

Humanity Served Daily

Spring/Summer 2022

**Friends of
Night People**



**Stop hate.
End racism.
Choose love.**



A Note from Joe

Friends of Night People programs continue to change lives in our community thanks to supporters like you! There are no greater universal problems than hunger and homelessness. There is no better time than now to become committed to helping solve these issues in our community.

Our role has been and continues to be more than just “shelter of last resort.” While we are here for individuals who feel they have nowhere left to turn, or who have no one who will listen, we are also the shelter that provides food at our kitchen on Hudson Street and leads more and more people to our door through community partnerships across the City of Buffalo. These partners and those we serve directly act as our ambassadors to those in need.

Our programs have continued to expand and adjust to address the most pressing needs of those who are suffering. We work diligently with our partners in neighborhoods around Buffalo to open community meal centers and food pantries. Many of our partners have grown to manage the service side of the programs with the added support of FoNP supplying and delivering prepared meals and pantry foods to the facilities.

The community meal program at FoNP began to offer breakfast Monday through Friday as part of our Good Start Initiative. A hot coffee, juice and healthy breakfast can help someone find the energy and motivation to set a new goal and achieve it. FoNP also offers laundry and shower facilities to clients. A morning shower and shave along with a good breakfast may provide the confidence someone needs for an interview. Through the Feed716 partnership, we are able to distribute fresh produce in addition to staple items at our pantry. We provide other services as well. For instance, individuals experiencing homelessness are connected with housing resources and given direct assistance to obtain identification, mail, and other basic needs.

Once people seek our help, they find that they have a voice in choosing their path. We strive to meet the goals and align our help with the needs of each individual seeking assistance. No two situations are ever the same. We help as many people as possible. The generosity of friends like you allows our programs to continue. Thank you.

Rising prices are affecting all of us, but those at the bottom of the income scale are feeling crushed. You can help today with a gift to Friends of Night People.

Thank you,

Joseph S. Heary

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Special points of interest

- Party for the People will be held in September
- Meet some very special volunteers
- Stock the Pantry



Breakfast: Starting the day off right

We have all heard that breakfast is the most important meal of the day. A good breakfast sets the tone for the whole day. In January, FoNP began serving hot, balanced breakfasts five days a week. The number of guests coming in for our morning meal has grown by leaps and bounds! Our first week, breakfast was served to 20 guests and now we are serving 80 guests daily.

This Good Start Initiative has also opened new volunteer opportunities for individuals who want to help. Each morning, we need five people to help from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. For more information about volunteer opportunities, contact Patty at (716) 884-5375 Ext. 202.



Volunteer



Meet Devonte

Devonte was born and raised in Buffalo. He graduated from WNY Maritime Charter High School in 2012. He went onto Canisius College in the creative writing program to pursue his dream of becoming an author. Unfortunately, just two years into his studies his mother unexpectedly passed away leaving Devonte to assume responsibilities of her house and bills. With no support system the stresses of working and going to school eventually led Devonte to leave school.

“The staff appreciates me there and I appreciate them. After wondering for the last two years what could be the next place I could offer my services and be of an attachment to me on the regular, I think I may have found it!”

Two years later he lost his house. He bounced between staying with relatives and friends for a couple of years. Ultimately, he ended up in a homeless shelter. It was around this time Devonte was introduced to Friends of Night People where he received a free meal and met new friends. He decided that he wanted to help.

Devonte started volunteering at FoNP in 2020. Since January, he has become a regular volunteer in the kitchen during dinners, but he really enjoys helping wherever he is needed.



Volunteer Profile: Jim and Mar



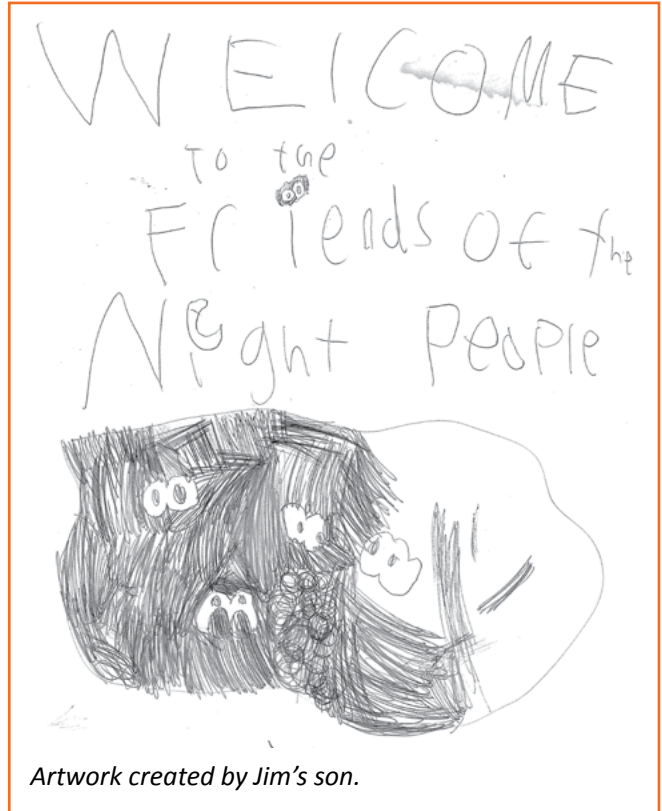
Jim and Mar squabble over what color cutout cookie they want to share. They call each other by their 'nicknames' Sarah and Mike, which started on the first day they volunteered together with a simple misunderstanding. The friends laugh and catch up on their lives each week.

