



Recognitions and Commemorations

DePaul has countless reasons to celebrate!



Liberty Square Program Administrator Michelle Laraby was honored with the Unsung Hero Award from the Homeless Alliance of Western New York (HAWNY) in December 2023. Michelle was nominated by Eagle Star Housing Senior Director of Veterans Operations Erin Corcoran.



Westwood Commons and the Gates-Chili Chamber of Commerce celebrated updates to the DePaul Senior Living Community in North Chili with a ribbon cutting in January. Renovations included fresh paint in hallways, lounges, most common areas, the dining and activity rooms, a new beauty salon, new furniture in common areas, lounges and the activity room, boiler and HVAC upgrades, a new dishwasher, fire panel and system upgrades, and a new patio and sidewalks in the courtyard.

Pictured left to right are Chili Public Library Director Jeff Baker, ESL Federal Credit Union Business Banking Relationship Manager Carla Vazquez, Westwood Commons Marketing Director William Ficarra, Woodcrest Commons Marketing Director Christine Hulbert, Westwood Commons Administrator Julie Kornow, Woodcrest Commons Administrative Assistant Tammy Omeluch, President of the Gates-Chili Chamber of Commerce Elisa Martin, Town of Chili Supervisor David Dunning, Town of Chili Councilwoman Mary Sperr, Chili Public Library Assistant Director Jennifer Lowden, and Taylor Heating, Inc. Manager and Vice-President and Marketing Chair for the Chamber of Commerce Zach Utech.



Glenwell came out on top in the Alzheimer's Association of WNY's 2023 Community Care Partners Challenge. The DePaul Senior Living Community in Cheektowaga raised over \$6,000 through hot dog and ice cream float sales and a sports memorabilia auction.

Pictured top row, left to right, are Activity Director Tamara McClellan, Dietary Director Valerie Thomas, Western New York Alzheimer's Association Events Manager Maddie Weitz, Administrator Tina Hagen, Resident Care Director Monique Washington-Mathews, Medication Coordinator Mary Levan, Memory Care Coordinator LaTea Jackson-Bennett and Maintenance Director Dmytro Shutka. Pictured bottom row, left to right, are Marketing Director Stacy Jasinski, Case Manager Rhonda Jordan and Activity Director Mary Kovacs. Not pictured are friends of Team Glenwell, Linda Dansa and Kelli Argo.

DePaul, New York State Homes and Community Renewal, the New York State Office of Mental Health, elected officials, community representatives and other partners gathered for a groundbreaking ceremony for the Mosaic Apartments in Schenectady in November 2023.

The two-building development will create 60 newly constructed apartments in the Mont Pleasant neighborhood. The all-electric, energy-efficient development includes 30 apartments with supportive services reserved for NYS Empire State Supported Housing Initiative (ESSHI).

The Mosaic Apartments are part of Governor Kathy Hochul's \$25 billion comprehensive Housing Plan that will create or preserve 100,000 affordable homes across New York, including 10,000 with support services for vulnerable populations, plus the electrification of an additional 50,000 homes.



Mosaic Apartments Groundbreaking



Pictured left to right are President of Christa Construction Mike Seaman, Vice President/Mortgage Officer of the Community Preservation Corporation Tracy Conley, NYS Senator James Tedisco (44th District), President of Betts Housing Partners Chris Betts, Upstate East Director of Development at NYS Homes and Community Renewal Darren Scott, DePaul President Mark Fuller, City of Schenectady Mayor Gary McCarthy, Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara (111th District), President of Homeless Housing and Assistance Corporation Dana Greenberg, Director of the Bureau of Housing Development and Support at NYS Office of Mental Health Julie Duncan, SWBR Principal Joe Gibbons, Chair of Schenectady Metroplex Ray Gillen and Metroplex Executive Director David Hogenkamp.

