



DIMITRI HOUSE

102 North Union Street  
Rochester, NY 14607

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

## Upcoming Events

### Euchre Tournament

Join us for our annual Euchre Tournament on Sunday, February 18, 2018. We welcome all players, from novice beginners to experts who have been playing for years. Prizes will be made available for the top 3 players and lunch will be included with the price of admission.

Get a group together to play with us – we look forward to seeing you!

February 18, 2018  
VFW  
300 Macedon Center Road  
Fairport, NY 14450

Admission fee: \$25 per person



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The Dimitri Digest Issue 002 Autumn 2017

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### Yankee Candles!



Starting your holiday shopping? Consider purchasing Yankee Candle products through our website and Dimitri House will receive 40% of the profits. Fill your home with beautifully scented candles and accessories while knowing that your purchase will help to provide those in need with the essentials this holiday season. More information on our website: <http://www.dimitri-house.org>



### About Us

**Dimitri Digest** is a quarterly publication of Dimitri House, Inc.

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

Learn more at  
<http://www.dimitri-house.org>

# The Dimitri Digest

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



## DIMITRI HOUSE

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## A Letter from The President of the Board

Each year, from groceries to warm beds, Dimitri House continues to provide essential goods and services to our neighbors in the heart of Rochester, NY. We are committed to helping those who are struggling with poverty and homelessness in our city and hope that you are, too. If you are resolved to help our neighbors in need, we are excited to announce that there is a new way to do it: join our compassionate group of monthly givers, the Dimitri Do-Gooders!

Your automatic monthly gift can help provide the sustained funds needed to ensure that Dimitri House is able to continue to provide life-saving resources such as groceries, hot meals, shelter, case management, and referral services. It doesn't take much to help, either – a contribution of \$10 a month will provide five families of four with a three day emergency supply of groceries while a monthly donation of \$20 will ensure that we are able to provide nine nights of stay in our shelter, complete with two hearty meals.

The best part about the Dimitri Do-Gooders monthly giving program is that you are in complete control of your contributions. You can easily start, change, or stop your gift at any time by simply giving us a call at (585) 325-1796.

As a member of the Dimitri Do-Gooders, you will be a part of a special group of dedicated donors who are deeply committed to helping their neighbors. They are invested in working tirelessly to in serving our neighbors in need with love and acceptance, joining them on their journey toward self-sufficiency.

For more information on how you can sign up for the Dimitri Do-Gooders special monthly giving program, please check out our website at: <https://www.dimitri-house.org/planned-giving>.

Thank you from all of us here at Dimitri House for your continued love and support!

Sincerely,

Amy Edwards, President of the Board

# The Donors' Corner

## Memorial and Tribute Gifts

One of the best ways to honor and remember those who have made a difference in our lives is to pay it forward and make a difference in another person's life. Memorials and tribute gifts made to Dimitri House are a fitting way to honor the memory of a loved one or to acknowledge the impact that someone has made in your life. We acknowledge all memorial gifts to a designated family member and send out letters of recognition to those special individuals you have chosen to honor.

We are so grateful for the gifts that have been made to Dimitri House between January 1, 2017 and September 30, 2017, and want to pause to acknowledge how incredibly appreciative we are for your gifts and donations.

"It's not about much we give, but how much love we put into giving."

- Mother Teresa

Memorial and Tribute gifts made between October 1, 2017 and December 31, 2017 will be listed in our winter issue of the Dimitri Digest.



### Honors

John and Kate Alessi  
Elizabeth Brown  
Michael Pallischek  
Tony Perri  
Elaine Vitone

### Memorials

Joseph Alessi  
Allen Bennett  
David Carr  
Margaret Coughlin  
Bob Culligan  
Nana Lake-Culligan  
Kathy Gavenda  
Joseph Gillen  
Eileen Hampsey  
Rodney Morris  
Mary A. Robinson  
Carmen Rossi  
Marilyn Sailer  
Betty Schmitt & Otis  
Terri Schmitt

"You have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you."  
- John Bunyan

As we begin our preparations for the upcoming holiday season, let's take a moment to step back from the hectic chaos that seems to overtake the next few months. We all know that the holidays are about more than buying gifts for those who are precious to us, more than putting together the perfect holiday meal, and more than the decorations that we hang around our homes. Regardless of our faiths or religious beliefs, the holiday season is about love and kindness, appreciation and giving thanks, and generosity in both spirit and deed. During a time of year that can become overwhelming with demands on our time, energy, and money, we here at Dimitri House ask that you take the time to cherish all that you are grateful for as another year comes to a close.



