

## **About the Buffalo Dream Center**

Pastors Eric and Michelle Johns founded and have been overseeing the Buffalo Dream Center, in Buffalo, New York, since 1993.

The Buffalo Dream Center is a church that RESTORES PEOPLE, REBUILDS DREAMS, and RECLAIMS THE WORLD.

The church has become well known as a ministry that meets the needs of inner city families, going into crime infested neighborhoods - places other churches are afraid to go.

The Bible says in Matthew 25:40 that whatever we do for the "least of these" we do for Jesus.

The ministry of the Buffalo Dream Center targets the "least of these" of the inner city, including the homeless, children, young people, prostitutes, and the elderly.

When we meet the physical needs of people, their hearts are opened to receive their spiritual need - salvation through Jesus Christ

## **About Buffalo**

- According to the US Census Bureau in 2014 Buffalo is the fourth poorest city in America
- In 1901 Buffalo was the fastest growing city in the US now it is one of the most rapidly declining cities.
- Approximately 28.7% of the population of Buffalo lives in poverty. That is more than one in four people.
- The poverty rate amongst the children of Buffalo is higher than that of Harlem.
- The high school graduation rate in Buffalo is one of the lowest in the country at only 56%.
- Buffalo is divided into 32 neighborhoods. The lower west side of Buffalo is considered the poorest neighborhood in Buffalo. 75% of the youth ages 18 years and under live in poverty. It is considered to be the melting pot of the city with people from 70 different countries, speaking more than 40 different languages. Some of the countries represented are; Burundi, Somalia, Sudan, Burma, Iran, Nepal, Rwanda, Croatia, Thailand, Afghanistan, Iraq and the Congo.
- The West side is also the home to more than 20,000 Puerto Ricans
- In 2011 Buffalo was named the 6<sup>th</sup> most segregated city in the US.
- Buffalo has big problem with vacant houses. It ranks second worst in the nation with regards to this problem
- There are more than 14,000 refugees living in Buffalo.
- Buffalo has the third largest population of refugees in America and is the leading resettlement city for refugees in America.
- Buffalo was the winner of its "City with a Heart" contest and is said to be the nation's "friendliest city." Buffalo is also a two-time winner of the

## **Buffalo Dream Center Ministries**

**The Joseph Project Mobile Food Pantry** is the only mobile food pantry in Western New York. It was started in July 1998. Volunteers pack the food in bags and load them into a truck. The groceries are delivered in six neighborhoods in Buffalo and one in Niagara Falls each month. Approximately ten thousand meals are distributed each month. The food pantry serves over 350 families each month.

**Adopt-A-Block** meets the needs of inner city neighborhoods every month. Teams of people “adopt” city blocks by building relationships with the families living in those communities. Members of the Buffalo Dream Center invade the blocks with shovels, rakes, and garbage bags. They clean the streets, mow lawns, paint over graffiti, and serve the people with acts of kindness. This ministry makes the church visible in the community. Over time, as relationships are built, people give their lives to Jesus.

**Project Prevention** is a ministry which assists families who are at risk of losing their children due to the lack of furniture and other basic necessities. Project Prevention also assists low income families that resettle in Buffalo from other parts of the country and the world. Project Preventions provides some immediate needs for families and builds relationships with the family. Its goal is to help the family improve their quality of life and show them God’s love. Currently Project Prevention is assisting more than two hundred families.

**The Magdalene Project** was started by reaching out to women caught in the life of prostitution. Each month volunteers drive down the streets of Buffalo and Niagara Falls late at night to share the love of Jesus with the women. They distribute roses, toiletries, candy, food, and Bible tracts. The Magdalene Project has now expanded to embrace several other ministries including Kidz Club, free meals, the Joseph Project Mobile Food Pantry, and hotel ministry. The Magdalene Project is located in Niagara Falls. It is our goal to plant a Dream Center in Niagara Falls.

### **Elmwood Seniors**

It is an apartment building for low-income seniors. Many of them live independently however they are lonely and have a hard time doing things. Some teams do some light house work for some of the residents, serve some snacks, do an outreach program in the common room, and deliver groceries to them.

### **Kidz Club After School Program/Teen Impact**

Every week children and youth from high-risk neighborhoods are provided with free transportation by bus to the Buffalo Dream Center for the Kidz Club After School Program and Teen Impact. When the children and youth arrive they enjoy a meal. After eating many activities are offered including crafts, cooking, video games, and dodge ball. During the program, the children and youth are impacted with the Gospel through a high energy program filled with

music, games, and powerful illustrations. The program is attended by 75 or more inner-city children and youth.

### **Summer Kidz Club**

Every summer since 1996 members of the Buffalo Dream Center have been running sidewalk Sunday School throughout Buffalo and in Niagara Falls. Monday through Friday all summer long there is a Kidz Club site ministering to children. Summer Kidz Club includes lots of fun outdoor activities like sports, crafts, bubbles, face painting, sidewalk chalk and more. It also includes an action packed lesson that shares the Gospel and teaches Christian character. At the end of Kidz Club all the kids get a snack. More than 400 children attend Kidz Club every week all summer.

