

May the mountains yield their bounty for the people and the hills great abundance. May they defend the oppressed among the people and save the children of the poor. - Psalm 72: 3-4

December 2019



Dear Friends and Benefactors,

King Solomon is credited with the writing of this psalm as he prayed to be a wise and just leader. Solomon was known for his wisdom. How would he view our current society plagued by the random shooting of innocents? What would he say about the growing number of people who opt out of life through illegal drugs? Would he work to save the mountains and seas so that they would continue to be sources of life for a battered earth? Where would he find food and shelter for the millions left homeless because of war, natural disasters and political unrest?

In this season of hope and light, may we pause to seek the inner wisdom that will change our neighborhoods, both local and global.

Thea Bowman House served 350 children and their families this past year. Many of them face great challenges. Lily, age five, misses her grandmother who remains in a refugee camp. She mails her a picture that she has drawn of autumn leaves because she thinks they are the most beautiful thing she has ever seen and Grandma will love them. Jeramiah's sad eyes fill up with tears as he pulls a crumpled picture of his dad out of his pocket. His father was a victim of gang violence last year. Sara acts up in school. Her anger seems to stem from the fact that her mother works double shifts and never has time for her.

Our days are also filled with miracles. Many of them are made possible because of you our benefactors. Because of your kindness, many children enjoyed a summer filled with splashing, sandcastles and even an annual campout. Your generosity helped some single parents go back to college in hopes of better jobs. Your kindness helped us to celebrate holidays and birthdays.

You were there to tutor and fund summer learning programs. You helped us to move an entire floor two flights up so that the children could have a better environment. Some of you, our former students, come back to help other kids have the same experiences that meant so much to you.

Maybe none of us possess the great wisdom of Solomon, but our collective wisdom tells us that these little ones can have a future filled with hope if we dare to take the awesome journey of unconditional love.

May each and every one of you enjoy a blessed holiday season. We thank you for any contribution you can make to our annual holiday appeal.

Gratefully,

Jane Domingue, Staff and Children of Thea Bowman House

2019 Statistics

November 2018 - October 2019

Month	<u>Meals Served</u>			
	Breakfast	Lunch	Supper	Snack
November	2,008	3,061	1,627	2,022
December	1,839	2,803	1,479	1,901
January	1,885	3,053	1,766	1,952
February	1,792	2,656	1,187	1,846
March	2,264	3,646	1,971	2,334
April	2,064	3,153	1,264	2,208
May	2,260	3,223	1,563	2,310
June	2,011	2,713	1,324	1,919
July	2,327	2,653	0	2,579
August	1,987	2,226	0	2,135
September	1,474	2,380	1,613	1,828
October	2,294	3,724	1,894	2,270

Food Pantry

Households Served - 1,525

Children Served - 1,468

Adults Served - 2,387

Elderly Served - 280

Total Individuals - 4,135

Total Meals - 37,215



Thea Bowman House Board of Directors

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William Taft, Treasurer

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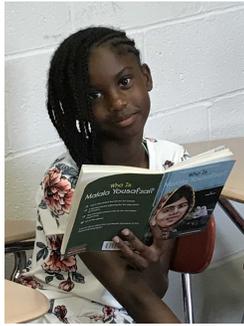
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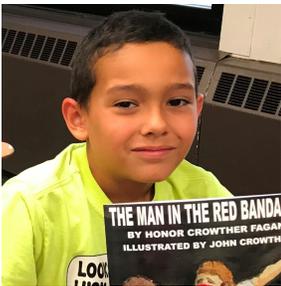
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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



Thea Bowman House is a non-profit child care center serving children and families in and around the city of Utica, New York. We provide quality care to some of our community's most vulnerable children and youth in the hope of breaking the cycle of poverty through educational and social enrichment and support.

The mission of Thea Bowman House is to provide a safe, nurturing environment to enable culturally diverse children and families to achieve their full potential. The foundation on which Thea Bowman House is built is *agape*, unconditional love.



Programs & Services

Pre-School Day Care:

Licensed child care for children ages 18 months through five years, all day throughout the year. Transportation and meals are provided. Capacity: 75

After School Program:

A structured program for school age children, including tutoring, gym, creative development and field trips. Transportation is provided. Capacity: 100

Universal Pre-K:

NYS certified teachers provide a half-day program through the Utica City School District to help prepare children for kindergarten. Capacity: 150

Kids With Promise:

A structured program for youth ages 12-18, completely free of charge, promotes social- and self-responsibility and offers academic support. Capacity: 40

DOVE (Domestic Violence Ended):

On-site support services and counseling for those who need help with issues of domestic or community violence.

St. Clare's Cupboard & Cleophas' Closet:

Emergency food pantry and secondhand clothing shop, all provided free of charge to anyone in need. Provides food packages of three meals a day for three days.

Peace Garden:

A garden in memory of children who have lost their lives to violence and a memorial reminding us that peace begins with each person and is shared with those around us.

Movin' On Up:

Child care assistance for single parents seeking higher education in post-secondary school.