



## A Place to Call Home Celebrating DePaul's Mission, Vision and Values



**A**s DePaul proudly celebrates 68 years of making a meaningful difference for the individuals and communities we serve, we are pleased to share our refreshed mission, vision, and values. Shaped by thoughtful feedback from across our organization, this refinement reflects our present strengths and future ambitions.

### Our Mission

**DePaul builds the foundation for lasting change through compassionate, person-centered services and exceptional housing.**

Our mission is the driving force behind everything we do. It guides our work and unwavering commitment to meet people where they are and opens doors to meaningful, life-changing opportunities.

### Our Vision

**A future where everyone thrives, has a place to call home, and stigma is replaced with dignity and belonging.**

Our vision is intentionally ambitious. We know that entire communities become stronger when individuals are given the support to thrive on their own terms.

### Our Values: A Place to Call HOME

**H**ope: We inspire resilience, recovery, and lasting change.

We witness it every day: the residents taking their first steps toward recovery; the spark of rediscovering passions; making new friends; the pride and independence receiving keys to a beautiful new apartment; the courage to envision new possibilities after years of uncertainty. Even when the road ahead feels daunting, hope beckons us forward.

**O**pportunity: We create pathways for growth, independence, and purpose.

Each person's story, talents, and aspirations inspire unique pathways for growth and purpose. Finding employment, strengthening life skills, forming meaningful connections, and achieving milestones are all within reach here. Just as importantly, our dedicated team finds opportunities to serve, lead and grow personally and professionally in work that truly matters.

**M**ission-driven: We commit to excellence and act with integrity in all we do.

Our work is rooted in the belief that stable, affordable housing and deeply individualized care are not privileges but rather fundamental components of human dignity. At DePaul, we hold ourselves to the highest standards because the individuals in our care deserve nothing less.

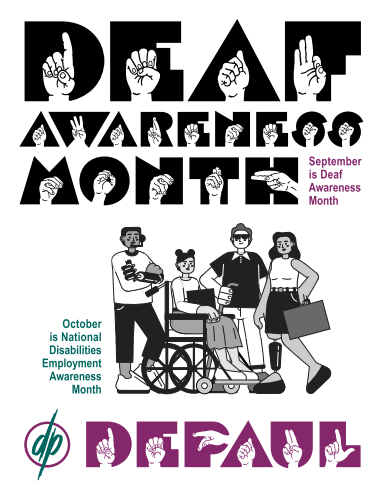
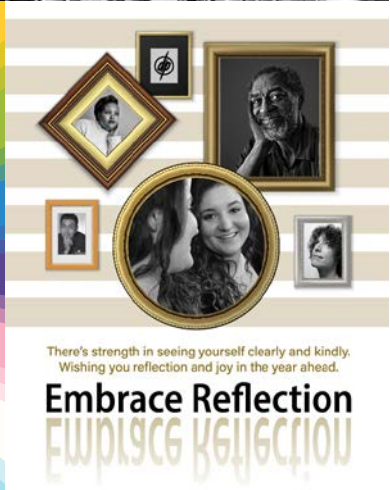
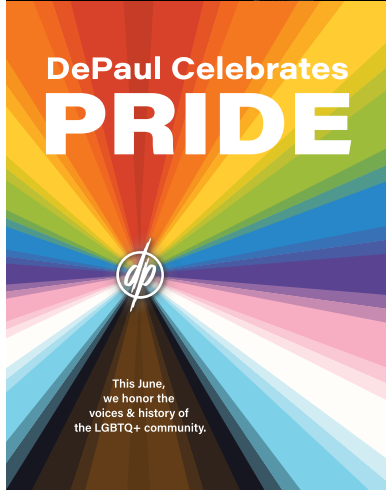
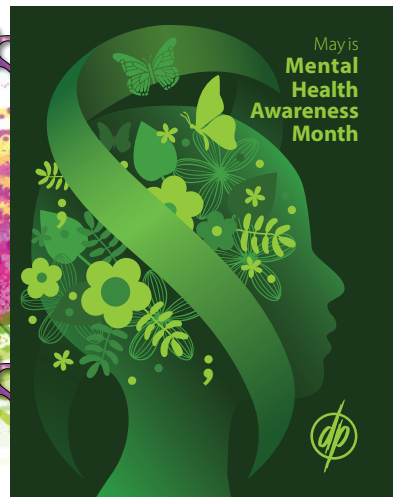
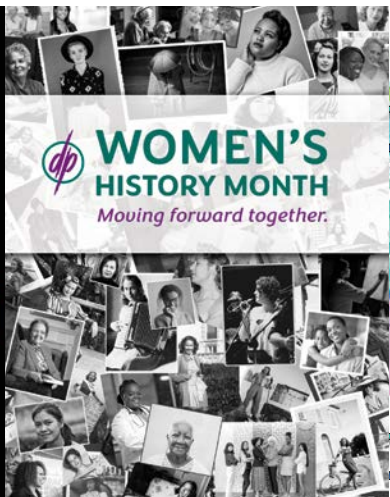
**E**veryone belongs: We foster a welcoming community where every voice is valued and respected.

