



DIMITRI HOUSE

102 North Union Street
Rochester, NY 14607

NON PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
ROCHESTER, NY
PERMIT NO.1580

Upcoming Events

3rd Annual Dimitri House Golf Tournament

Presented by SMP, the annual Dimitri House Golf Tournament will be held on Thursday, July 13, 2017 at Shadow Lake Golf Club (1850 Five Mile Line Road, Penfield, NY 14526).

Registration begins at 9 am.

Single golfers can register for \$125 and foursomes for \$500.

For more information about the tournament, please contact Gene Renner:

grenner@dimitri-house.org

To Register Online:

<https://www.dimitri-house.org/events>

Wine, Dine & Share

Join us for our annual Wine, Dine & Share fundraiser on Sunday, October 15, 2017 at the Memorial Art Gallery. This year, we will be spending "An Evening in Paris" while we host a silent auction, a wine raffle, and enjoy a fabulous meal provided by Brown Hound Catering. Save the date today!

October 15, 2017, 5 pm – 9 pm
Memorial Art Gallery
500 University Avenue, Rochester, NY

102 North Union Street
Rochester, NY 14607

Phone: (585) 325-1796
Fax: (585) 325-1541

<https://www.dimitri-house.org/>

The Dimitri Digest Issue 001 Spring 2017

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Poverty in Rochester, NY

In September 2016, the Rochester Area Community Foundation and ACT Rochester released a report entitled "Poverty and Self-Sufficiency in the Nine-County Greater Rochester Area." This report examines how poverty continues to rapidly grow within the City of Rochester as well as through the nine-county Greater Rochester Area. Here is a look at how the updated data compares to previous reports (issued in 2013 and 2015):

- The current regional poverty rate has increased from 13.2% in 2013 to 14.3% in 2016. The nine-county region is now home to more than 167,600 people living below the federal poverty line.
- Poverty within the City of Rochester continues to be extraordinary, ranking as the 5th poorest city in the United States, compared to the top 75 metropolitan areas. The poverty rate has grown from 31.1% in 2013 to 33.8% in 2016.
- Rochester ranks 1st in child poverty (52.5%)

To access the report, please go to:

<http://www.actrochester.org/poverty>



DIMITRI HOUSE

A Letter from the Executive Director

I often discuss who we serve here at Dimitri House because "homeless" is such a murky label. It encompasses a diverse spectrum of people from the hard-core "street" people seen on corner asking for a dollar to the working poor and their families who have lost their homes because of a financial stumble. People struggling with mental illness and substance abuse are but a portion of the homeless population here in Rochester NY. There are also low-wage workers living out of their cars who manage to maintain employment with minimal compensation, yet cannot afford a home. Some people are briefly without shelter while others are chronically homeless. The need, the stay, and the experiences are as unique as the people walking in the doors. Each circumstance requires different responses and we here at Dimitri House try to assist each family or household with not only their basic needs, but to provide the support and training to assist them in obtaining self-sufficiency and permanent housing in their future.

As many know, Dimitri House has been in the business since 1985 when our first soup kitchen opened to provide food to those experiencing hunger. We then saw the need and expanded to provide safe, clean, respectful shelter. Today, we are so much more than food and shelter. Our door is never closed to a person in need and we do our very best to help them gain whatever they lack to be a happy, healthy, contributing member of our community.

The Dimitri Digest

To serve our neighbors in need with love and acceptance, joining them on their journey toward self-sufficiency.

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We sustain primarily on donations and grants. This allows us to serve many people whose circumstances cause them to fall "between the cracks" of bureaucratic regulation. All of this is done with only two full-time staff and over a hundred volunteers. Every dollar is devoted to the shelter, our food cupboard, and our lunch program. We also began our new DASH program that assists those moving into permanent housing with a security deposit - which can seem to be an insurmountable amount of cash when on limited funds. Since the program began, we have assisted with placing almost fifty people into their own apartments - that's 50 less people who living on the streets or in shelters. With your help, we are hoping to double that number within the next year!

We can't do this without you! Consider the following to help support our mission:

- * Make a financial contribution to help support new and existing programs (including DASH)
- * Log onto our Facebook page and share with your friends and family
- * Attend our fundraising events

Everyone has a gift to share. Please help us help others make their homes in the Rochester.

Peace and Prosperity,

Laurie Jones-Prizel



DIMITRI HOUSE

The Donors' Corner

We couldn't do the work we do without the help of generous donors like you!

2016 Memorial and Tribute Gifts

Memorials and tribute gifts made to Dimitri House are a fitting way to honor the memory of a loved one or to pay tribute to someone special. All memorial gifts are acknowledged to a designated family member. If you would like to honor someone in your life, please consider doing so by making a gift in their honor or memory to Dimitri House.

We are enormously grateful for the gifts that have made to Dimitri House in 2016 and want to acknowledge how appreciative we are for your gifts.

Memorial and Tribute gifts made during the first half of 2017 will be listed in our next issue of the Dimitri Digest.



