



BUFFALO **DREAM** CENTER

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

WINTER 2024

BOXES OF LOVE BREAKS RECORDS ON 25TH YEAR

As Pastor Eric walked the streets of Buffalo during the week of Thanksgiving, he thought back to all the previous years. It was difficult for him to believe that he began doing this ministry twenty-five years ago. He remembered announcing to the Dream Center that he was going to spend a week with the homeless. This year was special because, not only would it be his final homeless journey, but he was also passing on the annual tradition to his sons and nephews.

The news media did not disappoint as they covered the homeless week, the distribution of toys and food to families, and did a great job showing the community all the preparation work of packing bags of food to wrapping gifts.

It was the greatest year ever for Boxes of Love. Nearly 3,500 families received food. That is about five hundred more families than the previous year. Boxes of Love expanded its distribution sites into new areas of the city. Thirty-seven distribution sites took place throughout the cities of Buffalo and Niagara Falls. Several organizations and ministries that feed families picked up food from the Buffalo Dream Center's Outreach Center. These included churches, shelters, soup kitchens, and schools.

Two churches in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania also received food to feed hundreds of families in need. For one of those churches, it was their first outreach in a neighborhood that had been on the pastor's heart to help. Two hundred families from that apartment complex received groceries and were introduced to the love of Jesus.

Boxes of Love gave every family a bag of nonperishable food items, along

with some kind of meat like turkey, ham, or chicken. Organizers also had a goal to give every family a box of cereal. When the Dream Center saw that they were not going to have enough cereal, a special day called Cereal Sunday was organized. Thousands of boxes of cereal were donated on that day by individuals. General Mills also donated seven pallets of cereal to Boxes of Love. The abundance of food came from Feed More of Western New York, Feed the Children, Feed the Hungry, and local businesses, churches, and families who donated.

Many churches, organizations, and individuals donated toys. Some dropped off one toy to be wrapped, while others filled their cars with toys. One of the largest donations of toys came from Little Smiles, a local organization that focuses on helping children throughout the year. They gave hundreds of toys to Boxes of Love throughout the month of December.

It took more than eight hundred volunteers to make it all possible. People volunteered from all over Western New York and Canada. John Tasch Ministries organized a team of more than twenty people who came from North Carolina, New Hampshire, Kansas, and Nebraska.

Food was given away at distribution sites. The toys were given to children by appointment.

The families came to the Dream Center during a week designated for the toys. Those coming for toys were also able to choose household items and other things to bless their families. A special night was scheduled for teachers who registered students they knew needed help.

A couple of months before Christmas, three hotels in the Buffalo area were filled with refugee families. The people living in the hotels did not have anything for Christmas. With the help of other organizations, Boxes of Love was able to provide food for the families and toys for many of the children living in the hotels.

The Christmas season culminated with a lasagna dinner for the homeless. Three buses traveled throughout downtown, picking up our friends from the streets at various shelters, parks, and other places. The buses were filled, and more than two hundred people attended the dinner! Before dinner was served there was a special Christmas service with music, games, and prizes. It was a festive atmosphere at the Dream Center! Then, Pastor Eric preached a salvation message. The altar was crowded with people who gave their lives to Jesus!

Thank you to everyone who volunteered and gave to make Boxes of Love a success! We plan to help more families in 2024.

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**
[bfodreamcenter](https://www.instagram.com/bfodreamcenter)

 **TWITTER**
[BfoDreamCenter](https://twitter.com/BfoDreamCenter)

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



FIRST YEAR FOR BOXES OF LOVE IN HONDURAS

PASTOR MICHELLE JOHNS

In 2022, before I went home for Christmas, I took a team to Montana De La Flor to deliver food to all our feeding programs and spread some Christmas cheer. We planned a few evangelistic campfires celebrating Christmas. God put five families on my heart to bless in a special way with food and toys for the children. It was a powerful three days. On that trip God began to speak to me about doing Boxes of Love in Montana De La Flor in 2023. After sharing my vision with the Love Honduras team, and as the year went on, our vision grew from blessing one or two communities to reaching two thousand children in December of 2023. Then in October God began to bring in the donations. Two thousand toys were packaged in no time. They came from all over the United States, Guatemala, and Honduras. In October we received donations to purchase one hundred beds and two hundred fifty blankets. In total we received twelve pick-up trucks full of donations including beds, blankets, clothes, hygiene kits, dental kits, beans, rice, coffee, sugar, and more.