Recognitions and Commemorations *(continued)*



DePaul's WorkGuide Program Coordinator Rebecca Haberbusch and Vocational Counselor Amanda Garcia nominated Wegmans in Perinton for their support in employing individuals with disabilities. DePaul's WorkGuide Program has decades of experience providing vocational support to individuals with mental, developmental or physical disabilities seeking assistance with gainful employment in Monroe County. Along with the financial benefits and self-sufficiency, WorkGuide assists in building community between employers and employees while also fostering respect and support for individuals with disabilities.

Pictured is Rebecca Haberbusch (left) and Wegmans Employee Advocate Gina Bower at the National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) Advancing Access and Equity event hosted by Rochester Area Employment Network.

Shannon Miller of the Veddersburg Apartments in Amsterdam was nominated for The Supportive Housing Network of New York's 2023 Supportive Housing Tenant of the Year! Shannon was thrilled to join fellow nominees at an event in January in New York City. Veddersburg Apartments Program Manager Zulay Urbistondo and Housing Specialist Angelina Delliveneri nominated Shannon for this well-deserved honor!



Honoring Those Who Served

Veterans Day was marked with ceremony and celebration.

Pictured top row on the left serving Veterans Day Breakfast at 270 on East in Rochester is Administrator Liz Doll and Assistant Case Manager Jason Holloway. Food was donated by Wegmans.

Pictured middle row on the left at the 12th Annual Veterans Day Breakfast at the Rochester Institute of Technology are Director of Quality Management for Veterans Services Melissa Brien and Farmington Safe Haven Residential Living Specialist Stephanie Weigert.

Heritage Manor of Lockport and Wheatfield Commons in North Tonawanda honored their Veterans with a lunch. Pictured top row on the right is John Lobczowski of Heritage Manor and middle row on the right is Jerry Farr of Wheatfield Commons.

Pictured on the bottom at the Monroe County Veterans Day Parade hosted by the Rochester International Airshow are Liberty Square Administrator Michelle Laraby, friends of Eagle Star Housing Stephany Corcoran and Will Loftus, and Director of Quality Management for Veterans Services Melissa Brien.

Be sure to check out the impactful testimonials of Nathaniel, an Army Veteran who moved into 270 on East in Rochester in November 2022, and John, a Veteran Marine who moved into Liberty Square in Batavia on Veterans Day 2022, on DePaul's YouTube Channel at www.youtube.com/@DePaulorg/videos.



Praise for DePaul's Affordable Housing

DePaul Properties, Inc. creates and operates attractive, affordable housing solutions in urban, suburban and rural settings within environments that promote respectful community relationships. Offering locations in Albany, Cayuga, Erie, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Montgomery, Niagara, Oneida, Ontario, Orleans, Oswego, Schenectady and Wyoming counties, all units are subject to income eligibility and occupancy requirements.

Thank you to DePaul Properties, Inc. staff for going above and beyond to provide quality care at our communities throughout Upstate and Western New York! Check out some of the positive, transformational experiences DePaul residents have shared with us!

I love my life now

DePaul and the staff here have always been my cheerleaders. I was homeless because of untreated bipolar disorder. Coming here helped me get my life back!

DePaul is a very caring program the staff here are so compassionate and so nice i appreciate living here so much it is beyond my wildest dreams. thank you for helping me i embrace it all





Arts Across the Agency

Living Opportunities of DePaul's (LOD) Annual Art Show was held at Kensington Square in Buffalo in November 2023. The show celebrated the talents of residents in DePaul's mental health residential and supported housing programs and included artwork, singing, poetry readings, dancing, stand-up comedy routines, and piano and saxophone performances. The event concluded with sub sandwiches plus cupcakes from a local woman- and minority-owned business in Buffalo!

Pictured on the top row, from left to right, at the LOD Art Show are Scott Ostolski of the Apple Blossom Apartments in Cheektowaga, Robin Dusza of the Ebenezer Square

Apartments in West Seneca, Denise M. and Em N. of the Riverside Apartments in Buffalo, and James G. of Kensington Square in Buffalo.

