



BUFFALO **DREAM** CENTER MAKING A DIFFERENCE

BOXES OF LOVE 2023

BOXES OF LOVE CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY

PASTOR ERIC JOHNS

I remember the Sunday morning twenty-five years ago. I stood in front of my church congregation and announced my decision to live on the streets of Buffalo for one week. The plan was to use the money raised that week to purchase toys for inner city children. Two and half decades ago, the Buffalo Dream Center had less than fifty people. My goal was to give gifts to two hundred children. I packed my bag, left my house, and, because it was a time when cell phones were not popular, I took a roll of quarters for the pay phone.

There are so many stories I could tell from the years of being homeless. But I will never forget the first year. Although my church was behind me, everyone else thought it was a crazy thing to do. I remember the first night, as I got inside of my sleeping bag, tucked away under an overpass, I slept with one eye open.

Nobody could have ever predicted what happened that year. The story was put at the top of the television news broadcasts on all three major networks. Back then, there were no websites with links to watch the story at a later time. There were no social media sites.

We relied on people actually watching the news!

Not only did the local media carry the story on television, we were also featured on ten radio stations. We even made the front page of the newspaper with a story and a picture of me praying with a man in a homeless shelter. Within a few days, the city of Buffalo knew about the Buffalo Dream Center and our plan to help a couple of hundred kids with Christmas gifts.

That year we held The Biggest Christmas Party in Town. More than eight hundred people filled the building we rented downtown. Two hundred children received wrapped toys for Christmas.

Year after year it grew. By the third year we changed the Christmas party to Boxes of Love and began bringing toys and food to neighborhoods and families. Twenty-five years later, Boxes of Love is a network of churches, businesses, and organizations. We are planning to give food to 3,500 families and wrapped Christmas gifts to 4,000 children.

This will be my final year leaving my home to live on the streets. I will be passing the baton to the next generation –

my sons and nephews. They have joined me for the past few years, and I have taught them everything I know.

The best part about the entire experience was meeting all of the people who have been a part of Boxes of Love. There have been volunteers that have wrapped gifts every year. Church groups, businesses, families, and individuals have all given their time to pack bags of food, wrap toys, and take part in distribution sites. Most of the reporters from the news stations are too young to remember that first year. However, there are still a few news anchors and reporters who interviewed me twenty-five years ago. It has been incredible to see God's favor on the Buffalo Dream Center. He has opened so many doors and brought incredible people across our path. Boxes of Love is truly an effort of thousands of volunteers who make a difference in the lives of countless families.

Please consider being a part of Boxes of Love this year. If you live in the Buffalo area, it is easy to volunteer on our website. But we also need people to purchase toys and food. Financial gifts help us with the costs of running our warehouse and transporting the food to different neighborhoods. We appreciate and value your partnership as we introduce many people to the love of Jesus this Christmas Season.

CONTACT US

Worship Service:

Sundays at 11:00 AM

Buffalo Dream Center

286 Lafayette Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14213

(716) 854-1001

✉ information@buffalodreamcenter.org

🌐 buffalodreamcenter.org

IMPORTANT LINKS



INSTAGRAM
[b fldreamcenter](https://www.instagram.com/bfldreamcenter)



TWITTER
[BfloDreamCenter](https://twitter.com/BfloDreamCenter)



FACEBOOK
[BuffaloDreamCenter](https://www.facebook.com/BuffaloDreamCenter)





BOXES OF LOVE 2023

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



BAGGING GROCERIES

Drop-off donations during hours
BDC Outreach Center
437 Masten Ave
Buffalo, NY 14209



WRAPPING GIFTS

Drop-off donations during hours
Buffalo Dream Center
286 Lafayette Ave
Buffalo, NY 14213



FOOD PANTRIES & DISTRIBUTIONS

Meet at the address
& time listed

DROP-OFF DONATIONS

During Bagging Groceries
And Gift Wrapping
Or call to set up a time
(716) 854-1001