The second week of December a team of fifteen people from Canada, United States, Guatemala, and Honduras headed to Montana De La Flor for six days. It was a trip I will never forget. It is difficult to even put into words to describe what happened on that trip to the mountain. It was not easy, but it was incredible! Some days we worked for more than sixteen hours getting up at 4:00 a.m. and not going to bed until after 10:00 p.m.

We got wet and cold. We got muddy. We slept on the concrete floor. We had cold showers. But it was all worth it to see the smiles, hear the giggles, and receive the hugs. Many people experienced the joy and love our Savior gives as we celebrated Christmas in Montant De La Flor. There were lots of salvations, testimonies of healings, and changed lives.

Altogether we blessed the people of

Montana De La Flor with two thousand toys for children up to fourteen years of age, one hundred beds, two hundred fifty blankets, two hundred fifty gift packages for all the ladies who volunteer for our feeding programs, one thousand hygiene and dental kits, two hundred fifty bags of beans, two hundred fifty bags rice, one hundred bags of sugar and coffee, and lots of clothes.

We made an impact in twenty five communities in the mountain through five evangelistic campfires and six special Christmas children's programs. We also fed more than one thousand two hundred people a hot meal.

One little boy named Oscar was so happy when he received his very first toy. Before December team members from Love Honduras would visit Oscar's house and he would always be playing with a little block of wood pretending it was a car because he did not own any toys. On the day we visited his community and gave out toys, Oscar received a big yellow truck. He came running to me very excited with a big smile on his face and said, "Look, my first toy. It's a truck." He ripped open the package and immediately began playing with it.

The leader of another community said to me, "Thank you for remembering us. You are the only ones who come here." Another leader said, "Our lives are better because of you. And now we get to eat every day." Finally, a little five-year-old girl received a bed and she said, "I have been sleeping on a cardboard box on the floor my whole life. Now I get to sleep in a bed."

My favorite part of each day was at the end of the campfire when we handed out sparklers to the older children and adults who wanted them. When they took the sparklers in their hands their faces would light up with joy. In that moment it was as if they forgot about everything going on in

their lives - all the hardship, the sadness, the loneliness - and they were focused on the light. The light brought joy. The light brought peace. The light brought hope. Jesus brings joy. Jesus brings peace. Jesus brings hope. This is what we celebrate at Christmas. At that moment I was reminded of the Bible verse John 1:5 that says, "The light shines in the darkness and the darkness can never extinguish it."

Thank you to everyone who supported Boxes of Love in Honduras. Thank you for your prayers. Thank you for your donations. I cannot wait to see what God does next year.



2024 UPCOMING HONDURAS TRIPS

MEN'S WORK WEEK

MONTAÑA DE LA FLOR (Men 15 yrs+)

May 23-30: **APPLICATIONS DUE BY APRIL 1.**

YOUTH MISSIONS TRIP (16-25 yrs)

August 15-22: **APPLICATIONS DUE BY JULY 1.**


MONTAÑA DE LA FLOR (10 yrs+)

August 24-31: **APPLICATIONS DUE BY JULY 1.**

***\$650**

(\$50 deposit with application)

For more information or to apply for a trip, please visit:

 love-Honduras.org or

**Does not include airfare or other expenses.*

DREAM CENTER SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

Pastors Eric and Michelle have always had a vision to train and equip people in the ministry. Both hold pastors' conferences in other nations and have taught in Bible colleges. They have a passion to teach the Word of God to those who want to give their lives to the Great Commission.

