

DECEMBER 2023

## *A Gift That Warms the Heart of Twin Cities Meals on Wheels*

The announcement of a wonderful and surprising \$10,000 grant from the Niagara County Community Partnership brought cheers and amazement to Twin Cities Meals on Wheels recently.

It was through the efforts of Karl Bauer, past president of TCMOW board of directors and a long time volunteer and supporter, together with his good friend Jesse Gooch, who facilitated securing the \$10,000 grant, that TCMOW received this gift. Rich Andres, Niagara County Legislator, put the final piece in place and the much needed grant become a reality.

Niagara County Legislature Majority Leader Randy Bradt said "I am amazed by the caring in this community."

Karl added his thanks to Jesse Gooch's devotion to the community. Jesse in turn credited Rich Andres for his commitment.

Karl explained that "With today's challenges of higher prices for just about everything, which includes capital projects increasing in cost, Twin Cities Meals on Wheels appreciates Jesse's assistance in getting us this much-needed grant from the Niagara

*GRANT - Cont'd on Page 3*



**READY TO HELP:** Stopping by TCMOW following the grant announcement are, from left, Randy Bradt, Rich Andres, Jesse Gooch and Karl Bauer

## *Joint Effort Benefits TCMOW*



**HELPING HAND:** Independent Health recently made a \$966 donation to Twin Cities Meals on Wheels, a contribution that cheered Pam Hill's heart.

Donations are collected from employee contributions under the Associates Supporting the Community Program.

Karen Kagelmacher, daughter of Eileen Britton who is at right in the photo, had submitted the appropriate application and paperwork that was then approved for Twin Cities Meals on Wheels to receive the collected funds.

This is the fifth year TCMOW was a recipient of Independent Health's generosity. Karen is a Therapy Maintenance Pharmacist at Independent Health and her mom, Eileen, is a TCMOW volunteer on Friday, Route 7 as well as being a member on the Board of Directors.

Thanks to both Eileen and Karen for their hard work and volunteer help for Twin Cities Meals on Wheels.

## *F.O.E.'s Gift Offers Needed Help*



**CARING FOR OTHERS:** Bret Ryskalczyk presents a \$1,000 check from the F.O.E. to Pam Hill, TCMOW coordinator. The Federated Order of Eagles on Ward Road in North Tonawanda has a basket raffle and picnic each year. Twin Cities Meals on Wheels was chosen as this year's recipient of the proceeds.

"The F.O.E. has always looked for organizations in the community that help others and in turn, need funds to accomplish their goals. Kudos and a huge thank you to this terrific group," Pam said.

"As part of its philosophy, the F.O.E. gives back 100 percent of monies raised in the form of grants," Bret explained.

## Helping the Homeless in the Twin Cities

Many residents in the Twin Cities may not have noticed the number of homeless who find shelters under bridges and other places they can be unnoticed.

Sadly the cities of Tonawanda and North Tonawanda lost three of its unhoused residents to exposure since November 2022.

These tragedies did not go unnoticed. The Mayors of both cities and the President of the Common Council acted quickly. They brought in consultants who had extensive experience in working with the homeless-both in direct service, and in planning and development.

The strategy was to enlist the aid of fellow citizens, train them on effective methods of street outreach and develop a training plan on community resources.

The Twin Cities Task Force for the Homeless was formed and is now in the Salvation Army on Broad Street. Karen Carmen, who has experience with the homeless, is in charge.

Our good neighbors heard the need for help. As a result, we now have a well trained team consisting of 10+ volunteer street outreach workers. Teams of three people go out twice a week to locate and engage with our unsheltered residents with the ultimate goal to link those in need with housing and services.

However, we can't do this alone. So we reached out to agencies serving the homeless in the Cities of Buffalo and Niagara Falls. These valued partners have agreed to assist by doing in-service trainings on resources available throughout Western New York.

It is our communities coming together that brings hope and the promise of a better future for our unsheltered residents.

If you are interested in helping or would like more information, Karen may be reached at 716-957-8099 or email [TwinCities.Endhomelessness@gmail.com](mailto:TwinCities.Endhomelessness@gmail.com).

### “Art Off the Wall” a Unique Event You Won’t Want to Miss

The eighth annual fundraiser for the Carnegie Art Center, “Art off the Wall”, a unique opportunity to purchase 5 x 7 inch original artwork at \$20 each, will take place Dec. 7 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Carnegie Art Center, 240 Goundry St., North Tonawanda.

Hundreds of pieces of artwork will be exhibited on the main gallery wall. Artwork is donated by local award winning and emerging artists with a variety of styles and mediums represented.

In addition to the art sale, this year’s event will also feature a silent auction of 30 artworks in a variety of sizes that will be available for bidding that evening only.

The funding raised at this event will allow the Carnegie Art Center to provide important cultural and educational programming for the North Tonawanda community and beyond.