Residents and staff of Seneca Square in Buffalo and the Ebenezer Square Apartments in West Seneca flexed their creativity with Paint the Town! Pictured bottom row on the left with their finished pieces are Patty Zindle of the Ebenezer Square Apartments, Laura Dicenzo of Seneca Square, Seneca Square Assistant Program Director Carol Evans, Cecelia Pillard of Ebenezer Square, and Scott Bitterman of Seneca Square.

The American Gold Star Mothers sponsored a paint night at Liberty Square in

Batavia. Gold Star Mother Rita Hasenauer and her husband Gold Star Father Dan Hasenauer provided the supplies and instruction for a colorful art activity. Pictured bottom row in the middle are Veteran Dennis Mahoney and Rita.

Wheatfield Commons in North Tonawanda partnered with students from Fricano Primary School of the Starpoint Central School District for an intergenerational art show. Residents thoroughly enjoyed spending time with the kindergarten artists and collaborating on a parallel painting project. Pictured bottom row on the right is co-artist Grayson Caldwell with Beverly Schultz.

365 Days of Celebrations

There is no shortage of reasons to celebrate and pay tribute at DePaul, from January to December.

Pictured having fun in all seasons are Trolley Station Apartments Property Manager Melissa Dymond ushering in spring last March; Arlene Hughes at Wheatfield Commons flexed her creativity on Watermelon Day last August; Joan DiCarlo of Heritage Manor of Lockport shows off her best attire for Ugly Sweater Day in December and staff at La Rosa Villas including Housing Specialist Megan Donohue, Program Manager David Appleton, Front Desk Assistant Amy Parker, and Property Manager Heather Herrmann showed their support during National Suicide Awareness Month in September.

For a full month-by-month list of the unique holidays and theme days which were commemorated across the agency in 2023, visit the DePaul Blog at www.depaul.org/2024/01/04/365-days-of-celebrations-in-2023/.



DePaul's Reintegration Support Team



Established in 2019, the DePaul Reintegration Support Team (DRST) is a multidisciplinary team that supports DePaul's mental health residential programs in Erie County. The DRST assists residents in their recovery journey, helping them acclimate to new living situations and obtain necessary living skills that empower them to achieve the highest level of independence possible.

The DRST operates a store at Seneca Square in Buffalo run by resident volunteers. There are plans to expand the store to other DePaul Single Room Occupancy (SRO) programs this year. In addition, the team provides various groups at the Erie County SRO programs Monday through Thursday. Group topics are decided collaboratively and have included cooking and nutrition, self-care, social skills, wellness tools, arts and crafts, and overcoming obstacles.

Pictured left to right participating in DRST activities are Taylor Wolfe, John Brownell, Eric Dobson, Drea Frasier and Scott Bitterman.

To read more, visit the DePaul Blog at www.depaul.org/2024/02/06/support-on-the-path-to-independence/.



Holiday Highlights



The holidays were merry and bright across the agency with creative crafts, delightful decor and festive celebrations! Among the fun, DePaul's Recreation Department hosted its annual holiday party for clients at mental health residential programs across the Rochester area.

Pictured on the left, from top to bottom, are Kim S. of the Rochester View Apartments accompanied by guests; Elmgrove Residential Manager Krista Hatfield with DePaul Recreation Activities Coordinator Denise Simcick, and Ridgeview Commons Program Director Rebecca Barnes, Ridgeview Commons Medication Coordinator Karrieff Norman and Regional Facilities Director Elisa Easton. Pictured top right is Justin Maldonado of West Main with DePaul Recreation Director Terry Hewitt dressed as the Grinch.

Many communities enjoyed friendly competition with door decorating contests. Pictured bottom right are some of the winners including Danielle Odrobina of the Charles J. Lesh, MD Apartments in Batavia and JoAnn Hills of La Rosa Villas in LeRoy.