### **Warehouse**

The Buffalo Dream Center has a warehouse. It is the storage place for the Joseph Project, Project Prevention, Adopt-A-Block, and Boxes of Love. It takes lots of volunteer hours to bag groceries and prepare donations to go out

### **Spanish Extension Services**

The Buffalo Dream Center is a multi-cultural church. Every Sunday afternoon the Buffalo Dream Center has an extension service. The service is in English and Spanish.

### **Street Ministry**

The Buffalo Dream Center is located just one block away from the highest crime area in the city. The street is plagued with prostitutes, the homeless, pimps, and drug dealers once the sun goes down. Several times a month the Buffalo Dream Center hits the streets to distribute toiletries, snacks and share the love of Jesus.

### **Table of Grace**

On the third Saturday of each month a meal is served for those who are in need and who are homeless at the Buffalo Dream Center. Transportation is provided. During the lunch an encouraging message is shared and volunteers have the opportunity to minister to those in attendance.

## Expenses

### **Travel Expenses**

You need to arrange for your own transportation to and from Buffalo for the start and finish of the Internship.

**START DATE:** Sunday, June 28, 2026

Interns may arrive any time on July 4, 2020. We will have orientation after church on Sunday and they will begin on Monday morning.

**FINISH DATE:** Sunday, August 9, 2026 at 2:00pm.

Graduation and prayer will be a part of the Sunday morning service at the Buffalo Dream Center. Interns must be picked up or must be traveling home by this end of this day.

### **Cost of Living**

**\$800.00**

This will include all your meals, lodging, and transportation while in Buffalo. You will be housed with a Christian family or at the Buffalo Dream Center.

Half of the money is due by June 1, 2026. The other half upon arrival or earlier.

### **Spending Money**

You are responsible for your own spending money for extra snacks, souvenirs, and free time activities.

## **Activities**

During your internship in Buffalo there will be other mission teams present and there will be youth working for the Buffalo Dream Center through the Mayor's Summer Youth Work Internship. You will be taking a leadership role with both groups while assisting with all activities done.

Work projects at the warehouse

Summer Kidz Club

Street ministry

Joseph Project Mobile Food Pantry

Project Prevention

Hotel Ministry

Sunday Kidz Club ministry

Soup kitchen

Adopt-a-Block

Outreaches at the local women's and men's shelters

Various community outreaches

You will have a full schedule. You will have Sunday after church off and one other time during the week. You will also have some free time on Saturday.

### **Other Important Schedule Information**

Three times a week our team will meet for prayer and devotions at the beginning of the day. Some days will include training and instruction. You will be scheduled to do a devotion several times during your internship.

Each intern will be scheduled daily for a household chore at your host family's house. (i.e. make lunches, do the dishes, clean the bathroom etc.)

## **House Rules Where Will You Be Staying**

House Rules for long term guests are:

1. The kitchen, living room and dining room downstairs, and study upstairs, are community space where you may be with others. No visitors of the opposite sex in your sleeping quarters at any time.
2. If you have food preferences or allergies please let your host know so they can do their best to accommodate your needs.
3. Your room is your private space. You are responsible for keeping it clean.
4. You will be assigned 1-2 other household chores each week. Please be sure to complete your responsibilities.
5. You are responsible to do your own laundry. Your host has a washer or dryer. Please ask how to use the washer and dryer if you are unsure. Plan accordingly and check with your host with regards to the best time for you to do laundry.
6. The plumbing is ancient on the West Side of Buffalo. Please don't flush anything but toilet paper. For example flushed tampons cost \$150 in plumber fees.
8. No drugs, alcohol or smoking in the host house or anywhere during the internship program. If you do you will be immediately sent home at your own expense with no refund.
9. The neighborhood is unpredictable. Please do not walk alone at night. Be where you are supposed to be, when you are supposed to be there.
10. Please inform your host of your schedule so they know when you will be home and when you will be gone.
11. You will be given a house key. If you lose your house key, please let your host know right away.
12. If you have a car, pay attention to parking signs. City of Buffalo loves to give parking tickets.