Over the past twelve months, a friendship developed, fostered by their shared love of helping others.

*"I want to pay it forward" Mar said.
"It fills my heart with joy to be there with everyone and to be a part of such a great organization. The friendships I've made there are very important and special to me."*

Jim is a tenured professor at UB's School of Management. He started volunteering over five years ago. When COVID-19 started and FoNP had very few volunteers, Jim started to come in almost daily. Jim often also brings his wife and their sons to help out.

Mar started coming to volunteer about a year ago. She learned about the organization via Facebook. Since she retired, Mar found herself missing being part of a team. She was happy to find herself with people she really likes and who share her desire to help others.



Artwork created by Jim's son.

Party for the People: Tuesday September 20th, 5:30-8:30

Friends of Night People is excited to announce the 12th Party for the People! This event raises support for the community meal programs offered by FoNP. We want to serve and distribute even more meals in 2022. Every \$25 raised provides 12 meals.

All are welcome to join and help make a difference.

This FUNdraiser benefiting Friends of Night People will be held at Flying Bison on Tuesday, Sept. 20.

The evening will feature live music, a silent auction, a 50/50 raffle, and of course, great food.

Each ticket will include a beverage and meal.

Get Tickets



Why is Gift Planning important? There's more work to be done.

Chances are, you have already been active in supporting your community, and you have made donations over the years.

You can make a real impact today and help provide meals, clothing, and hope at Friends of Night People with a gift to our **Meaningful Meals** fund.

Your generosity will help the homeless, the hungry, and individuals experiencing mental health emergencies and addictions. You can help those without savings who need temporary assistance due to unforeseen events in their lives. You can make an enormous difference in a person's life.

There are many ways to show compassion, values, and conscience. If you would like to create an impact in this world that lasts beyond your lifetime, it may be easier than you think. You can start right now.

If you have always felt good when giving to help others, let Friends of Night People be your steward.

You can make a difference with a gift to Friends of Night People in your will, an estate gift, life insurance, or retirement distribution.

Speak with your financial advisor or lawyer, or we can connect you with someone who can assist you. Contact our Executive Director, Joseph Heary, for more information.

Meaningful Meals

A.R. Zaki & Jacqueline Masud

Jeffery & Patricia Karas

Gordon Warme

Peter & Paula Simon

Erhard Moosmann

Clem & Judith Eckert

Tom Saia

Frederick Hong

Edward & Cynthia Pristach

Theodore & Leona Backus

Brian Evers

Bill & Gayle Fairchild

Edmund Arundell

Samuel Savarino

Dr. Steven & Susan Piver

Thomas &

Ann McMahon

Carin Frederick

David & Karen Downing

Frank Truilzio

Dr. John Leddy

David & Josephine Reszel

Marie Schen



In Memory Of

Sharon Arundell

Helen Hong

Phyllis Mattar Margrey

Donald Will

Rosie Will

Vilasini Shanbhag

Susan Johnston

FoNP Staff

Joseph Heary Executive Director

Patty Krehbiel Relationship Manager

Pat Koch Executive Chef

Meghan Grochow Program Coordinator

Veronica Scordato Driver

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Did You Know...

Friends of Night People can be named as a beneficiary of an IRA, Brokerage Account, or life insurance policy.

Stock the Pantry

With the economic impact of current events, it is no surprise that food has gotten more expensive. Keeping a family fed is becoming a much more difficult task for many of our neighbors. We have seen a rise in the number of households who utilize our food pantry in recent years. Those numbers always rise a little more during the summer months when the kids are out of school. Help us keep our pantry stocked. We are collecting shelf stable food items like canned fruits and vegetables, cereals, rice, pasta, and granola bars through the end of June. Donations can be dropped off at FoNP, 394 Hudson St, Buffalo, NY 14201, any day until 7 p.m. If you are interested in holding a food drive, contact our Relationship Manager, Patty, at (716) 884-5375 Ext. 202.



**The Food Pantry runs every
Monday from 11:30 to 2:30 and
Wednesday from 12pm to 4pm.**

**It is located at:
161 Vermont St, Buffalo, NY 14213.**

Remembering Dr. Steven Piver

It is with a heavy heart we mourn the passing of Steven Piver, M.D. As a past president and Chairman Emeritus, his values of integrity, compassion, and commitment helped guide Friends of Night People as an organization for over 40 years from 1986 to 2016. Dr. Piver, you were a leader, advocate, and friend to us all. You will always be in our memory and part of this organization.



"Two things I hate in life are greed and human suffering. I can't do much about greed, but I can do a lot about human suffering."

— Steven Piver, M.D.



Dr. M. Steven Piver, left, and Dr. Bobby Abrams talk with patient Virginia Malky