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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Thanksgiving Program

We are less than three months away from our Annual Adopt a Family for Thanksgiving program. See inside for more information.

### Chicken BBQ

Coming this October. More information can be found on our website and social media accounts.

### Annual Euchre Tournament

Join us on Sunday, February 20th, 2022\* at the VFW in Fairport (300 Macedon Center Road). Keep an eye out for more information.

\*pending COVID restrictions

## Giving Money to Homeless People is

Yes, the official stance of the homeless services sector is: don't give money to panhandlers. They recommend money be given to them to help end homelessness, instead. While it is important to support community services working to end homelessness, the answer is not so black and white.

Pope Francis said, "The way of giving is as important as the gift. You should not simply drop a bill into a cup and walk away. You must stop, look the person in the eyes, and touch his or her hands."

We often do not take the time to listen and learn what it is that a person may truly need. This is even the case when a person before us is *plainly stating* their needs.

Mark Horvath, Founder of Invisible People, recounts a story from a friend, "A homeless friend once shared a story about when he needed a toothbrush. He stood in front of a grocery store displaying a sign asking for money to buy the toothbrush. It wasn't long before people started to give him food. He gratefully accepted multiple bags of fast food meals as he tried to collect money to buy a toothbrush. He set the bags next to him. Although it was clear he had already been given food, people continued to give him more. He never was able to purchase the toothbrush he needed."

This homeless individual clearly communicated his need in this situation. But those who wanted to help were either not listening or chose not to because *they have been told not to give money to panhandlers*.

**Food Stamps cannot be used to buy toilet paper, or feminine hygiene products, or a toothbrush, or any other non-food, yet essential, item.**

So the next time you see a panhandler, make eye contact with them. While always keeping your safety in the forefront of your mind, have a conversation with them. If you feel like giving money, then give; if you don't or cannot, just let them know you are sorry you can't help.

## MEMORIALS & TRIBUTES

Honor and remember someone who has made a difference in your life with a memorial or tribute gift made to Dimitri House.

We acknowledge all memorial gifts and send out letters of recognition to those people you have chosen to honor.

## HONORS

Ann Crerand

Diane Casey

Donald Potter

Gene Renner

Maria Ferrel

## MEMORIALS

Charlie McElhinney

David Dornford

Memorial & Tribute gifts made after August 31, 2021 will be listed in the next issue.

*“A man there was,  
and they called  
him mad; the  
more he gave, the  
more he had.”*

*- John Bunyan*

# Meet the People Making A Difference

## DIMITRI HOUSE'S NEW CASE MANAGER: AMY MINCER

Amy has been serving the disadvantaged in Rochester, NY for the last three years. As a case manager through MC Collaborative, she does it all-- whether that be housing the homeless, connecting an individual in need with resources, or just being a shoulder to lean on. As of May 2021, Amy spends her time here at Dimitri House, guiding our newly placed tenants of Mamczur Place on their permanent supportive housing journey and lending a hand to anyone else in need of support in our community.

Amy found herself in this line of work following her own personal experience with homelessness and poverty. This difficult chapter of her life served as a bridge into her passion for wanting to support others through these times. Amy knows well that the circumstances our clients face "...can happen to anyone." Amy is a strong advocate of a key principle of the Dimitri House-- meeting individuals where they are at on their journey toward self-sufficiency. We are beyond thankful and excited to have Amy on as a part of the Dimitri House team.



**Amy** article above



**Lester** article below

## MAMCZUR PLACE'S FIRST TENANT: LESTER

Lester found himself battling homelessness as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. For over a year, Lester did everything he could to secure housing, but faced obstacle after obstacle during a time in which housing is hard to come by due to the eviction moratorium and landlords with vacancies not showing their properties. In May of 2021, Lester became the first ever tenant of the Mamczur Place Apartments at Dimitri House. Since moving in, Lester says he is, "...finally at peace." He cherishes the stability that he so missed during his bout with homelessness and is so happy to once again have his privacy, routine, and independence. Lester's gratitude shines through his actions each day. We always look forward to seeing his smiling face!

