



DIMITRI HOUSE
 102 North Union Street
 Rochester, NY 14607

NON PROFIT
 ORGANIZATION
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 ROCHESTER, NY
 PERMIT NO.1580

Upcoming Events

Murder Mystery Dinner



Join Dimitri House for our first ever Murder Mystery dinner, "A Recipe for Murder." Enjoy a delicious dinner while trying to solve a fun and hilarious whodunit.

Thursday, May 2
 Woodcliff Hotel & Spa (199 Woodcliff Drive, Fairport, NY 14450)
 6 pm
 Admission fee: \$75 per person
 Register online today: www.dimitri-house.org



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 102 North Union Street
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<https://www.dimitri-house.org/>

Issue
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Winter
 2019

Shop Until You Drop!



Dimitri House would like to announce a fundraiser at A Horse with Wings (775 University Avenue, Rochester, NY 14607). The fundraiser will kick-off on June 13th from 5 pm to 7 pm with champagne and nibbles for all. During that evening (and for two weeks afterwards), just tell your cashier that you are with Dimitri House and our organization will receive 25% of all proceeds during this period.



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 Executive Director

These past few years has been both exciting and sad as we continue to improve on our support services, help thousands with meals and shelter and yet we have lost several of our very devoted and long-term volunteers and clients. Dimitri House has been blessed with many of the original volunteers from Corpus Christi days, which means they have been giving their time and talents devotedly for over 20 years. This past year we lost two who gave so much of themselves that their families unanimously decided that even with their passing, they would continue to support a cause they so dearly loved. In lieu of flowers, after their loved one passed, so many of their family and friends donated to us. The flowers would have wilted over time; however, a donation helped our agency to continue to support those in our community who are living with poverty and homelessness.

Donating in someone's name is easy at Dimitri House. We accept cash, checks and credit card. A simple note with the recipient's name and address will get you a tax-deductible note for your purposes and a letter to the person or their loved one's acknowledging that the gift was made on their behalf. No matter what the occasion we will let that person/people know you are thinking of them! Facebook allows you to celebrate your birthday with an easy tab that allows friends and family to donate directly to Dimitri House. Don't forget that sharing the experience of donating to Dimitri House with your children shows them from a young age that they can make positive changes in the world. Children naturally love to help others, so nurturing their innate generosity is likely to mean that they grow up with a greater appreciation of what they have and will carry on supporting charity in years to come.

Loss is not the only way one can acknowledge those we love and respect. Donating to Dimitri House in someone else's name is a simple way of sharing the great feeling that comes from both doing good and honoring that person. Donations are a great gift, especially for the "person who has everything" and doesn't need any material goods on their birthdays, anniversaries, weddings, graduation or a "just thinking of you" occasions. Having the power to improve the lives of others is, to many people, a privilege, and one that comes with its own sense of obligation. Acting on these powerful feelings of responsibility is a great way to reinforce our own personal values and feel like we're living in a way that is true to our own ethical beliefs. Plus, you can remember a person or occasion that has true meaning to you and share it with them a gift that creates in growth our city.

Why not start a tradition of donating with your family? Help feed a person, provide shelter to the homeless or provide food to a needy family. I promise you the feeling of giving a gift that helps another is truly the best gift of all.

In closing, for those of you that have lost a loved one and provided support to us, we understand no amount of giving can fill that hole in your world. Just know that your gifts have helped so many here in our community and given them the most precious gift of all – hope.

With appreciation,
Lawrie

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 during the second half of 2018 and want to pause to acknowledge how incredibly appreciative we are for your gifts and donations.

"With faith, discipline, and selfless devotion to duty, there is nothing worthwhile that you cannot achieve."

Muhammad Ali Jinnah

Memorial and Tribute gifts made between January 1, 2019 and March 31, 2019 will be listed in our spring issue of the Dimitri Digest.



Honors

Tony Perri
Laurie Prizel
Gene Renner

Memorials

Marlene Goad
Alexander Kopczynski
Greg Lombardo
Marie May
Carmen Rossi
Nicholas C. Russo
Betty & Otis Schmitt

"When you learn, teach. When you get, give."

- Maya Angelou

Rochester, NY Volunteering Statistics

352.154 volunteers contribute **22.9 million hours** of services
45.6 % of residents volunteer, ranking them **2nd** among cities
Volunteer service worth an estimated **\$553.9 million**
27.9% of residents participate in local groups or organizations
61.1% of residents donate \$25 or more to charity



Current volunteer opportunities

Emergency Men's Winter Shelter. Our shelter has always run on the power of the hard work and dedication of devoted volunteers who give up their own beds to help support the seven homeless men who stay in our shelter each night. These volunteers have been the backbone of our organization and have helped countless individuals stay warm and safe during the bitterly cold winter months. Many of these volunteers have been with Dimitri House for twenty or more years and are beginning to express the desire to retire.