## Thanksgiving Baskets at Dimitri House

Each year, as autumn gives way to the winter months, Dimitri House runs its Thanksgiving Basket program. As you may know, our Thanksgiving Basket program is designed to ensure that families living in some of the most impoverished neighborhoods in the Rochester community are able to prepare and serve a full holiday meal on Thanksgiving Day. We will serve families with children under the age of 18, living in the 14604, 14605, 14607, and 14609 zip codes, by coordinating and connecting our network of generous basket donors with each of these families.

Interested in helping out? Connect with us via phone (585) 325-1796 or by email ([hmarkham@dimitri-house.org](mailto:hmarkham@dimitri-house.org)) to fill out an application and be a part of something that really gives back this Thanksgiving.

Please note that baskets **MUST** be delivered either directly to recipient families or to Dimitri House during the week before Thanksgiving. If you are unable to deliver your basket during this time period, please let us know so that we can make appropriate arrangements.

## Permanent Housing through DASH



### Who does DASH help?

DASH helps individuals and families who are currently homeless and working with case managers associated with Dimitri House. To date, the DASH program has housed 50 individuals and families in their own apartments and has been successful in keeping the majority of those in our program in permanent housing for at least 6 to 24 months.

### What does DASH do?

DASH puts people in permanent housing as the first step towards security and stability. This is a new philosophy in working with the homeless, inspired by the housing initiative. This approach believes that quickly moving people into housing is vital in a recovery-oriented approach to ending homelessness.

DASH does more - our aim is not to simply place individuals and families in housing, but to also ensure that they have the case management supports in place to help them secure and retain social service benefits, help them access basic necessities such as food and clothing, and offer them helpful connections if and when they are ready to reenter the workforce.

### Why security deposits?

One of the biggest hurdles to finding permanent housing is securing the money needed to move into that housing. Whether you are renting an apartment or buying a house, most people need to be able to put down money upfront (either as a security deposit or as a down payment) in order to secure that housing.

## Housing Affordability



In the city of Rochester, residents spend approximately 43 percent of their household income on rent. It is important to note that while rental rates in Rochester are typically lower than the average rates throughout Monroe County, the median income in the city is lower than it is in the rest of the county, making rent less affordable in Rochester.

According to ACT Rochester, housing has become less affordable for renters in Monroe County over the last few years. The report reads that "in 2011-2015, Monroe renters spent 36% of their income on rent." Most experts agree that rent is considered affordable when it consumes less than 30% of the household's income.

### What do DASH participants have to say about the program?

John\* first moved into his apartment with a security deposit provided by the DASH program in October 2016. Before becoming a participant in the DASH program, John had ended up homeless through a series of family related issues and substance abuse.

"I believe it was my addiction that ended up keeping me out of housing. I just couldn't manage to save up enough to find anywhere I could afford," John reported.

With the help of his dedicated case management team and a security deposit from DASH, John was able to move into his own apartment. Of course, moving in isn't the only goal that John, and the rest of our DASH participants, had on his mind. He has made huge strides in the 10 months since he moved in.

"The biggest thing that I've accomplished since I moved is sobriety. I'm in my own place and have more control over the environment that I'm in and I've been clean since I've gotten settled. I'm hoping to maintain my sobriety, achieve financial stability, and keep moving on with my life."

\* name changed to protect client anonymity

## Barriers to Permanent Housing

Obtaining permanent housing isn't simple or easy for many of those we serve here at Dimitri House. Some of the common barriers that make finding permanent housing difficult:

- No or short rental history
- Poor rental history (i.e. prior evictions, rent/utility arrears)
- Insufficient savings, poor credit history, lack of income
- Sporadic employment history
- Client fleeing domestic violence
- Head of household under 18 years old
- Large families (3 or more children)
- Criminal background
- Recent history of substance abuse
- Serious health problems and conditions, including mental health concerns

What can we as a community do to improve the situation for individuals and families seeking permanent housing?

- Increase access to stable and affordable housing
- Increase economic security and financial self-sufficiency for families and individuals in the region
- Improve our ability to meet the unique needs of those we serve