



WINTER FREEZE
SHELTER

FEBRUARY 2022

NEWSLETTER

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But the **GREATEST** of these is

Love

By Kate Marshall

Winter Freeze Shelter employee

As we celebrated Valentine's Day and the month dedicated to love, one of our guests brought into perspective just what that means.

We were getting ready to go upstairs to the shelter from the lobby, when someone came in whom most of our guests did not know, although I knew him.

Chris, (a self-admitted "tough cookie") said, "Who is that guy? I never seen him before." I said, "Oh, he is a really nice guy."

Chris looked at me with a quizzical half smile. "I don't know if that means much coming from you staff," he said. "John Moses loves everybody, even those no one wants to love," he said, gesturing to himself. "And I know that is what he tells you all to do, too."

I looked at this man — whom John raised as a kid in the YSS Samaritan House emergency shelter and still cares for as a young man today — and I truly understood what Valentine's Day and Winter Freeze is all about: Unconditional love is the most important thing we have to offer our guests.

* 1 Corinthians 13:13



Guest Art T. and Ward 3 City Councilwoman Rosemary Ketchum prepare for the Valentine's Day festivities at the Winter Freeze Shelter on Feb. 14. Guests were treated to decorations, balloons and cupcakes.

SPREADING THE LOVE

Jeramie Alvarado, owner of the Rachel's on 16th restaurant in East Wheeling, strikes a pose with the donations customers brought in for the Winter Freeze Shelter. Jeramie and his wife Rachel do so much for the community, including providing free to-go meals every Thanksgiving and Christmas to anyone who stops by. We are thankful for generous and caring neighbors!



For the third year, the family and friends of the late Caleb Smail have partnered with us to do a donation drive through the Caleb Smail Human Kindness Project. Shown above is just a small portion of what they collected. The purpose of the project is to keep Caleb's memory — as well as his spirit of kindness and generosity — alive in the community. Thank you all!



Maryn Lucas, left, and Tesla Joseph display the blessing bags the fourth-grade class at Wheeling Country Day School packed and donated to the Winter Freeze Shelter guests during the school's Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service. Tesla also chose to forego gifts from her friends for her birthday this year and instead requested they donate to the shelter. Thank you, Tesla & Friends!



Youth Services System and the Winter Freeze Shelter once again were beneficiaries of the annual Neighbors Helping Neighbors food drive organized by Lisa Werner, above right. Hundreds of boxes of mac and cheese were among the donations, accepted here by employee Betsy Bethel-McFarland. Another round of food collected by Riesbeck Food Market customers also arrived during the holiday season. Thank you to all the local businesses, churches, clubs and schools that donated to Neighbors Helping Neighbors, and most of all, thank you to Lisa for organizing the drive each year!

Since opening on Dec. 6, 2021,
we have served

243

individuals this season.

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(Continued on back)

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