## Sample Schedule

<b>Monday July 31</b>	<b>Tuesday August 1</b>	<b>Wednesday August 2</b>	<b>Thursday August 3</b>	<b>Friday August 4</b>
<p><b>10:00am</b> Staff meeting and Devos <i>(BDC Sanctuary)</i></p> <p><b>1:00pm</b> Lunch Break <i>(Bagged lunch)</i></p> <p>Practice Skits Prep for week</p> <p><b>4:00pm</b> BDC Outreach Center</p> <p><b>6:00pm</b> Kidz Club</p> <p>Dinner @ Johns</p>	<p><b>10:00am – 1:00pm</b> Work Projects</p> <p><b>1pm</b> Lunch break <i>Buffalo Dream Center</i></p> <p><b>2:00pm-5:00pm</b> Kidz Club Frederick Douglass</p> <p><b>5:30pm</b> Dinner</p> <p><b>7:30pm</b> Love Downtown</p> <p><b>8:30pm</b> <i>Prayer in Niagara Square</i></p>	<p><b>10:00am</b> Staff meeting and devos <i>(BDC Sanctuary)</i></p> <p>Afternoon off</p> <p><b>6:00pm</b> Kidz Club Maryland- Efner</p> <p>Dinner @ Johns</p>	<p><b>10am-1:00pm</b> Work Projects (BDC)</p> <p><b>1:00pm</b> Lunch Break <i>Buffalo Dream Center</i></p> <p><b>2:00pm-5:00pm</b> Kidz Club BDC Outreach Center</p> <p><b>5:30pm</b> Dinner</p> <p><b>7:30pm</b> Love Grant Street</p> <p><b>8:30pm</b> Prayer on Grant Street</p>	<p><b>8:30am</b> Prayer <i>(BDC Outreach Center)</i></p> <p><b>9:30am – 1:30pm</b> Work Projects @ BDC Outreach Center</p> <p><b>1:30pm-3:30pm</b> Break</p> <p><b>3:30pm-4:30pm</b> Food Pantry Frederick Douglass</p> <p><b>6:00pm</b> Kidz Club BCD</p> <p>Dinner @ Johns</p>

## Things to pack

- Bible
- Note Pad / Diary or Journal /pens
- Toiletries
- Water bottle
- Backpack (bag to carry daily supplies in)
- Towel / wash cloth
- Hat / Sunglasses / sun screen
- Hand sanitizer/wet wipes
- Camera
- Jacket
- Sleepwear –you may be sharing a room.
- Clothing: casual work clothes, something nice for Sunday
- Sneakers are a must for some activities (Sandals are fine but not for everything we do)

**Girl's dress** – short sleeve shirts and shorts (nothing too short, too tight, or revealing). No half shirts or halter tops/sleeveless shirts. Your clothes should not be expensive clothes you are afraid of ruining. Work clothes that are cool, comfortable, and modest. Capris are also good for ladies. You should have a nice casual outfit for Sunday. Tank tops are fine as long as they are modest.

**Guy's dress** – shorts and t-shirts. No tight muscle shirts. Work clothes that are cool and comfortable. Clothes you are not afraid to ruin. Nice casual clothes for Sunday

**\*\*Do not bring expensive jewelry and electronics. You are welcome to bring a laptop and or ipod/ipad but the Buffalo Dream Center is not responsible for lost or stolen property.**

## **Our Mission:**

Defend the weak and fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed. Rescue the weak and the needy. *Psalm 82:3*

## **Our Attitude:**

Love never gives up. Love cares more for others than for self. Love doesn't want what it doesn't have. Love doesn't strut, doesn't have a swelled head, doesn't force itself on others, isn't always "me first," doesn't fly off the handle, doesn't keep score of the sins of others, doesn't revel when others grovel, takes pleasure in the flowering of truth, puts up with anything, trusts God always, always looks for the best, never looks back, but keeps going to the end. Love never dies. *1 Corinthians 13: 4-8 (Message Bible)*

## **Our Promise:**

He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust." Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the perilous pestilence. He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall take refuge; His truth shall be your shield and buckler. You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, nor of the arrow that flies by day, nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness, nor of the destruction that lays waste at noonday. A thousand may fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand; But it shall not come near you. Only with your eyes shall you look, and see the reward of the wicked. Because you have made the LORD, who is my refuge, even the Most High, your dwelling place, no evil shall befall you, nor shall any plague come near your dwelling; For He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways. In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone. You shall tread upon the lion and the cobra, the young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot. "Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him on high, because he has known My name. He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him. With long life I will satisfy him, and show him My salvation.

*Psalm 91*

## **Your promise to your team . . .**

I will be patient with my leaders and teammates when I do not understand why.

I will be kind to other team members even if they are not kind to me, especially when they use my toothpaste without asking.

I wouldn't even think of being jealous or envious of my teammates when they are asked to do something that I am good at doing, and what do I have to brag about anyway? For it is God who deserves all the glory!

I will demand of myself and not demand my own way.

After long and hard days with little sleep (and no coffee), I will not even know the meaning of the words or how to act with irritability or touchiness.

Certainly there won't be any room for holding grudges for my hands will be busy carrying luggage, candy, props, sound equipment, groceries, boxes, rakes, shovels, brooms, garbage bags, and praying for people.

I will be loyal to the members of this team no matter how badly they mess up or how bad the circumstances that come against them.

Because I am a believer, I will always believe the best of each team member and if there be any gossip or rumors, as far as I am concerned, it is a lie!

I will eagerly expect the success and the prospering of each team member. No matter what they set out to do, I have decided I am going to cheer them on!

I will believe in this team, I will stand by each member, and defend them in prayer, in word, and in deed, holding my ground, never giving up!