Wednesday, November 15

@ 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Tuesday, November 21

@ 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Saturday, November 25

@ 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Tuesday, November 28

@ 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Wednesday, November 29

@ 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Friday, December 1

@ 1:00 PM Chippewa Hotel: 47 West Chippewa St
 @ 3:00 PM Linwood Lafayette Apts: 637 Linwood Ave
 @ 4:30 PM Frederick Douglass Community Center
234 Jefferson Ave

Saturday, December 2

@ 10:00 AM A.D. Price 450 Jefferson Ave
In the parking lot in the rear of the building on Mortimer St
 @ 3:00 PM Shaffer Village, Behind 90 Isabelle St

Tuesday, December 5

@ 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM
 @ 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Wednesday, December 6

@ 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM
 @ 6:00 PM Pine Harbor: 10 Seventh St

Thursday, December 7

@ 2:00 PM Highland School Apts
105 Highland Ave, Tonawanda
 @ 6:00 PM Marine Drive Apartments: 161 Marine Dr

Friday, December 8

@ 12:00 PM Casa de Los Tainos: 333 Trenton Ave
 @ 1:30 PM Hertel Park Senior Apts: 1631 Hertel Ave
 @ 4:30 PM Church of the Assumption: 435 Amherst St

Saturday, December 9

@ 10 AM - 12 PM
 @ 2:00 PM Arkansas St, Behind McDonald's on W. Ferry

DISTRIBUTION OF TOYS & CLOTHING GIFT WRAPPING & DROP-OFF DONATIONS

@ 286 LAFAYETTE AVE

Tuesday, December 12

4:00 PM Distributing flyers (*meet at 286 Lafayette Ave*)
@ 6:00 PM Set up & toy distribution

Wednesday, December 13 - Friday, December 15

4:00 PM - 9:00 PM toy distribution & gift wrapping

Saturday, December 16

9:00 AM - 2:00 PM toy distribution & gift wrapping
1:30 PM Clean up team

Tuesday, December 12

@ 6:00 PM Northwest Community Center: 155 Lawn Ave

Wednesday, December 13

@ 6:00 PM Matt Urban Hope Center: 243 Sears St
Distribution In the rear of the building.

Thursday, December 14

@ 3:00 PM Stuyvesant Apts: 245 Elmwood Ave
 @ 6:00 PM 1166 & 1140 Jefferson Ave
In the parking lot in the rear of the apartments

Friday, December 15

@ 1:00 PM Stadnitski Gardens: 100 Beck St
 @ 2:30 PM Mullen Manor: 200 Mineral Springs Rd
 @ 4:30 BDC Outreach Center: 437 Masten Ave

Saturday, December 16

@ 2:00 PM Buffalo Dream Center: 286 Lafayette Ave

Monday, December 18

Home Deliveries Starting @ 4:00 PM
Meet @ BDC Outreach Center *Call to register as a driver*

Tuesday, December 19

@ 6:00 PM LaSalle Courts: 110 Blum St
In the parking lot

Saturday, December 23

Christmas Lasagna Dinner @ 3:00 PM: 286 Lafayette Ave



ALL VOLUNTEERS MUST PRE-REGISTER

Please check our website or call for more details.

(716) 854-1001 buffalodreamcenter.org

Please check our website for updates & changes.

UPCOMING HONDURAS TRIPS

LA MOSKITIA | \$700

February 17-25, 2024

16+ years

This trip is located in a very hot and humid part of Honduras on the border of Nicaragua. It is physically difficult but rewarding as you help with evangelism in this spiritually dark place.

EVANGELISM WEEK | \$650

March 2-9, 2024

10+ years

This week will take place in Tegucigalpa and the team will stay at the Love Honduras mission house. During the week there will be many different opportunities to reach out to people who are overlooked by others on the streets, garbage dumps, hospitals, and other places.

MONTAÑA DE LA FLOR | \$650

MEN'S WORK TRIP

May 23-30, 2024

Men 15+ years

This trip takes place on Montana De La Flor but is designed specifically for men who want to focus their skills to do work projects during the day and evangelistic outreaches at night. Work projects will include building a house, repairing a roof, painting a school, and more.