In this spirit of inclusion, our programs go beyond services to foster true belonging as we empower individuals to build lives defined on their own terms.

### What Home Means to Us

We invited those we serve and our team to share what home means to them. Their words, collages and artwork (pictured above) were deeply moving and reminded us why our work matters. However one defines it, there is always a place to call home at DePaul.

Thank you for supporting our organization every day. Because of you, home is more than a building, a feeling, or an experience. As one resident beautifully shared, "Home is wherever lives the heart."



## Awareness Across DePaul

DePaul's commitment to fostering a culture of caring, belonging, inclusion, and respect for all has been highlighted with awareness campaigns and signage, toolkits, education, events and activities. Here are some of the ways our organization supports learning, reflection and connection.

### Signage

Inclusivity signage encourages a welcoming environment for all residents, staff and visitors.

### Toolkits

Monthly Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Toolkits produced by DePaul's Learning & Development Department provide opportunities for residents and staff to learn together and build meaningful connections through shared conversation and experiences.

### Our Stories

We've shared meaningful insights about the importance of inclusion and support through the voices of our staff, clients and residents' family members on the DePaul Blog ([depaul.org/blog](http://depaul.org/blog)):

- **Autism Acceptance Month** featuring DePaul WorkGuide Client Matthew B. and Residential Counselor Sue Abramowski (April)
- **Mental Health Awareness Month** featuring Clinical Coordinator Linda Donahue, LCSW (May)
- **Pride Month** featuring NCADD-RA Finger Lakes Addiction Resource Center Coordinator David Young (June)
- **World Alzheimer's Day** featuring family members of a resident in Glenwell's Memory Care (September)
- **National Alzheimer's Awareness Month** featuring Wheatfield Commons Memory Care Coordinator Jennifer Hatfield (November)

### Event highlights

Our Learning & Development Department offers training opportunities and panel discussions around a variety of topics:

- **Voices of DePaul:** Celebrating HerStory Panel in honor of Women's History Month
- **Understanding Autism & Common Neurodivergence Identity & Presence:** How Who We Are Shapes How We Work
- **Liberation is a Daily Practice:** Honoring Juneteenth in Our Work and Lives
- **LGBTQ+ Allyship in the Workplace & Why It Matters**

Samantha Bonanno



Ruth Mikulski



Learn more about DePaul's new Managers of Talent Development and Belonging Samantha Bonanno and Ruth Mikulski in the Meet Our Team series on the DePaul Blog ([depaul.org/category/meet-our-team/](http://depaul.org/category/meet-our-team/)).

# Praise for DePaul

Home is more than a place at DePaul; it's a feeling shaped by people who care. Our residents and their families reflect on what they value most about our supportive communities and dedicated staff. Scan the QR code or visit the DePaul Blog to read more ([depaul.org/blog/](http://depaul.org/blog/)). Whether you reach out via email, in a letter, online, social media or other venues, your kind, encouraging words mean the world to us!



## Praise for the Ridgeview Commons

I feel incredibly safe and supported living here. It is such a blessing! The staff are friendly and supportive. I feel that I'm getting the help I need to navigate life and address my issues. Thank you so much!



