

# Making a DIFFERENCE

## CHRISTMAS IN BUFFALO – WHEN THE CHURCH LIFTS UP A CITY

PASTOR ERIC JOHNS

Proverbs 11:11 says, “By the blessing of the upright the city is exalted.”

The Buffalo Dream Center has a responsibility to the city of Buffalo. According to the Bible the city can be exalted, or lifted up, by the church! The families of Buffalo need to be reached with the Gospel. Every person needs an encounter with Jesus. This is what happens each year during Boxes of Love when the church unites to see people impacted by the love of Jesus.

The twenty-seventh year of Boxes of Love proved to be a great success! Nearly 2,000 families received bags of groceries and other food items at twenty distribution sites scattered throughout the City of Buffalo and Niagara Falls. It was all accomplished by more than 750 volunteers from Buffalo, various states, and Canada.

It all began in November as volunteers assembled bags of groceries at the BDC Outreach Center. Thanks to truckloads of food donated from Feed the Children, Feed the Hungry, and food drives from local churches, thousands of bags were put together in a few days. More than eight thousand pounds of food was given to other organizations, churches, and ministries that needed help feeding their communities.

During the week of Thanksgiving, Alex and Nate Johns went to live on the streets of Buffalo with their cousins Tommy, and Levi. The five young men drew attention to the needs of the homeless

and to the Boxes of Love program throughout their homeless week. They were interviewed by several news agencies that got the word out through television, radio, and the newspaper.

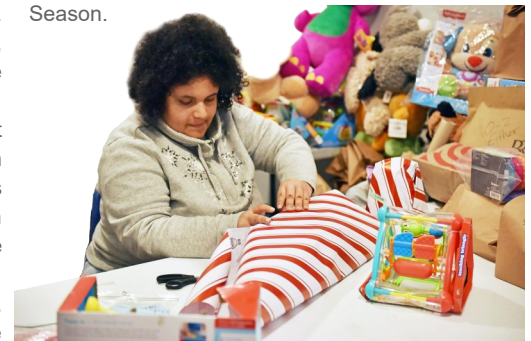
Boxes of Love relies on the generosity of the community. Every year people donate toys. However, the staff of the Dream Center usually has to go shopping for certain age categories. This year was different. It was the first year in the history of Boxes of Love in which no shopping was necessary! More toys were donated this year than ever before. Thanks to all the businesses, families, churches, and organizations that did toy drives. A special thanks goes out to Mark Sciortino, director of Little Smiles, and Life Church for the donation of hundreds of toys.

The large donation of toys worked out well for Pastor Eric who usually shops for toys with his daughter Emilie. But that did not happen this year. God knew what He was doing by bringing in the toys, because Emilie had a baby right in the middle of Boxes of Love – welcome baby Daniel! Right after Boxes of Love was finished, Pastor Eric and Michelle were blessed with another grandson – Titus, the son of Alex and Jessie.

Two grandchildren arrived in less than three weeks during the busiest season at the Buffalo Dream Center!

Volunteers packed food, wrapped toys, and held distribution sites. Hundreds of families came through the Buffalo Dream Center to pick up their gifts. Each family received prayer and was shown love and respect. There were a lot of tears and thankful hearts.

Thank you to everyone who gave financially and volunteered their time to make a difference in the lives of families 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](mailto:information@buffalodreamcenter.org)  
🌐 [buffalodreamcenter.org](http://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

MIKAYLA LOPEZ JOHNS

Boxes of Love Honduras 2025 was a huge success. Nearly 2,500 children under the age of sixteen received Christmas presents. Boxes of Love was able to bless Montana de La Flor, parts of La Mosquitia, the garbage dump, the men's, women's, and children's shelters, plus two churches. Not only did we help the children, but entire families were also given soap, food, shoes, and clothing. We are so thankful to the people who donated gifts, money, and their time to make this possible! Through Boxes of Love, hundreds of lives were impacted by the love of Jesus forever.

We had an awesome group of people who came to Honduras to help our Love Honduras team for over a week with the Boxes of Love distributions. Not only did we give things away, but we had Christmas parties and celebrated Jesus with the people everywhere we went! Through these Christmas parties we preached the Gospel and we saw hundreds of people lift their hands to receive Jesus as their Lord and Savior. People were also touched and healed in their bodies.

There was a mom who came to a distribution in the mountain carrying her three-year-old daughter who in her words, "would not wake up." This mom had walked two hours to come see us. She was exhausted and worried for her little girl. Her daughter was breathing but not responding to anything. She also had a very high fever and had not eaten in a couple of days. We prayed for her at the beginning of the program. After we preached the Gospel, we noticed that the little girl was awake and her fever was gone. We used her testimony to build the faith of others for healing. Many people were touched and healed that day in the mountain. After that mom and little girl received their gifts, she came and thanked us before she walked home.

She didn't just thank us for the toy and food. This mom said, "Thank you for praying for my daughter. Thanks to God, now she is all better."

Boxes of Love took long days and long nights of hard work to make it possible. It took a lot of planning, money, and sacrifice from many different people. All that time and work was

invested into winning souls and saving lives for Jesus. It is beautiful to see a child receive their very first toy, and a family receive food that desperately needs it. It is even more beautiful that one day we will see them again in heaven, because through Boxes of Love they also received the greatest gift of all time, eternal life.



## COMING IN FROM THE COLD FOR LASAGNA DINNER

After the gifts have all been given to the children and the groceries have been delivered in the neighborhoods, there is still one event remaining at the end of Boxes of Love.