One of Lester's favorite parts of living in Mamczur Place is its proximity to Dimitri House, in which he is able to utilize our programs and lean on our staff for any support he needs. We are so proud of you, Lester!

# Volunteers Get It Done

## LETTER FROM A VOLUNTEER: CHRISTINE GREEN

Stories are my life.

As a journalist I seek them out everywhere I go and then spend countless hours writing and rewriting them so that they are print-ready. But even when I'm not working, I am a consumer of stories and tales. I'm endlessly curious about the world around me, especially the people I meet. At Dimitri House I am afforded the privilege of meeting some of the most interesting and wonderful people in Rochester.

I know that one of "my guys" has a leak in his apartment, has asthma, and doesn't always take his lung medication. I know that another man likes as many sugar packets with his coffee as I will give him. I know that another young man with a small voice and big heart lives on the streets and calls me ma'am and always asks, "Can I get lunch for my mom, too, please?"

I also know that I'll always give it to him and maybe toss in an extra apple if we have one, because "my guys," along with all the people who stop by for lunch when I serve at Dimitri House, are more than what they get labeled with--poor, old, homeless, sick. They are people, they are hungry, and they are worthy of respect.

Each week I have a few hours of time that I can stop by and serve a meal. While I'm there I feed my friends a hearty lunch but they also feed me with their stories, with their humanity, with their company. They leave with a full stomach; I leave with a full heart.

## TURKEYS ON THE BRAIN

Dimitri House is revving up for our Annual Adopt a Family for Thanksgiving program. With the help of our community, we were able to provide over 250 families with a complete Thanksgiving meal in 2020.

To share the holidays with our friends in need again in 2021, sign up to adopt a family at (585) 325-1796 or at [aburr@dimitri-house.org](mailto:aburr@dimitri-house.org). See website for monetary donation methods.

## DINE-IN LUNCH IS BACK

On July 6th, after over a year of to-go style lunches, Dimitri House re-opened our Drop-In Lunch program's dining room with warm arms and rigorous COVID protocols.

In order to promote a safe, healthy environment for all that gather to dine, staff and our dedicated volunteers have stepped up to be restaurant-style servers to our lunch guests. We are so thrilled to have our doors open to our community again!

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



### Terri Ference & Kathy Pierce

#### Drop-In Lunch Volunteers

Pictured above, see our Program Coordinator, Anjill, and volunteers, Kathy & Terri, all bunned up for our Easter Pop-Up Pantry!

Kathy & Terri run the Dimitri House kitchen much alike that of an episode of the famous show, "Chopped." With years of Dimitri House experience under their belts, they enter the kitchen without a clue of what we will have on hand and manage to craft a delicious and nutritious meal every time.

They are the first to volunteer whenever we need an extra set of hands. These women are the embodiment of the spirit of Dimitri House.

*"Being kind is giving even when it seems like you have nothing to give."*

- Unknown



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## We make a life by what we give.

Dimitri House's namesake, Dimitri Mamczur, was a homeless man with a kind and giving heart who helped his fellow homeless friends and everyone he met. Dimitri wanted to make the world a better place.

### Yes, I want to help our neighbors on their journey towards self-sufficiency.

- Donate:** By check in the **reply envelope** or **online at [www.dimitri-house.org](http://www.dimitri-house.org)** (one time or monthly),
- Food drive:** Hold a neighborhood food drive with your family, place of worship, or business,
- Volunteer:** Call **585-325-1796** or go to **[www.dimitri-house.org](http://www.dimitri-house.org)**, click the **Online Volunteer Application** link on the homepage.

Every act of kindness and giving breathes new life into Dimitri's legacy. *\$25 buys a family of four at least 3 days of emergency food.* Thank you for all you do for Dimitri House.

### ABOUT DIMITRI HOUSE

Dimitri House works within the Rochester, NY community to provide essential services to those coping with poverty and homelessness. We offer a drop-in lunch program, an emergency food cupboard, security deposit program (DASH), and apartments. Additionally we provide various case management and referral services.

Learn more:  
[www.dimitri-house.org](http://www.dimitri-house.org)

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