

January 2018



“People who are homeless are not social in adequates. They are people without homes.”

Dame Sheila McKechnie, (1948-2004) was a Scottish housing campaigner.

### Christmas and New Year Holidays at REACH Home

We have been blessed by so many who came offering gifts and food for our guests, **thank you**. Here you can see Shannon and Lulu sorting through some of the gifts and making individual gift packages for our guests. Shannon organized some music programs for our guests with **Sebastian Brundage** a positive hip hop artist. Learn about him at [www.makemoremusic.live](http://www.makemoremusic.live) Many of our guests went to a Razor Shark’s Game during these days thanks to the complimentary tickets we were given. One donor sent us 110 pairs of heavy winter socks!



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**We still need people/organizations to sign up to provide evening meals for our guests by clicking here. Scroll down the list to the date of your choice.**

### Staff Changes

The Personnel Team (Peter, Andy, Deb, and Jeanette) determined that Cecil was not helping us to fulfill our mission to our homeless guests and it was time to let him go. We have appointed Shannon Coleman as our House Manager and promoted Lulu Christ and Oscar Brewer as Assistant House Managers. We are pleased to report that Shannon is developing some clear plans to build a team spirit among our staff and will hold regular staff meetings to do this.

We still are in need of staff, especially for the overnight shift. Please encourage interested persons to obtain an application form from Shannon.

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### We have had to change our entry door.

In order to conserve heat in this extremely cold weather we are now using the Kitchen door as our primary entry for all, guests, staff, and volunteers. We were blessed by the visit of **Tom and Marilena Tartaglia** who donated an entry way mat and indoor mats to help us with the increased traffic through the kitchen.

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### Parking at REACH Home

Please remember that we share a very small parking area with Dimitri House. REACH is limited to three slots, two at the rear, where we need to park head to tail, and one at the side of the house.



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**REACH December fundraiser** a big THANK YOU to the **Boomtown Brothers** and the Three Heads Brewing Company. We raised \$314 in cash and many items of food and clothing. Andy Carey was able to say a few words about our mission to the people who were there.



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*REACH members come from all over our community and belong to different faith groups but we share this in common:*

### **Our Social Work Team**

Andy writes that “we have been able to get roughly ten chronically homeless people housing subsidies. A few people were motivated to get drug treatment. We are about to do a housing push this month where 15 – 20 guests should be housed before February with the help of subsidies, DHS, regular housing searches, and some supportive landlords.”

It means a great deal to our team to have the commitment and presence of these very professional social workers.

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### **Donation needs**

Please go to our [Donations](#) tab on our web page to view the latest needs. This list is updated regularly.

*We believe that all people should be shown hospitality and be treated with respect and dignity.*

To offer donations please email us at [reachdonations2017@gmail.com](mailto:reachdonations2017@gmail.com) Also, please check our wish list on [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com).

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### **Please consider giving to REACH**

Checks, made out to FLACE/REACH Advocacy, may be mailed to P.O. Box 10845, Rochester, NY 14610, or you may go to our [web page](#) where you can donate on line. All donations are tax deductible.

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*We invite your support of this work.*

### **Brief Notes on REACH developments:**

- We are moving toward incorporation. A first draft of articles of incorporation under NYS corporate law has been sent to **Amy D’Amico, Esq.**, who has graciously offered to assist us in this next step.
- We have begun to explore with People Centered Housing Options on partnering in a supportive housing development.

TEAM REACH is thankful that there is a growing public awareness of the need for the care of our homeless men, women and children. We join the many dedicated service providers who seek to shelter the homeless especially during this winter season.

Our mission is to advocate with and on behalf of homeless people to create more affordable housing to meet the needs of those who are not able to meet the market demands for housing. We believe that in the long run much of our homeless population is the result of the lack of affordable housing where market driven rents make housing out of the reach of people with very low incomes.

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*Interested in joining the REACH Team?*

*Please send us an email so that we can notify you of our meeting times.*

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