### How To Order Meals on Wheels

**If you know someone who would like to order Meals on Wheels either for themselves or a friend or loved one, the process is easy.**

**Call the TCMOW office, 716-693-1663 and Pam will sign you up, provide the cost and the various programs offered or mail you the information.**



Pam Hill, Coordinator  
**Board of Directors**

James Burke - President  
Denise Sawatzky - Vice President

Rick Henderson, Secretary  
Curt Gaume, Treasurer

Board Members

Karl Bauer, Eileen Britton, Carol Butch, John Grobe, Robert Pecoraro,  
Rae Proefrock, Gary Rockenbrock, Joyce Santiago, Barbara Tucker

Phone: 716-693-1663 Fax: 716-693-1663 Email: [info@tcchow.com](mailto:info@tcchow.com) Website: [www.tcchow.com](http://www.tcchow.com)



## DECEMBER

**Dec. 2:** Winter Walk Santa’s Workshop for Kids (gifts \$1), free gift wrapping, vendor and craft sale and Red Hat Lady Bug Bake Sale 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., North Tonawanda Senior Center, 110 Goundry St.

**Dec. 3:** Winter Holiday Sing Along, hosted by the NT Neighborhood Watch takes place from 5 to 7 p.m. at Gateway Harbor on Sweeney Street. Carolers and Forever Green Band will be featured and Your Life Ethereal Dreams will have its virtual igloo. Unwrapped toys for Rockin’ with Santa will be welcome.

**Dec. 9 & 16:** Santa will be at the Herschell Carousel Museum, 180 Thompson St., North Tonawanda. Admission required, children 2-16 \$12, under 2 free and adults \$8. Admission includes: reindeer games, pictures with Santa, and carousel rides! This is a special event and pre-registration is required. Space is limited! There will be no tickets sold at the door. For tickets, email [carrouselmuseum.org](mailto:carrouselmuseum.org).

**Winter Event:** A Snow sculpture contest from first snowfall through March 31 has been planned by the Tonawanda Recreation Dept. Email a picture of your snow sculpture to [recreation@tonawandacity.com](mailto:recreation@tonawandacity.com). Individual and group projects are welcome.

**Rockin’ with Santa:** John White, City of Tonawanda mayor, is collecting unwrapped Christmas Toys for families in the Twin Cities for the annual Rockin’ with Santa Toy Drive. Unwrapped Christmas Toys may be dropped them off at our North Tonawanda or Tonawanda City halls. Both cities join together for this wonderful event. Plan to make it part of your holiday giving.

**NT Lighting Contest:** Nominate your own establishment or a house or business dazzled up in the holiday spirit! Head to [www.ntparksrec.com](http://www.ntparksrec.com) and nominate a house or business by simply providing an address and clicking the submit button. Vote for the “People’s Choice” Award! Voting begins Dec. 14 and ends Dec. 17.





Margie Proch	14	<b><i>Congratulations for your continuing and amazing energy as well as your devotion to helping others!</i></b>
Margo Fronczek	11	
Doug Fronczek	11	
Tim Greinert	9	
Rick Henderson	5	
Barbara Tucker	2	<b><i>It's volunteers like you who make TCMOW.</i></b>



Marcia Brock	Dec. 1
Carol Kopczynski	Dec. 1
Virginia Park	Dec. 2
Marti Metzger	Dec. 9
Julie Czerwinski	Dec. 11
Gayle Reischel	Dec. 12
Carol Wilczak	Dec. 18
Carol Connors	Dec. 22
Carol Kromphardt	Dec. 25

*Each month the names and birthday date are listed for volunteers and staff who are celebrating their birthdays during the month.*

*Happy Birthday to All, and to All, A Good Night*



**GRANT, from Page 1**

County Community Partnership. Jesse and Painters Plus have been a solid supporter of Meals on Wheels for many years and his service to the community is much appreciated."

Gooch, Andres and Bradt have now joined together for another fundraising event to help Twin Cities Community Outreach and the organizations that are under its umbrella, including TCMOW.

On Dec. 13 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Riviera Theater, an evening is planned that includes a 50/50 raffle, a hot chocolate bar and other fun activities.

"Then we had the idea to expand to local restaurants, asking them to donate 10 percent of that night's tally for the event," Andres said. "As of today we have nearly all restaurants on board. On top of that, they have agreed to put information on the tables so people can donate even more. The three of us will cover all restaurants. It's great to see how the community is eager to help."

According to Curt Gaume, treasurer of the Twin Cities Meals on Wheels board, TCMOW, "It is through these various sources of funding that TCMOW is able to fulfill its mission to contribute to the overall wellbeing of seniors by providing regular nutrition and daily contact with a caring volunteer. This special grant received through Jesse's help is an amazing gift and he deserves our enormous thanks," he added.

In addition, Curt added that Twin Cities Meals on Wheels, Inc. has received three very generous gifts in November totaling close to \$13,000.