## Praise for the Lock 7 Apartments

No one has a better program than DePaul and I tell everyone how great it is to live here. Staff are a great support to people here.



## Praise for the West Main Street Apartments

I've had a great experience being here. I can tell staff really care. Love them all!



## Praise for the Starting Line Apartments

The staff treat residents with kindness, going above and beyond. I appreciate the efforts they put into making residents feel comfortable and cared for. They make a real difference.



## A Place to Call Home at the Boxcar Apartments

This Place Saved my life

I love this program! It helped me get my life together & gives me the courage to keep going!



Andree has helped me with my social anxiety to the point that I actually have made friends in this community. This might seem to be a simple thing to some but for me it has given me the world at least socialize a couple times a week when before I didn't come out for months.



## Celebrating Candace Fulford



Charles J. Leah, apartments  
Are like a dream come true.  
So clean, so kept-up well. From staff  
And of course we can't say enough  
about Christina Forsberg, who  
helped many of us get our life  
together. She's a godsent. We  
hope she stays here another  
30 yrs!



## Celebrating Christina Forsberg



## Praise for the Ebenzer Square Apartments

Thank you for all the time, help, support, encouragement and patience I've been given. I'm happy to live here. I love my third floor corner apartment with a view!



## Praise for Glenwell

"We recently had to move my grandmother into a long-term nursing facility. She and our family absolutely loved Glenwell for the years she was able to be there. It was a wonderful experience and we are sad that she had to leave!"



## Finding Home at the Pan-American Square Apartments

DePaul Services have been an absolute Godsend for me. I found out about them at the perfect moment in my life when I needed it the most. I will always be grateful for this program and opportunity.



## Praise for Wheatfield Commons

The experience from start to finish was very smooth. The staff were helpful, kind, caring, and there for us every step of the way. Our journey was warm and pleasant and I knew my husband was safe.



## Praise for the Trolley Station Apartments

"If DePaul had not given me a second chance, I don't think I would have ever been able to fulfill my lifelong dream of doing what I have always wanted to do."



## Pillars of Homeless Service Award

**C**ongratulations to Chris Syracuse, Vice President of Mental Health Residential, and Reno Tabone, Erie and Niagara County Supported Housing Program Director, on being recognized with the Pillars of Homeless Service Awards by the Homeless Alliance of Western New York! The award honors their dedication, compassion, and decades of service in bringing hope and stability to people experiencing homelessness.



## Pan-American Square Apartments Earn Phius+ 2018 Certification

**D**ePaul's Pan-American Square Apartments in Buffalo have earned Phius+ 2018 Source Zero Certification, meeting a rigorous standard for energy efficiency and resilience.

The 150-unit multi-family, affordable housing development consists of three connected buildings providing integrated permanent supportive housing and high-quality, energy-efficient homes for individuals and families. The buildings are designed to reduce energy use with triple-glazed windows, super-insulated walls, and 100 percent renewable energy. These standards ensure a healthy environment through the use of non-toxic construction materials and consistent access to fresh air keeping residents comfortable year-round.



## Neighborhood Association Donation

**T**hank you to the Neighborhood of the Arts (NOTA) Neighborhood Association for providing residents of DePaul's NOTA Apartments in Rochester with gift bags. Pictured below (front row, left to right) are Association President Joe McElveney, Kristine E. and Elijah Flores, Residential Supervisor Daniel Anderson, (back row, left to right) Association Members Joe Yokajty and Janet Collinge, Jack Smith, Association Member Louise Spinelli, Receptionist Carolyn Simmons and Gary N.





**D**ePaul's National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence – Rochester Area (NCADD-RA) will celebrate its 80th Anniversary with their Annual Luncheon which will take place from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Friday, May 15 at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Rochester. For more information, scan the QR code, visit [ncadd-ra.org/events-trainings/ncadd-ra-annual-luncheon/](http://ncadd-ra.org/events-trainings/ncadd-ra-annual-luncheon/) or contact Elaine Alvarado at (585) 719-3481 or at [ealvarado@depaul.org](mailto:ealvarado@depaul.org).