For more than twenty years, the Buffalo Dream Center and Hearts for the Homeless have served a hot meal to the homeless on Christmas Eve. It began as a turkey dinner when the Buffalo Dream Center was located downtown. Over the years it became a lasagna dinner and one of the favorite events of those living on the streets.

"I get asked about the lasagna dinner in

June and July," says Pastor Eric. "People think about all year long, because it is more than a dinner. It is a Christmas Eve party! It is their time to come inside from the cold and celebrate."

"They look forward to this all year," says Jessie Johns. "This annual tradition is important for us, because it is important to them."

Three buses were filled with our friends from the streets. Once arriving at the Dream Center, they enjoyed music, prizes, and a special message from Pastor Eric. Many gave their lives to Jesus.

Volunteers helped serve the lasagna and loaded up meals that were delivered to seniors living at the Stuyvesant Apartments. Tops and Dashes Markets donated all the ingredients for the meal. A local chef, Kyle Williams, volunteered his time to cook the lasagna. Families from across Buffalo baked homemade cookies for dessert. This event brings people together every year who not only want to serve people, but also enjoy being a part of the fun and celebration.





## THE JOSEPH PROJECT MOBILE FOOD PANTRY EXPANDING INTO NEW NEIGHBORHOODS

The Joseph Project Mobile Food Pantry has been serving families of Western New York since 1998. The ministry has come a long way since that time. When Pastor Eric and Michelle started the food pantry all they had was a two-bedroom apartment stocked with canned pineapple and bread. Today the headquarters of the mobile food pantry is a large warehouse called the BDC Outreach Center.

Truckloads of food from FeedMore, Feed the Children, Feed the Hungry, and donations from churches, businesses, and families pass through the BDC Outreach Center every month. Volunteers pack the food, load it onto trucks, and bring it to families in need. The vision of being a "food bank" to help other organizations has also come to pass. Thousands of pounds of food are given away to churches, organizations, and public schools. Last year a large load of supplies which included

clothing, toiletries, and other necessities was sent to Love Honduras.

Instead of people going to the Buffalo Dream Center for food, the trucks travel to various neighborhoods throughout the City of Buffalo. Every month about 1,100 families receive bags of nonperishable food items and frozen meat. Families also get to choose items they want by shopping through tables filled with produce, bread, dairy items, desserts, prepared dinners, and many other items donated by local grocery stores.

During Boxes of Love, the mobile food pantry went into new neighborhoods. Beginning in February, two of those neighborhoods will become permanent monthly distribution sites. One is on the west side and the other is in the Riverside community. Both places have a high need for food accessibility. The Riverside neighborhood will also be a new site for the summer Kidz Club program.

The new truck enables the team to expand. Each Friday afternoon volunteers will now run two distribution sites simultaneously.

Thank you for your support of the Joseph Project Mobile Food Pantry as we continue to feed families throughout the City of Buffalo, Niagara Falls, and the surrounding area.



### THE JOSEPH PROJECT MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

**2025  
STATS!**

**12,287 FAMILIES RECEIVED FOOD**

**MORE THAN 30 NEIGHBORHOODS IMPACTED**

**A BIG  
THANK YOU  
TO THE 2,812  
VOLUNTEERS WHO  
HELPED MAKE IT ALL  
POSSIBLE!**

**412,297 POUNDS OF DONATIONS  
CAME THROUGH OUR DOORS**

**WE GAVE 71 PALLETS OF FOOD  
TO OTHER MINISTRIES**

## PEOPLE BEING EQUIPPED AT DREAM CENTER SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

The Dream Center School of Ministry offers courses such as Divine Healing, Gifts of the Holy Spirit, Authority of the Believer, and New Creation Realities. Many students have already graduated with degrees in Ministry. Have you considered going to Bible College but you did not know how you could do it? This could be your solution! Go to [www.buffalodreamcenter.org/school-of-ministry](http://www.buffalodreamcenter.org/school-of-ministry) to learn more.

Hear what people are saying!

"Dream Center School of Ministry has enabled me to get an education in the Word of God. Every class and lesson has clear, easy to

understand teachings that equip you as a believer. I never thought I would be able to get any degree but through the School I have earned my Bachelor's degree. Every believer needs to be educated in the Word of God, and Dream Center School of Ministry makes it simple, affordable, and easy for every person." – Alex

"At the Dream Center School of Ministry, we don't just read the Word; we dive into every verse until every drop of revelation is poured out." – Tommy

"God touched my heart to pursue Him! Dream Center School of Ministry has brought me to

my first love. When we studied Divine Healing, Pastor Eric not only taught, he prayed for all of us! I thank God for bringing me to Dream Center School of Ministry where every class makes the Bible come alive! – Jessica

"The classes are powerful, revelational, and practical. Not only do you get full of God's Word, but you learn how to apply it in your daily life." – Tom

"Taking the classes have helped me to have a deeper understanding of the Bible." – Isabella



BUFFALO DREAM CENTER  
286 LAFAYETTE AVENUE  
BUFFALO, NY 14213

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

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

## HAVE YOU CONSIDERED BRINGING A TEAM OR DOING AN INTERNSHIP IN HONDURAS?



Bring a team on a short-term missions trip or sign up for an internship and experience full-time missionary life

by working with the Love Honduras team.



*Scan for more  
information or visit  
[love-honduras.org](http://love-honduras.org)*

## THIS SUMMER YOU CAN BRING A TEAM TO BUFFALO! WE ALSO HAVE ROOM FOR MORE INTERNS!

Bring a team on a short-term missions trip and help spread the love of Jesus throughout Buffalo, New



York or sign up for our summer internship program and be molded into the leader God has created you to be!



*Scan for more  
information or visit  
[buffalodreamcenter.org](http://buffalodreamcenter.org)*