"It is through the generosity of the Niagara County Community Partnership, Independent Health and the Eagles and others like them that Twin Cities Meals on Wheels is able to make up the difference between our monthly financial obligations to our creditors and what we charge our clients for their nourishing meals," he said.

**North Tonawanda Public Library**

Pajama Movie Day

Dec. 26, 1 to 3 p.m. Wear your favorite jammies or comfy clothes and join us for a movie. Free popcorn

The **Worldwide Candle Lighting** gives bereaved families everywhere the opportunity to remember their children so that their lights may always shine.

You are invited to attend the Candle Lighting  
Sunday, Dec. 10, at 6:45 p.m.

Children's Remembrance Garden

216 Payne Avenue North Tonawanda, next to NT City Hall



**Great News and Welcome!**  
**Three new volunteers**

- David Cech, Thursday, Route 9
- Brigid Hayes, Thursday, Route 2
- Lynne Muldoon, Tuesday, kitchen

**Braggin' Bucks**

Fifty-five years ago a young couple gave themselves a late Christmas present. On December 28, 1968 Mike and Linda Finiki got married. Fifty-five Christmas days later they are still going strong. Linda is half of the Bobbie/Linda team who have been volunteering and working around the building for many years. So if you see Linda this month be sure to say **Merry Christmas and Happy Anniversary** to her!!

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to Mr. Bill Gosch who is currently our oldest client. Bill will turn 100 on December 8! So don't forget, if you deliver to him this month, to tell him Happy Birthday!



**Don't forget to send information on activities in town or at your church or another organization. We're happy to post any event.**

**Any news tips that you'd like to share, may be emailed to Barbara Tucker, wgtbt@aol.com or drop the news off to Pam at the TCMOW office. (Photos are welcome.)**

**Waiting to hear from YOU!**

# Share a Laugh



## Ever Wonder:

- If work is so terrific, why do they have to pay you to do it?
- Why do “tug” boats push their barges?
- Why are they called “stands” when they are made for sitting?
- Doesn’t “expecting the unexpected” make the unexpected expected?
- If you are cross-eyed and have dyslexia, can you read all right?

## Confession Box

A drunken man staggered into a Catholic church and sat down in a confession box, saying nothing. The bewildered priest coughed to attract his attention, but still the man said nothing. The priest then knocked on the wall three times in a final attempt to get the man to speak. Finally, the drunk replied, “No use knockin’, mate, there’s no paper in this one either.”

## Circus Fun

A husband and wife had a human cannonball act in the circus. One day, the wife ran off with the lion tamer. The husband was dejected. The strongman asked him what he was going to do. Replied the husband, “This is a disaster. I don’t know where I’m going to find another woman of her caliber.”

Christmas - What other time of the year do you sit in front of a dead tree and eat candy out of your socks?

## About Growing Older...

**First** - Eventually you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it.

**Second** - The older we get, the fewer things seem worth waiting in line for.

**Third** - Some people try to turn back their odometers. Not me; I want people to know why I look this way. I’ve traveled a long way and some of the roads weren’t paved.

**Fourth** - When you are dissatisfied and would like to go back to youth, think of Algebra.

**Fifth** - I don’t know how I got over the hill without getting to the top.

## Bumper Stickers

- I came, I saw, I did a little shopping.
- If money could talk, it would say goodbye.
- If it’s too loud, you’re too old.
- The worst day fishing is better than the best day working.
- So many pedestrians, so little time.

## Egg Puns That Will Crack You Up

- 1) What did the doctor tell the chicken with high cholesterol? “Lay off the eggs for a while.”
- 2) What did the egg do when it saw the frying pan? It scrambled.
- 3) Why do you have to watch what you say around egg whites? They can’t take a yolk.
- 4) Why did the egg regret being in an omelet? It wasn’t all it’s cracked up to be.
- 5) What do you call a mischievous egg? A practical yolker.

## A Working Joke

A man goes into a pet shop to buy a parrot. The shop owner points to three identical-looking parrots on a perch and says, “The parrot on the left costs \$500 dollars.”

“Why does the parrot cost so much?” asks the man. The owner says “Well the parrot knows how to use a computer.”

The man then asks about the next parrot and learns that it costs \$1,000 dollars because it can do everything the first parrot can do plus it knows how to use the newest operating system.

Naturally, the increasingly startled man asks about the third parrot, only to be told that it costs \$2,000 dollars. Needless to say, this begs the question, “What can it do?”

To which the owner replies, “To be honest, I have never seen it do anything, but the other two call him boss!”

## Another Bar Joke

Helvetica and Times New Roman walk into a bar.

“Get out of here!” shouts the bartender. “We don’t serve your type.”

**YES! I want to do my part to continue the work of Twin Cities Meals on Wheels. Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (      ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

**Return this slip and your check made out to Twin Cities Meals on Wheels to:  
TCMOW, 100 Ridge Road, North Tonawanda, NY 14120 or donate online at [www.tcmow.com](http://www.tcmow.com)**