## Meet Our Team



**D**ePaul takes great pride in recognizing the dedication and service of our employees! The Meet Our Team series on the DePaul Blog highlights the individuals who bring our culture of caring to life every day.

To read more, scan the QR code or visit the DePaul Blog ([depaul.org/category/meet-our-team/](http://depaul.org/category/meet-our-team/)).

# Art in Action

From crocheting to soap making, DePaul residents have been finding connection through crafts and creativity.

DePaul's Annual Art Show at Kensington Square in Buffalo showcased the artwork, singing, poetry readings and other talents of our residents. Pictured upper left is Director of Care Management Elaine Newton with Laura Dicenzo of Seneca Square in Buffalo and below is Kelli Friedly of the Apple Blossom Apartments in Cheektowaga.

Blustery days inspired winter scene paintings at the Joseph L. Allen Apartments in Schenectady. Pictured third row on the left are Teresa Miller and Valerie Davis.

Residents of the Packet Boat Landing Apartments in Lockport showed off crocheted items, diamond art, acrylic paintings and more at a recent Art Show! Pictured upper right is Makhoda Mansaray.

Residents of the DeWitt Clinton Apartments in Rome made handcrafted Valentine's Day cards using cardstock, stickers, and heart cutouts! Pictured second row, on the right is Crystal Jaegers.

The Trolley Station Apartments in Canandaigua hosted a custom soap bar making activity where residents chose their own colors and scents and took home bars in decorative gift boxes. Pictured third row, on the right is Jasper French.

DePaul's Recreation Department has been hosting a monthly craft club with participants creating flower coasters, spring vases with decoupage dried flowers, and mosaic tile designs. Pictured bottom left is Jennifer Puodziunas of Edgerton Square.

Residents of the Mosaic Apartments in Schenectady have been learning to crochet and knit together with bi-monthly classes led by Regional Housing Specialist Melinda McDuffee. Projects have included hats, blankets, and more. Pictured lower right from left to right are Jessica Harris, Melinda McDuffee, April Simonson, Danielle F. and Lydia S.



# Spring into Summer



**F**estivities and fanfare ushered in the change of season.

The Trolley Station Apartments in Canandaigua hosted their third annual 'Souper Bowl.' Residents sampled homemade soup made by employees and voted for their favorite! Pictured upper left is Marie Y.

The lobby of DePaul's Neighborhood of the Arts Apartments in Rochester featured a Black History Month display with posters of influential Black Americans paired with a meaningful quote.

They say home is where the heart is! Holland Circle Apartments staff in Amsterdam took that old adage seriously for Valentine's Day with adorable decorations.

Wheatfield Commons residents created beautiful handmade bookmarks and cards for local Veterans as part of Acacia Park Cemetery's Operation Valentine. Pictured lower left is Roger Matiash.

Westwood Commons ushered in Mardi Gras by donning strings of beads and colorful masks while enjoying live music and snacking on King Cake pops! Pictured top row, second from the left is Addy.

Residents at DePaul's Port Byron Apartments had the opportunity to grow produce and connections in a community garden last year. Pictured left in his garden bed is Zachary Mason.

Irish eyes were smiling for a fun St. Patrick's Day themed photo shoot at Heritage Manor of Lockport. Pictured bottom row, center is Jim.

The Joseph L. Allen Apartments in Schenectady celebrated National Chocolate Fondue Day by learning about the benefits of chocolate and the origins of fondue while enjoying two chocolate fountains! Pictured bottom row, far right is Deborah J.





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# Details Goes Digital

The DePaul Details newsletter is going fully digital with the print edition being phased out. For more timely updates, please subscribe to DePaul's digital newsletter to stay in the loop!

To subscribe to our emails, scan the QR code or visit: [depaul.org/publications/subscribe-to-depaul-emails/](http://depaul.org/publications/subscribe-to-depaul-emails/)



# DEPAUL Details



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

DePaul's mission is to build the foundation for lasting change through compassionate, person-centered services and exceptional housing. We envision a future where everyone thrives, has a place to call home, and stigma is replaced with dignity and belonging.

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