Honors

Peter C. Albertini
Diane Casey
Michael DeMott
Sr. Marjory Henninger
Gary and Pat Hettrich
Laurie Jones-Prizel
Anthony Perri
Don and Betty Potter
Rev. Steven Price

Memory

Peter Barone
Paul Crombach
Christopher DeGrazia
Theodore Knapp
Eleanor Kurkowski
Anthony Lipani
Greg Lombardo
Walter May
Gretchen Palischek
Betty Schmitt
Terri Schmitt
Marilyn Schrader
Walter Schwartz
Florence Summerhays
Sherry Wismer

Dimitri House's Wish List



Donations help keep Dimitri House in business and we appreciate any support that you can provide. If you wish to make a financial donation, checks should be made payable to Dimitri House and mailed to us at 102 North Union Street, Rochester, NY 14607.

We are also happy to accept in-kind donations of goods. Please drop them off at Dimitri House during regular business hours (Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.).

Suggestions for donations include:

- Non-perishable groceries such as soup, tuna, peanut butter, jelly, canned vegetables, fruits, beans, tomato sauce, canned tomatoes, pasta, rice, Jello, pudding, cereal, fruit juice, tea, coffee, hot chocolate, powered iced tea, Kool-Aid, lemonade, etc
- Toiletries such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, foot powder, body lotion, soap, shampoo, razors, lip balm, nail clippers, feminine hygiene products, etc.
- Household products such as paper plates, plastic flatware, napkins, paper towels, toilet paper, laundry detergent, hand soap, etc.
- Office supplies such as printer paper, pens, pencils, ink cartridges, postage stamps, envelopes, White-out, staples, Scotch tape, etc.
- Gift cards to grocery stores, office supply stores, or general use cards (such as Amazon gift cards or Visa gift cards).



“No one has ever become poor by giving.”

- Anne Frank

The Rosa Wims Volunteer of the Year Award

The Rosa Wims Volunteer of the Year Award has been presented by Foodlink to two of Dimitri House's long term volunteers – Robert and Barbara Concordia. Here's what we had to say about them:

Our joint nominees, Bob Concordia and Barb Concordia, are taking on life bursting with energy, spirit, and compassion. Not only are they enthusiastic and eager to continue being active members of the community, but they do so with a sense of love and kindness that inspires those around them to push themselves to do the same.



Every week for the past 23 years, Bob and Barb have come to Dimitri House, working together with other volunteers and staff to serve hot, nutritious meals to the hungry and less fortunate in our community. Not only do they make sure that everyone leaves Dimitri House with a full belly, they also do whatever they can to make our clients feel loved, respected, and valued. They place our clients' dignity and well-being at the heart of everything that they do at Dimitri House.

Our clients leave after interactions with the Concordia's wearing a smile on their faces. Our clients frequently deal with discrimination and a lack of respect due to their homeless or poverty status and Bob and Barb never let any of our clients feel any less than the cherished human beings that we believe them to be.

Although it may not seem like much, putting a smile on someone's face and offering them a kind word can make a word of difference to someone who has become accustomed to the difficult life that many of our clients lead.

Several of our current clients come in specifically to see the Concordia's and catch up on how they are doing. Their willingness to come and serve with warmth and open hearts during the Drop-In lunch program contributes enormously to our agency's desire to run Dimitri House with love, compassion, and understanding.

The word that best describes our nominees is: devoted. Plain and simple, Bob and Barb are passionate about what they do and passionate about the people that they love. They do everything in their power to help those around them and do it with kindness and compassion.

A Message to Our Volunteers:

We have had another successful shelter season during which time we have provided safe, comfortable housing for those most in need here in Rochester, New York. We want to extend our most sincere gratitude to those volunteers who have braved the winter weather to ensure that our clients stay warm, comfortable, and, most importantly, safe during the brutal upstate New York winter.

We are also tremendously grateful for our volunteers who work tirelessly throughout the organization to ensure that our programs run with the utmost efficiency. Thank you to the volunteers who give their time in the Emergency Food Cupboard, the Drop-In Lunch program, and upstairs in the office. We couldn't do it without you!

Finally, thank you to those of you who volunteer in other ways to help our organization, including, but in no way limited to: fundraising efforts, event planning and coordination, and maintenance and repair throughout the facility.

A Year in Review

Here's how our programs performed in 2016.

Our Food Pantry served 3,137 individuals in the Northeast region of Rochester, NY, including: 1,847 adults, 2,047 children, 243 seniors, and 110 brand new clients.

Our Drop-In Lunch program served 5,133 hot meals.

Our Men's Emergency Winter Shelter provided a total of 1,110 bed nights to more than 35 men.

Our DASH program provided security deposits to 24 individuals along with case management services.



Looking for More Ways to Help?

Please contact us at:

(585) 325-1796

OR

hmarkham@dimitri-house.org

for more information about how you can make a positive impact in our community.

