Holy Trinity 1972 8th Grade Class 50th Reunion

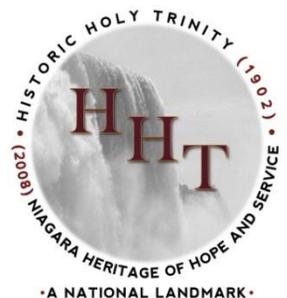


They went sightseeing Saturday afternoon, took a tour of the church and school before sitting down for pizza, wings and cake (to celebrate a birthday) while looking at pictures and reminiscing about their time at Holy Trinity School. Several even stayed overnight in the Retreat Center (affectionately known as the convent).



Holy Trinity 1972 8th Grade Class 50th Reunion

A special shout-out to Mary Beth Gadawski-Nugent for making this weekend happen and to everyone for letting the “kid sister” (Marg) join in on their festivities and memories. It was such a great weekend, they are already talking about next year and inviting other classes to join.



Christmas Concert 2022

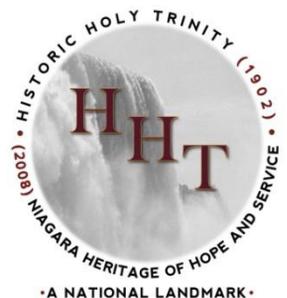
Music was back in the church!



After a three year hiatus, the recently formed Niagara Falls Community Choir, under the direction of Veronica Schucker, performed for a captive audience. It was heavenly to hear Christmas carols again with such great harmony!

We are hopeful this will become a yearly Christmas event!

Congratulations to the Niagara Falls Community Choir!



Other News

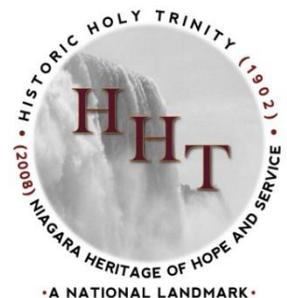
Early Fall, we were asked to participate in an exhibit at
Niagara University's Castellani Art Museum
The ECCE Sublimia: The Art of Christianity

Historic Holy Trinity loaned two items to the exhibit which
runs from November 2022 through May 2023. For more
information about the exhibit and hours of operation, visit
castellaniartmuseum.org



With a saddened heart, two long time former Holy Trinity parishioners Frank Gregorski and Helena Olszewski passed away, September and December respectively. We were humbled to honor their memories by holding their wakes in the church.

May Frank and Helena rest in peace.



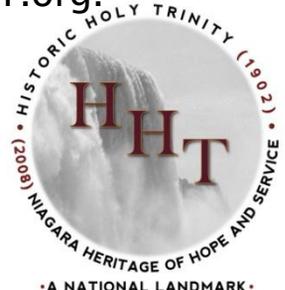
Looking Ahead

We want to create the Historic Holy Trinity Cookbook full of your treasured family recipes from all cultures. We would love to offer it for sale during our 2023 Polka Fest, but we need your help to accomplish this. You can submit your recipes on-line, by mail, or better yet, drop them off at our thrift store in person. While you're there take a selfie with Foster! We can all use a big bear hug now and then!



Yes, we did just say “Polkafest 2023”!!

As we found out in 2019, it takes many for a successful event. If interested in helping, please reach out to us at 716/299-0799 or email Marg at mdomagalski@historicHT.org.



Looking Ahead

We thank you for your continued generosity!

Ways you can help in 2023 ... follow us on **Facebook and Instagram, like and share our posts, shop at Heavenly Threads 716 Community Thrift Store, or use AmazonSmile.* If you prefer, a monetary donation would humbly be welcomed. No amount is too small, all donations are tax deductible, and can be made online at <https://niagara-heritage-of-hope-and-service-inc.square.site/donations> or with a check payable to:

Holy Trinity Preservation
1419 Falls Street
Niagara Falls, NY 14303

We are so ever grateful for the generosity we received throughout 2022. May your home be filled with warmth, comfort and blessings from above. Thank you for considering Historic Holy Trinity in your holiday giving! We wish you good health and prayers for a brighter 2023!

Christmas blessings,
Niagara Heritage of Hope and Service Board of Directors

Marg Florian Ken Deb

**Support us every time you shop with AmazonSmile, not just during the holidays; all year round. <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/26-3954765>.*

***Facebook and Instagram: [HistoricHolyTrinity](#) and [HeavenlyThreads716](#)*

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.

