



BUFFALO **DREAM** CENTER

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

WINTER 2025

BOXES OF LOVE HELPS THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE

EMILIE MCCLINTON

It may sound strange, but the staff of the Buffalo Dream Center started to plan and prepare for our Christmas season in August while we were still in the midst of our summer ministry. Families began signing up for Christmas gifts in October at the mobile food pantry sites. We had high expectations and a big vision for what God wanted to do in our city during the Christmas Season.

Year twenty-six of Boxes of Love officially started Thanksgiving week as Pastor Eric's sons and nephews hit the streets to live among the homeless for six days. This was all a part of the call that God put in Pastor Eric's heart years ago. Last year Pastor Eric passed the baton to Alexander, Nathaniel, and the Rutherford boys and the call continued! While living with the homeless, these young men were able to share the love of Jesus with people they met in soup kitchens, bus stations, and outside under the downtown overpasses where some people call "home". God created so many powerful opportunities for them to minister one on one with our friends from the streets. Every year this catches the attention of the media and this year was no exception. Due to the media coverage, donations of toys and funds started coming in and Boxes of Love was in full swing.

Nearly one-thousand volunteers came through the Buffalo Dream Center to help assemble grocery bags, wrap gifts, run food and toy distribution sites, deliver food and gifts to families, and to feed hot meals to nearly three hundred people on Christmas Eve. In just four days, our staff and more than two hundred volunteers were able to assemble four thousand bags of groceries for the families of Western New York. These groceries, along with other goods like produce,

frozen meat, beverages, and Frito-Lay products were distributed at thirty-four mobile distribution sites! This impacted thousands of individuals including immigrants, seniors, families, and others in need.

Not only were we able to bring our food pantry truck into the neighborhoods of Buffalo, but God filled our warehouse so full that we were also able to bless other ministries with food. Nine other ministries from Western New York and Pittsburgh came to the BDC Outreach Center to pick up food which enabled them to assist families in their own communities. More than twenty-one thousand pounds of food was donated to these ministries, impacting hundreds of families.

Every year we transform a section of our church building into Santa's workshop and throughout the month of December volunteers help us wrap thousands of Christmas presents. This leads us to the final week of Boxes of Love - our toy distribution week. This week is the best part of Boxes of Love! During the course of three days, hundreds of families came through the doors of the Buffalo Dream Center. Each child received a wrapped Christmas present. Every family also walked away with clothing, snacks, hygiene products, winter coats, and a hug from Santa himself. Most of the families needed help from our volunteers just to be able to carry all of their things out to their

cars. But the biggest blessing this year was that we were able to talk and pray with every signal family. Every family left the Dream Center feeling the presence and the love of Jesus!

The final outreach of the Buffalo Dream Center's Christmas season was our Christmas Eve lasagna dinner for the homeless. Buses were sent out and filled with our friends from the streets. We brought them out of the cold Buffalo weather and welcomed them into the comfort of our church. They were able to escape the struggles they may be facing and enjoyed Christmas carols, a powerful Word from God, prayer, games, prizes, and a delicious dinner! This year, after the message was preached, the altar was full and many were touched by God. Thanks to nearly one hundred volunteers, we served three hundred people a hot lasagna dinner followed by Christmas cookies and coffee!

The staff at the Buffalo Dream Center want to express our thanks to everyone who was able to volunteer their time and donate to Boxes of Love 2024. We thank you for your continued love and support to this ministry and all that God is doing here in Buffalo, New York!



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

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

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

BOXES OF LOVE IN HONDURAS

PASTOR MICHELLE JOHNS

Missionaries traveled by bus from Guatemala and by plane from the United States to join Love Honduras on an adventure we would never forget. The Love Honduras team delivered nine truckloads of donations to Montana De La Flor at the end of November in preparation for Boxes of Love. Then we packed our five trucks and headed to the mountain. We planned on visiting twelve communities and doing either a children's program or a campfire outreach in each community

On day number two of our six-day trip to Montaña De La Flor, it started to rain and never stopped the rest of the trip. It was as if a hurricane hit the mountain. December is not the rainy season, so it was unexpected. By the fourth day of our trip nothing happened the way we planned or imagined it to be. We made plan A. Then Plan B. Then Plan C. It rained and rained and rained. Everything and everyone was covered in mud. It was cold. We were wet. We cancelled more events than we did. We packed up and left the community we were sleeping in only to turn around, go back and unpack because we couldn't pass down roads or cross rivers. Honestly, I felt a little discouraged by the fourth day because we worked for a year on Boxes of Love. But in my heart, I heard God saying, "Don't worry. I am going to do something great."

We sent messages out to communities and invited them to come to where we were staying on Sunday. When we woke up Sunday morning, it was pouring rain. I did not have a lot of faith that the people would come. I walked out onto the road. I saw a few people walking down the

road. I invited them to the church where we were staying for some arroz con leche.

