



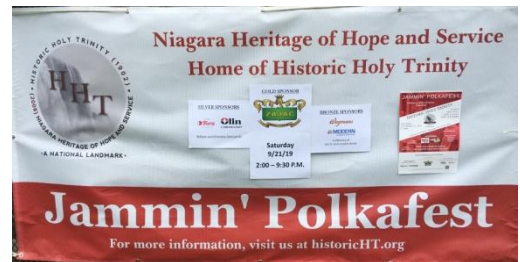
Niagara Heritage of Hope and Service, Inc.  
Home of Historic Holy Trinity

December 2020

Dear Friend:

2020 - what a long and challenging year it has been for all of us! We pray that you and your loved ones are healthy and safe as 2020 draws to a close.

As we take a look back, we are ever grateful for 2019 ... it was a banner year for Niagara Heritage of Hope and Service. Celebrating 10 years of service, there was a flurry of activity -- several college groups stayed at the Retreat Center throughout the year while serving our community. In June, we partnered with DoubleTree Hotel and hosted several international students for the summer as they worked in the hotel. There were LOTS of student volunteers throughout 2019 to help with projects around the complex, the Community Thrift Store continued to grow and we celebrated in style hosting the *Jammin' Polkafest* in September, an event that we believe exceeded everyone's fundraising expectations. The events of 2019 opened the way to greater expectations for an even better 2020.



With a quiet start to 2020, the first half of the year roared in louder than a lion. Whenever one does God's work, there will be challenges along the way. No one would have imagined the



challenges that lied ahead starting with the need to replace a failing 70+ year old boiler system in the Business Center (former rectory), then closing down the complex for 3 months and cancelling all fundraising activities. These setbacks cut into our reserves and worked against our best-laid plans for 2020. Being a 100% donation-based organization with no staff, difficult decisions were made to cut at every corner possible. We used that down time, though, to brainstorm ways to keep the complex running during this unprecedented time.

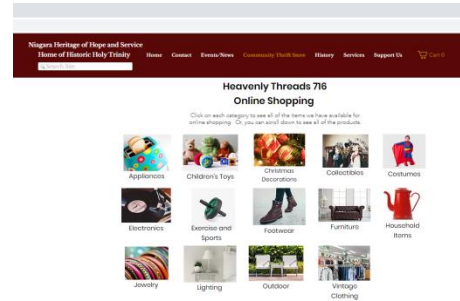


Late Spring, we learned that our long time partner, YouthWorks, would not be serving any communities in 2020. No poverty simulations, no Thursday cookouts, no students serving the Niagara Falls community. It was an adjust for all.



The Community Thrift Store reopened in June, resuming regular Saturday hours and Wednesday hours were added in July. We were happy to see our regular customers return as well as the new faces shopping. To our surprise, the community support was overwhelming ... it was a banner summer for the store.

In October, *Heavenly Threads 716* launched, our online store showcasing the vintage and unique items for sale along with a dedicated Facebook page and Instagram ([heavenlythreads716](https://www.facebook.com/heavenlythreads716)). Be sure to follow and like us. Despite a quiet start to the year, exciting changes were happening during the second half of the year at the complex.



For a week in August, Historic Holy Trinity was the host site for students and leaders from Young Life. Following COVID guidelines and an early morning start, the group met for an opening prayer and group assignments before leaving for a full day of service in the Niagara Falls Community. The group came back together for dinner and evening program of worship, song and reflection. With ideal weather and a flurry of activity, it was a great week.

Then in October, board member Deb Fera, her husband Ernie, their neighbor Angelo and cousin Joy, along with Marg's friend Frank volunteered one afternoon to remove a tree and trim back branches of the maple tree near the church, both which were blind spots and potential security issues. With the replacement of the outdoor lights by John Dojka, the pathway around the church and Business Center (former rectory) is now much brighter.



Scott Swagler, General Manager of the DoubleTree Hotel, and his son Chris did double duty in donation of luggage racks for our with a technical issue with our trailer with scrap metal that had Proceeds of the scrap metal went Troop 630.



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Looking for ways to help other local small businesses in 2021, we are partnering with Gadawski's Restaurant and other local vendors, holding a 12 month raffle with two prizes drawn every month. First prize is one dozen homemade Pierogi with the winner having the delicious choice of cheese, potato, sauerkraut, mushroom or a combination of the four flavors. The second prize will be a different local vendor. Drawings will be held the 2nd Saturday of every month, starting January. Tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$25; available at Gadawski's Restaurant, the Community Thrift Store as well as online at [www.historicHT.org/copy-of-events-news](http://www.historicHT.org/copy-of-events-news).



**Historic Holy Trinity**  
**2021 MONTHLY RAFFLE**  
**2 PRIZES EACH MONTH**

**1ST PRIZE:**  
**ONE DOZEN HOMEMADE PIEROGI**  
**BY GADAWSKI'S RESTAURANT**

Drawings: 2nd Saturday of every month  
 Winners to be notified by telephone

choices: cheese; sauerkraut; potato; mushroom  
 12 of one or combination of your choice (Value: \$15)

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

Up to 24 chances to win

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

Tickets are available online\* at [www.historicHT.org/events](http://www.historicHT.org/events),  
 The Community Thrift Store and  
 Gadawski's Restaurant

\*Service Fee added to online tickets

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

Sponsors: Gadawski's Restaurant and Thrivent Financial

[www.historicHT.org](http://www.historicHT.org) | Call 716-299-0799 | Facebook: Historic Holy Trinity

Since its inception in 2008, Niagara Heritage of Hope and Service has served the community with no staff -- everyone volunteers their time to keep its programs, services, the Community Thrift Store and Historic Holy Trinity operational. No staff had a negative impact for us this year as we learned that the organization was not eligible for any COVID relief funding.

With all we are doing to stay ahead, we still need help. You have been generous in the past and we remain ever grateful. Ways you can help ... purchase raffle tickets, shop at our 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

With the holiday season upon us, we are so ever grateful for the generosity we received throughout 2020, on GivingTuesday and gifts this month. 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 2021!

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

*Marg*

*Florian*

*Ken*

*Jackson*

*Deb*

\*Support us every time you shop with AmazonSmile, not just during the holidays; all year round.  
<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.*