For more highlights, visit the DePaul Blog at www.depaul.org/2024/01/09/tis-the-season-to-be-jolly/



2023 Project Thank You!

Clients, residents and staff throughout DePaul were the recipients of much generosity during the 2023 holiday season. Many thanks to DePaul staff members, scout troops, schools, places of worship, community organizations, businesses and individuals who came together to bring joy to all. Everyone who gave of themselves to those in DePaul's care made a tremendous difference!

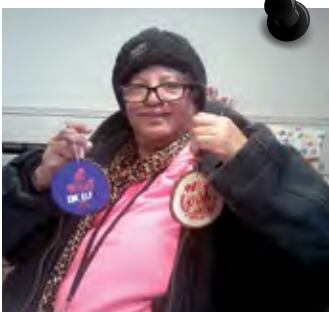
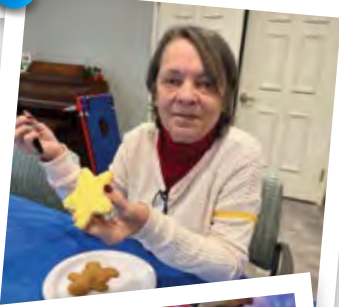
DePaul is the grateful beneficiary of countless donations of time, talent, gifts and monetary contributions that make the holiday season brighter for those in our care. Please know that all contributions are known and appreciated, and every effort has been made to recognize all donors.

You truly make a difference.

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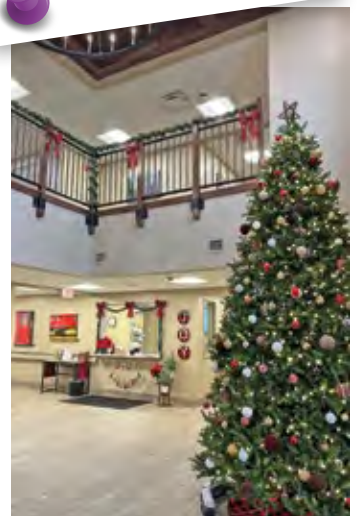
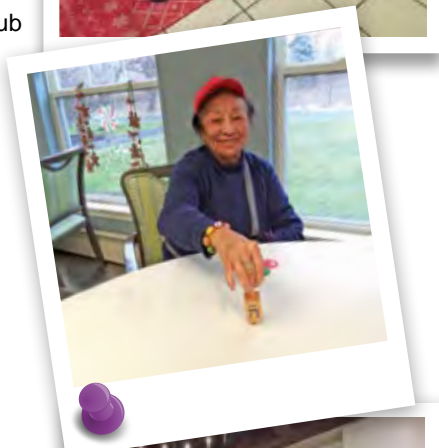




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Save the Date: NCADD-RA Presents Annual Luncheon

The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence-Rochester Area's (NCADD-RA) 78th Annual Luncheon will take place from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 15 at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Rochester. Keynote speaker Dr. Stephen L. Dewey will present "Understanding the Science of Substance Use Disorder." Dr. Dewey received his Ph.D. from the University of Iowa and completed his postdoctoral fellowship in the Neurology Department at Stony Brook University. During his 23-year tenure at Brookhaven National Laboratory, he conducted research on the effects of addictive drugs on the human brain. Dr. Dewey has published more than 250 peer-reviewed scientific research articles, book chapters, and abstracts.

For more information or to register, contact Elaine Alvarado at ealvarado@depaul.org or call (585) 719-3481. You can also visit ncadd-ra.org/events-trainings/ncadd-ra-annual-luncheon/ to register online.



 **DEPAUL** *Details*

President of DePaul is Mark H. Fuller. Copywriting, editorial and design by Monica Bulger, Amy Cavalier, Justine Smith and Crissy Welzen.



DePaul is a not-for-profit organization that provides senior living residential services, mental health residential and support programs, addiction prevention and support services, vocational services, Veterans residential and support services and affordable housing. To receive *DePaul Details* electronically, please provide your name and email address to Monica Bulger at mbulger@depaul.org in DePaul's Communications & Development Department.

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Please direct comments to the Communications & Development Department at (585) 426-8000 or communications@depaul.org.