That's where you can help! We're currently looking to fill the spaces left by these devoted volunteers with new volunteers seeking to make an immediate and vital impact on the community in which they live. Volunteers come in at 9 pm and stay overnight until 7 am, providing meals and company to the men who stay in the shelter. While volunteers are expected to prepare a light supper and breakfast, they are also allowed to spend the "sleeping hours" of the shift doing a quiet activity of their own (such as reading, watching movies, etc.) or even sleeping. For more information about this opportunity, please contact us at (585) 325-1796.

Hello. I'm the man in Bed # 3.

By Hilary Moore, volunteer

Hello. I'm the man in Bed #3.
I might be you, or I might be me.
Alarms go off early, the day starts again.
I pull on these boots, not sure where they've been.
Breakfast is warm, the coffee is hot.
I trudge out the door to my usual spot.
The wind is unkind, but I made a new friend.
We swapped stories waiting for morning to end.
We haven't seen Ben in a couple of weeks.
Life can be cruel when you're out on the streets.
Some people judge, and some people stare.
Some people turn and pretend we're not there.
I asked a lady to buy my lunch today.
For some reason it made me feel some sort of way.
I could tell she was kind, but she seemed distant, too.
I wanted to say, "I was once just like you."
I used to drive nice cars and work every day.
I used to have family, but they went away.
I made some poor choices and ended up here.
It can happen to anyone. Yes, even you, dear.
I end each day heading on back to my "home".
It ain't nothin' fancy, but I'm never alone.

The workers are friendly, the guys seem alright.
At least someone brought brownies to enjoy tonight.
"It will get better," they say.
I might have my own apartment someday.
The lady who helps me says I'm doing real good.
I follow the rules and do what I should.
Sunday they say I might see my kid,
But I know my wife won't forgive what I did.
Some days I break down 'cause I really can't take it.
Others, I go through the motions and fake it.
But, today I'll just be glad I'm alive.
Maybe someday I'll do more than survive.
I want to be happy. I want to believe
There's more to this life than Bed #3.
There are 1,200 homeless in this city, alone.
Many of whom have no place to call "home".
You can choose to contribute, or choose to condemn.
Remember, you're one choice from being like them.
May your path be right, though tough it may seem.
May your future be bright as you follow your dreams.
May you have all life's blessings and
May you never be
The man who lays down in Bed #3.

Teaching Poverty and Homelessness to Children

Since its debut in 1969, Sesame Street has been an educational children's television series that combines live action, sketch comedy, animation, and puppetry to teach children everything from the alphabet and counting to nutrition and exercise. Recently, Sesame Street broke new ground by introducing a new muppet – a seven-year-old girl named Lily whose family is staying with friends after they ended up losing their apartment.

Lily is the first muppet to talk about being homeless and is the face of a new initiative that the show has taken to address homelessness. "We know children experiencing homelessness are often caught up in a devastating circle of trauma – a lack of affordable housing, poverty, domestic violence, or other trauma that caused them to lose their home, the trauma of actually losing their home, and the daily trauma of the uncertainty and insecurity of being homeless," Sherrie Westin, president of global impact and philanthropy at Sesame Workshop, said in a statement.**



"We want [homeless children] to know that they are not alone and home is more than a house or an apartment," Westin said. "Home is wherever the love lives."

Lily was initially introduced in 2011 as a muppet whose family didn't have enough food available and who was struggling with hunger. She will now appear in new online videos, storybooks, and other free activities on the Sesame Street in Communities website and on Youtube. Producers hope that Lily will help to not only bring awareness to children poverty and homelessness, but to also bring hope and comfort to children who are currently experiencing homelessness.

**https://www.washingtonpost.com/arts-entertainment/2018/12/12/meet-lily-first-homeless-muppet-sesame-street/?utm_term=.3449b2ac7b49

Volunteer Spotlight



John Mills

Overnight Shelter Volunteer

I began volunteering with Dimitri House in December 2015. I decided to start volunteering at Dimitri House because I have myself been homeless in the past and I wanted an opportunity to pay forward the help that I had been given during my own time of need. So, when I started studying human services at MCC and saw that Dimitri House was listed as a possible field work assignment location, I was excited to get started.

I've stayed at Dimitri House because I love the work that I'm doing here. I love helping out others folks who are in need and I believe that my own past experiences have given me a level of insight that really allows me to connect with the individuals that Dimitri House serves. They trust me and believe where I'm coming from and it's great to see that I can make an immediate, positive impact on people's lives. It's a very special experience to meet up with someone who I've helped in the shelter in the past and see them doing well and know that the support I've provided has helped to get them there.