

"On this mountain, God will provide for all peoples.....He will destroy the veil that veils all peoples, the web that is woven over all nations...He will wipe away the tears from all faces." - Isaiah 25:6-8



December 2015

Dear Friend of Thea Bowman House,

Who among us does not long to live in a world of peace and prosperity for everyone? Yet images flash across our screens of desperate people clinging to the sides of overcrowded and partially sunken ships. They are escaping almost certain death for their crime of being born on the wrong side of history. There are so many veils that keep us separated from reality. Our own cities seem to mirror Isaiah's image of a veiled reality, and continue to polarize our own communities. Daily shootings, climate change warnings, escalating racial tensions leave us numb as the culture of violence claims another victim.

Nine year old Miranda's tears seem to be frozen forever as she and her four siblings faced the loss of both parents within six months to the ravages of drug addiction. Grandma has no time to grieve as she tries to balance her job with her new responsibilities on her limited income. Four year old Daryl recalls hiding behind a telephone pole to escape the stray bullets of a drive-by shooter as he walked to the store with his mother. His nightmares tell of his anxiety that the shooter will return. Lila is caught in the web of international policies as a refugee from Burma. Her beloved Papa remains in a refugee camp. Her mind wanders to the river where they would catch frogs together.

Yet, there is an incredible resilience that exists in those who dare to hope. It is seen in the most unlikely of ways. It came this autumn in the harvesting of home grown crops in gardens planted by children as young as four. The produce made it all the way to the food pantry to the delight of mouths that seldom taste such delicacies. The dance of hope continues in the skits performed around a summer campfire and the happy squeals of children diving into a slightly frigid lake in late June. The faithful tutor sees the possibilities in the most academically challenged child and the employee with 25 years of hard won experience knows that love is the only answer to drawing back the veils that prevent us from seeing each child as a gift.

We reach out to each of you our benefactors because you are a very important part of our story. Your belief in our mission makes it possible for our little ones to experience the joys of childhood and to hopefully have brighter futures. Please consider a gift to our annual holiday appeal.

Sincerely,
Jane Domingue
Executive Director

Thea Bowman House is a non-profit child care center serving children and families in and around the city of Utica, New York. We provide quality care to some of our community's most vulnerable children and youth in the hope of breaking the cycle of poverty through educational and social enrichment and support.

The mission of Thea Bowman House is to provide a safe, nurturing environment to enable culturally diverse children and families to achieve their full potential. The foundation on which Thea Bowman House is built is *agape*, unconditional love.



Programs & Services

Pre-School Day Care:

Licensed child care for children ages 18 months through five years, all day throughout the year. Transportation and meals are provided. Capacity: 75

After School Program:

A structured program for school age children, including tutoring, gym, creative development and field trips. Transportation is provided. Capacity: 100

Universal Pre-K:

NYS certified teachers provide a half-day program through the Utica City School District to help prepare children for kindergarten. Capacity: 150

Kids With Promise:

A structured program for youth ages 12-18, completely free of charge, promotes social- and self-responsibility and offers academic support. Capacity: 40

DOVE (Domestic Violence Ended):

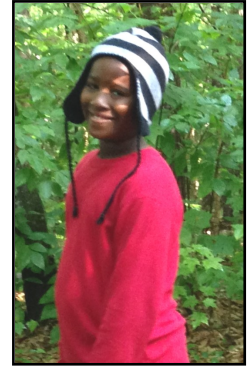
On-site support services and counseling for those who need help with issues of domestic or community violence.

St. Clare's Cupboard & Cleophas' Closet:

Emergency food pantry and secondhand clothing shop, all provided free of charge to anyone in need. Provides food packages of three meals a day for four days.

Peace Garden:

A garden in memory of children who have lost their lives to violence and a memorial reminding us that peace begins with each person and is shared with those around us.



**THANK
YOU
FOR
YOUR
SUPPORT**



2015 Statistics
November 2014 - October 2015

Meals Served

Lafayette Street
Breakfast - 11,458
Lunch - 13,159
Snack - 11,823

BRIDGES
Breakfast - 4,534
Lunch - 4,622
Supper - 14,916
Snack - 4,628

Kids With Promise
Supper - 929

Pre-K
Breakfast - 9,216
Lunch - 18,406
Snack - 9,206

Food Pantry

Households Served - 2,016
Children Served - 1,982
Adults Served - 3,082
Elderly Served - 150
Total Individuals - 5,214
Total Meals - 62,568



Thea Bowman House Board of Directors

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