When the opportunity came for the Buffalo Dream Center to launch a Bible College, it was something that had been a dream for Pastors Eric and Michelle for many years.

For the past four years, Dream Center School of Ministry has been training students in God's Word. The Buffalo Dream Center is a

satellite school connected with International College of Ministry. Several students have already graduated with Associates, Bachelors, and Masters degrees in ministry. Classes have been held on Tuesday nights and have included courses such as Authority of the Believer, Divine Healing, Gifts of the Holy Spirit, Heart of a Missionary, and New Creation Realities. Nearly twenty classes are now offered online at the Buffalo Dream Center's website. The online classes are complete with video and notes.

Listen to what some of the students are saying about the classes at Dream Center School of Ministry:

"Taking the classes is liberating. The classes are filled with scriptural references all the way through. Truths that I can grab hold of and apply to my everyday life." – Jessica

"The teaching has caused growth and development in my relationship with Jesus." – John

"The Bible is explained so that I can understand it. Things that I would have overlooked or misunderstood are made clear." – Bob

If you would like to know more about Dream Center School of Ministry, please contact the Buffalo Dream Center.

JUMP IN ON WHAT GOD IS DOING IN BUFFALO NY THIS SUMMER!

BRING A TEAM

SPRING, SUMMER,
DURING BOXES OF LOVE

\$100 per person

Come experience & participate in various ministries to the homeless, children, prostitutes, refugee families, and others. Come to serve—go home changed!



SUMMER INTERNSHIP

July 1 – August 11, 2024

\$750 per person

Youth 15 years or older

Come ready to serve and be molded into the leader God has created you to be!

DREAM CENTER SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

Dream Center School of the Arts is a unique school that is set apart from other places that teach the arts. What makes it different? The vision of the school is to make families feel comfortable with the music and costume choices as they have opportunities to learn many forms of the arts. Students do not feel the negative pressure of competition as they grow and excel in their talents. Dream Center School of the Arts wants students and families to have fun and experience the love of Jesus.

Tap, ballet, hip hop, keyboard, bass guitar, cello, violin, guitar, voice, and stretch classes are currently offered by a staff of seven teachers.

The school is expanding its vision this year with the start of a homeschool day. This will be a special date set aside for homeschooling families to attend and participate in the arts. They

would be able to be a part of the annual showcase at the end of the year along with the other students.

Dream Center School of the Arts will also be opening new time slots this year which will introduce more classes for musical instruments.

Maria sends her grandson to Dream Center School of the Arts. She said, "My grandson loves learning the guitar. His teacher has become a mentor to him."

Anyone wishing to find out more information about Dream Center School of the Arts, or to register for a class, can go to www.dcsabuffalo.com or scan the QR code below.





BUFFALO DREAM CENTER
286 LAFAYETTE AVENUE
BUFFALO, NY 14213

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT
STANDARD
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PAID
BUFFALO, NY
PERMIT #1141

WE ALMOST HAVE A NEW TRUCK FOR THE MOBILE FOOD PANTRY!

The truck currently being used for the Joseph Project Mobile Food Pantry is more than twenty years old and needs to be replaced. Many of you who support the Buffalo Dream Center are already aware of this need. A larger truck that is twenty-one feet is needed to transport food into the neighborhoods and to pick up donations. This ministry has grown significantly over the past few years with more than one thousand families receiving food each month.

West Herr Chevrolet is helping the Buffalo Dream Center acquire a new truck. The price tag on the truck needed for the ministry is \$97,000. This price is after discounts and a donation from West Herr. The good news is that \$51,000 has been given toward the truck! This has come from generous individual donors and a foundation that approved a grant.

The truck has been ordered and will arrive within the next few months. We need to

raise the rest of the money before it arrives. Please consider helping with this by going to the Buffalo Dream Center's website and donating today. The need to feed families in our community has grown significantly. We need your help to make a difference for thousands of families in need.

SCAN FOR
WAYS TO GIVE
ONLINE!



PASTOR ERIC JOHNS