YOUTH TRIP | \$650

August 15-22, 2024

Youth 16-25 years

The goal of this trip will be to reach youth with the Gospel and stir up a fresh passion for Jesus in youth who are already serving Jesus. Ministry opportunities will include schools, the red light district, street evangelism, evangelistic campfires, youth meetings, and much more.

MONTAÑA DE LA FLOR | \$650

August 24-31, 2024

10+ years

This trip takes place in the remote area of Montana De La Flor, the home of Honduras' indigenous people - the Tolupanes. Your week will be filled with children's programs, door-to-door evangelism, small work projects, and taking part in feeding programs. Team members will have no electricity, phone service, and will sleep on the floor.

All trips require a passport with an expiration date more than 6 months from the date of the trip you intend to go on.

Prices do not include airfare, travel expenses, & personal spending needs.

For more information about these upcoming trips to Honduras, please visit :

love-honduras.org buffalodreamcenter.org



MISSIONS INTERNSHIP

Month 1: \$800* | Months 2 & 3: \$700* (each month)

Select any dates between February 1 - November 30.

Dates are subject to approval and may be adjusted base on teams arriving and departing.

You must be 18 years and up to participate.

*Includes transportation to and from the airport, room and board, and transportation to ministry events

*Does not include travel expenses, personal expenses, special dietary needs, day off expenses, and transportation for personal needs.

*Hotel stayovers and trips to other Central American countries during your internship may require some additional funds.

You will know these before you come.

*Bible School accreditation is \$75 + a written essay.

If you want to experience what it is like to be a missionary, this trip is for you. During your internship with Love Honduras you will not only have the opportunity to serve on the mission field but also to develop leadership skills. You will experience what it is like to be immersed in another culture and what it is like to live in a different country. If you are enrolled in the Dream Center School of Ministry you can earn up to two credits towards your degree upon the completion of the internship and the required assignment for a cost of \$75. Every month has new adventures in different parts of Honduras including Montana De La Flor, the rainforest, different cities, or other Central American countries. You may end up ministering in red light districts, prisons, the garbage dumps, schools, hospitals, or at different church plants. During your time serving in Honduras you will grow in your relationship with God and you will be stretched to do things you have never done. You can stay for 1-3 months. You may choose the months you want to come in. However, we have the right to set or change the dates if necessary.



BUFFALO DREAM CENTER
286 LAFAYETTE AVENUE
BUFFALO, NY 14213

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT
STANDARD
POSTAGE
PAID
BUFFALO, NY
PERMIT #1141

SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Inner City Boot Camp, the summer internship program at the Buffalo Dream Center, has been raising up leaders for many years. The internship accepts a limited number of applicants. It is designed to develop leadership skills in the lives of young people. Interns are put in charge of other volunteers and assist with all of the summer outreaches including reaching out to the homeless, prostitutes, drug addicts, and refugee families. Interns are also involved in daily large outreaches to children known as Kidz Clubs. They have opportunities to share at outreaches and services. They have reading assignments and are responsible to prepare to preach and teach. Personal time with Pastor Eric and Michelle as well as being a part of the Buffalo Dream Center family will make an impact on every person who decides to enroll in the Inner City Boot Camp. The Buffalo Dream Center now offers college credits for interns who were interested in working toward their degrees in ministry.



BRING A TEAM THIS SUMMER

Summers at the Buffalo Dream Center are some of the most exciting times. Every summer is filled with outreach to the community. Teams from across the United States, Canada, and even nations overseas have brought people to the Buffalo Dream Center for week-long trips in the summer. Teams experience and participate in various ministries to the homeless, children,



prostitutes, refugee families, and others. Everyone on the team has the opportunity to be a part of ministries like Curbside Church, street ministry, Kidz Club, and the mobile food pantry. If you would like to bring a group from your church, please contact the Buffalo Dream Center for more information about costs and available dates. Come to serve. Go home changed!