

IN THIS ISSUE

From our Executive Director
A Journey of Remembrance



Volunteering plays a vital role in the success and sustainability of not-for-profit organizations like Dimitri House. Guided by our mission to address pressing social issues and uplift the Rochester community, we depend on volunteers to extend our reach and deepen our impact. Volunteering is not just a philanthropic gesture—it is the very backbone of our operations, providing crucial support and enabling us to achieve our goals.

This quarter's newsletter celebrates some of the remarkable individuals who help make Dimitri House a place of care, compassion, and community. Thanks to them—and so many others—Dimitri House continues to be a safe haven and support system for those in need.

As a small nonprofit, we often operate with limited budgets and resources. Hiring full-time staff for every role we need would be financially out of reach. Volunteers bridge this gap by offering their time and talents, strengthening our workforce without adding to our payroll. This allows us to direct more of our resources toward the programs and initiatives that matter most.

Many of our volunteers come directly from the Monroe County community, creating a strong sense of connection and ownership. Their involvement doesn't just meet immediate needs—it builds a grassroots network of advocates who spread awareness, inspire others, and bring even more hands and hearts to our mission.

Volunteers bring a wide range of skills and expertise—from teaching and marketing to legal advice, medical care, and event planning. Their contributions help us offer services we might not otherwise be able to provide. This variety strengthens our programs and enhances our capacity to respond to the evolving needs of the community.

What's more, volunteers often offer fresh ideas and new perspectives that help us innovate and grow. Their diverse experiences can spark creative solutions and help our 40-year-old agency remain dynamic, relevant, and responsive.

Volunteering often inspires deeper commitment. Many of our volunteers become some of our most loyal donors, supporting us through annual gifts, recurring monthly donations, or one-time contributions. Some even leave a lasting legacy through charitable bequests or trusts, continuing to support Dimitri House long after their active service has ended.

This spirit of giving creates a ripple effect. When people see the impact of community involvement, they are more likely to contribute their own time, skills, or resources—creating a culture of care that uplifts the entire community.

A strong volunteer program also boosts our credibility. When people see neighbors, coworkers, and friends actively supporting Dimitri House, it builds trust and encourages broader engagement. This, in turn, helps us form stronger partnerships and secure additional funding to support our work.

We even offer group opportunities through our Corporate Sponsorship program. Can't get your whole team away at once? Ask us about "Adopt a Shift" to coordinate a meaningful, manageable way to give back as a group.

Finally, volunteers provide something invaluable: human connection. Their kindness, compassion, and presence offer emotional and psychological support to those we serve. For many, that human touch can be as powerful as any material assistance.

To donate scan the QR Code
below:



*"Nothings is ever
really lost to us
as long as we
remember it."*

-L.M. Montgomery

*"Did you know
we give hygiene
products in our
food cupboard?"*

- Shampoo/conditioner
- Bath soap
- Deodorant
- Shaving supplies
- Feminine hygiene
supplies
- Laundry soap
- Dish soap

REMEMBERING FATHER JIM CALLAN

Father Jim Callan was a beacon of hope, compassion, and unwavering dedication to those in need. As a devoted leader and servant of our community, his impact on Dimitri House was profound and enduring. Through his tireless efforts, he transformed lives, offering not just shelter but also dignity and a sense of belonging to those facing hardship.

Father Jim's commitment to serving the most vulnerable was rooted in his deep faith and belief in the power of kindness. He saw beyond circumstances, recognizing the inherent worth of every individual who walked through the doors of Dimitri House. His leadership inspired volunteers, staff, and the broader community to embrace the mission of service, fostering an environment of love and support.

Under his guidance, Dimitri House became more than just a refuge—it became a place of hope and renewal. Whether we are offering a warm meal, lending a compassionate ear, or advocating for those without a voice, we do so in the spirit of Father Jim, who embodied the very essence of selfless service. His presence was a reminder that true faith is lived through action, and his legacy continues in the hearts of all who were blessed to know him.

Though he is no longer with us, his spirit lives on in every meal served, every hand extended in kindness, and every individual given a second chance at life. Father Jim Callahan's dedication to Dimitri House and the people it serves will never be forgotten. His life's work stands as a testament to the profound impact one person can have when they choose to lead with love.

Rest in peace, Father Jim. Your legacy of compassion will forever guide us.



REMEMBERING GABI

Gabi began her shelter service career in November of 2011 at six months. She followed in the footsteps of her cocker spaniel predecessors, Bart & Jasmine, who served from 1994-2011.

The guests loved Gabi and snuck her pieces of bacon from the bacon and eggs I served every morning we worked shelter.

The guest who really loved Gabi was named Andy, and he played the accordion. He was memorialized on the side of the Boulder Coffee building on Alexander Street.

Gabi served right up to the closing of the shelter program in March of 2020, due to the pandemic. Whenever I took her to Dimitri House, she couldn't wait to get inside and say hello to everyone, her little tail always wagging.

She always went to pre-season orientation and went around to everyone there. When we dropped off a contribution or appliance, she always had to say hello to Laurie.

She was a great little friend and companion and will be missed.



REMEMBERING LISA CARR

Lisa was an integral part of our Men's Winter Shelter program, serving as a dedicated Greeter. She was the first face our guests saw, offering a welcoming smile and a sense of belonging from the moment they stepped through our doors. Her warmth, compassion, and unwavering commitment to our mission touched the lives of countless individuals within our community.

Lisa's responsibilities extended beyond simply checking in our guests. She understood the importance of providing not just shelter, but also a sense of community. With a gentle spirit and capable hands, she diligently prepared evening meals, ensuring that each man received a hot, nourishing meal. This act of service, though seemingly simple, held profound significance, offering comfort and a moment of respite from the hardships our guests faced.

Lisa embodied the spirit of Dimitri House. She treated each individual with dignity and respect, creating an atmosphere of kindness and understanding. Her presence was a source of comfort and stability, a beacon of light in the lives of those we serve. She fostered a sense of community, reminding us all of the power of human connection. Her legacy will live on in the hearts of those she touched, and her memory will serve as a constant reminder of the importance of compassion and service.

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

Diane Casey

Joanne Holiday

Joan Hurley

Betsy & Tim O'Sullivan

Donald Potter

Michael Thomas

MEMORIALS

Lisa Carr

Earl Costich

Shirley Francer

David Hyland

Barbara & Karen Lamark

Walter, Marie & Kate May

Bob Simmons

Joy Tiberio

*"We do not remember
days; we remember
moments."*

— Cesare Pavese



DIMITRI HOUSE

102 North Union Street
Rochester, NY 14607

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

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** (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.dimitrihouse.org**, click the **Online Volunteer Application** link on the homepage.

Every act of kindness and giving breathes new life into Dimitri's legacy. *\$40 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

Dimitri House
102 North Union Street
Rochester, NY 14607
Phone: (585) 325-1796
Fax: (585) 546-2678