I hung around on the corner for a bit praying and asking God what He was going to do. God is always full of surprises. Then I looked up and saw what God was going to do. There was a crowd walking down the road. They came from everywhere! Some people woke up at 5:00 a.m. to start walking. Some people walked five hours. Others walked three hours in the cold rain. They kept coming and coming. On Sunday we ministered to and served over one thousand people from fourteen communities in the pouring rain. What a day it was! Everyone heard the Gospel message. Everyone walked away with their arms full of blessings including toys, clothes, soap, food, blankets and more. Everyone was fed a hot meal. Everyone encountered the love of Jesus. Everyone who wanted prayer was prayed for. God healed people. He restored hope. He filled

people with his love.

While we could only travel to five communities during our six day trip to Montana De

La Flor, we spread the love and hope of Jesus to more than two thousand five hundred people from thirty communities.

Boxes of Love did not end in the mountain. Once we returned to Tegucigalpa we reached approximately another one thousand people in the garbage dump, through street evangelism, and in two other communities. All the children received a toy. Tamales, oatmeal, baleadas, sandwiches and Honduran rice were given out. The love and hope of Jesus was shared with everyone we met.

It was an incredible Boxes of Love season in Honduras. God made a way when there seemed to be no way in the mountain, and He opened many doors for us to share His love with the people of Honduras.

Altogether we gave away more than 2,200 toys to children, 270 mattresses in the mountain to people who had no beds, more than 3,500 hot meals, over 1,500 pounds of beans and rice, 500 pounds of sugar and coffee, more than 1,000 blankets in Montana De La Flor, hundreds of bars of soap, clothes, backpacks, toothbrushes and toothpaste, and more.

Thank you to everyone who supported Boxes of Love in Honduras!





HONDURAS INTERNSHIP

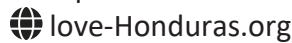
30, 60, & 90 Day Internships!

Select any dates between
April 1 - December 20, 2025

During your internship with Love Honduras you will not only have the opportunity to serve on the mission field, but you will have the opportunity to develop leadership skills, experience what it is like to be immersed in another culture, and learn more about long term missions.

You must be 18 years and up to participate.

For more information or to apply,
please visit:



SPANISH MINISTRY REACHING MANY FAMILIES

The new Spanish ministry at the Buffalo Dream Center is a way to reach families who have recently immigrated from South and Central America. Many of these families are settling in the Buffalo area and it is a great opportunity to build strong relationships with them and teach them about the Gospel of Jesus.

Many of these relationships have been built with a team of people from the Dream Center who have a desire to not only teach them the Word of God but also provide some of things they need as they make Buffalo their new home. Many of the people have received food, clothing, household items, and jobs through those involved in this ministry.

The families themselves are getting involved. Last month members of the Dream Center reached out to nearly sixty people by delivering food to their homes.

Roberto and Lilly have taken it upon themselves to be pastors to the people. Recently they started a clothing ministry, thanks to the donations of many people from the church and their friends.

Currently this ministry is blessing people from nine nations. Many of the families attend church on Sunday where the sermon is translated. A monthly Spanish service is also begin held. The vision is for that service to take place once per week.



DREAM CENTER GIVES FOOD TO OTHER MINISTRIES

When Pastor Eric and Michelle had the vision for the mobile food pantry, they also felt that God wanted the Dream Center to provide food to other ministries. This vision has taken place as the BDC Outreach Center has become a hub of blessing throughout the year to other ministries, soup kitchens, food pantries, and even public schools.

During Boxes of Love 21,038 pounds of food were given to other ministries, impacting more

than nine hundred families.

John, from Bridge City Church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania said, "We are overwhelmed with gratitude for the pallets of food generously provided by the Buffalo Dream Center. This blessing arrived at the perfect time, following our Thanksgiving giveaway. The cereal, tomato sauce, and Muscle Milk items are essential staples that will greatly benefit the approximately 300 people we serve monthly."

The pastor of New Generation Church in Buffalo thanked the Dream Center saying, "New Generation Church is beyond grateful for the generous donation of one hundred bags of groceries from Buffalo Dream Center. Our community members were overwhelmed with gratitude, expressing how this gift came at the perfect moment in their lives. It is moments like these that remind us where showing up for one another can truly make a difference."

NEW TRUCK FOR THE MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

Members of the Buffalo Dream Center have been praying for a new truck and raising money for two years. The truck finally arrived just in time for Boxes of Love!

The brand-new truck has the ability to transport larger amounts of food to distribution sites and can accommodate donations from companies in the local area.

The food pantry began more than twenty years ago serving six families every week from a two-bedroom apartment. A lot has changed since then. In 2024, 483,319 pounds of food came through the BDC Outreach Center. 12,536 families received groceries. 28,775 people were assisted by the mobile food pantry. With a lot of wear and tear on the old truck, a new truck was a necessity! But we could not have done it without our partners. Thank you to everyone who gave to make this a reality for the Buffalo Dream Center and the families we serve.





BUFFALO DREAM CENTER
286 LAFAYETTE AVENUE
BUFFALO, NY 14213

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

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

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

BRING A TEAM

SPRING, SUMMER,
& BOXES OF LOVE

\$100 per person

Come experience & participate in various ministries to the homeless, children, teenagers, refugee families, and others.

***Come to serve –
go home changed!***



SUMMER INTERNSHIP

JUNE 29 -
AUGUST 10, 2025

\$750 per person

Youth 15 years and older

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

