

BUFFALO PROMISE NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER



EIGHT DAYS OF HOPE & MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE MOBILE MARKET



With the generous donation and involvement of M&T Bank, Eight Days of Hope-Buffalo will repair 100+ homes in the University District July 19-26, 2019.

Participants will have a chance to experience Eight Days of Hope with your friends and volunteers from around the country. There will be something for everyone to do! We will be doing carpentry work, painting, roofing, flooring, plumbing, electrical, landscaping, clean up and so much more! So please join us as a volunteer for this amazing event!

If you are interested in volunteering please visit <https://eightdaysofhope.com/>



Please join us every Tuesday from 3:00pm-5:00pm from June 11 to August 27 at the corner of Bailey & Dartmouth to purchase fresh fruits & vegetables, get to know your local farmers and partake in various healthy initiatives. In the coming weeks we will be joined by vendors and community organizations that will offer additional health and community resources. Stop by on your way home for some fresh, local produce for dinner!

The Massachusetts Avenue Project was started by neighborhood residents on Buffalo's West Side in 1992. MAP's Growing Green Program was founded in 2003 to address the growing land vacancy, high youth unemployment, and food security needs of the community.

If you are interested in learning more please visit <https://www.mass-ave.org/>



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

COMMUNITY EVENTS—PAGE 1

TEACHING GARDEN—PAGE 2

SCHOOL EVENTS—PAGE 2

PROMISE SCHOLARS—PAGE 3

KINDER GYM & DANCE—PAGE 3

VOLUNTEERS—PAGE 4

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT—PAGE 4

ABOUT BPN

- ◆ Buffalo Promise Neighborhood is an education initiative aimed at supporting our children from cradle to college and beyond.
- ◆ Buffalo Promise Neighborhood in partnership with M&T Bank also includes community residents and numerous community based organizations as part of our team.
- ◆ We are committed to providing children with access to great schools and strong systems of family and community support.

HIGHGATE HEIGHTS COMMUNITY TEACHING GARDEN



Highgate Heights Pre-K students had a busy winter.

The students learned about the plant life cycle and were given the opportunity to grow zucchini and herb seedlings. These seedlings were later transplanted into the Highgate Heights Community Teaching Garden.

The garden was established in the spring of 2017 to serve as an extension of the classroom, promoting healthy nutrition to students as well as teaching them how to grow their own fruits and vegetables.

In addition, the garden serves as a food source to the community where neighbors can come and pick fresh produce.

SATURDAY ACADEMY & M&T PLAZA EVENTS



It's hard to believe but another school year has come to a close. Our final Saturday Academy theme was a carnival with something for everyone. We had an amazing turnout from our school families and community members. Thank you to our dedicated and reliable vendors and volunteers who have supported us all season long.

We look forward to seeing you again during the 2019-2020 school year. Be on the lookout for the new schedule when you return to school in September. Have a safe and enjoyable summer!!

Downtown office workers came out to enjoy the sights and sounds of summer on a sunny day in June to hear students from our Westminster Community Charter School instrumental band, choir and performers from Aladdin Jr. perform songs and dance numbers.

This year, M&T Bank celebrates the 50th season of the Plaza Event Series, which is believed to be the longest running free concert series of its kind in the United States.

The annual event runs Monday-Friday, Noon to 1:00pm from June 10-August 30, 2019.

We are proud to say that Westminster Community Charter School has been performing at the Plaza Event Series since 1995.



PROMISE SCHOLAR CELEBRATION



Graduation season was meaningful for us as we were able to celebrate the accomplishments of our 46 scholars. This year's celebration was held at the historical Shea's Smith Theatre and was attended by our scholars and their families.

Each year, we name a handful of exceptional eighth grade graduates Promise Scholars. The awards cover the full cost of each student's private high school tuition. Our continued thanks to the Wilmers and Czarnecki families for their support of this program.

These nine students, our graduating class of 2023 will attend Nichols, St. Joe's Collegiate, The Park School and Sacred Heart.

Our second graduating class, who were named Promise Scholars in 2015 excelled in high school and were accepted into some of the region's top colleges and universities (Niagara University, SUNY Alfred, SUNY NCCC and St. Bonaventure University.)

We congratulate our students and their families for their continued dedication, intelligence and character and we wish them all the best as they begin the next chapter in pursuit of their education.

KINDER GYM & KINDER DANCE AT CHILDREN'S ACADEMY LOCATIONS



Our Pre-K friends at both Children's Academies enjoy enrichment classes provided in partnership with KinderMotion.

Our boys participate in a weekly gym class with movements focused on building coordination, balance, and agility. Our girls have a weekly dance class to include ballet and tap skills.

Both opportunities provide children with foundational learning skills of concentration and following multistep directions while building self-esteem and self-confidence.

We are so grateful to be able to provide this opportunity to our Pre-K students as we ready them for Kindergarten and beyond!

VOLUNTEERS MAKING A DIFFERENCE



Buffalo Promise Neighborhood hosted 100 volunteers from M&T's Management Development Program (MDP) this spring.

They participated in a day of service at all four of our schools and completed a wide array of tasks and activities.

At Westminster and Highgate, the volunteers facilitated Junior Achievement's JA in a Day program which teaches students work-readiness, entrepreneurship and financial literacy skills, through experiential learning.

This annual event takes place at the end of the MDP's program as a graduation requirement. The kids had so much fun learning with the MDPs! The MDP volunteers also assisted with a spring spruce up at both Children's Academy locations, and helped us get our centers sparkling for the summertime.

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT—THE TOOL LIBRARY



We wouldn't be able to do what we do without partnerships! Here's a look at one of them.

From a handful of members and a few dozen tools, the Tool Library now has over 1,100 members and an inventory of over 3,000 tools. From a graduate student founding a rag tag all-volunteer organization to the President of the Board of Directors of an official 501(c)3 nonprofit, Darren Cotton discovered his love for community organizing, neighborhood development, and the power people have to transform their community with nothing more than sweat equity and sheer determination. Members of the Tool Library can borrow what they need when they need it, saving time, money, and space (and even the planet) in the process.

Beyond just a brick and mortar shop where people can borrow tools, the Tool Library has also become a launch pad for numerous community initiatives. One of their first projects working with Buffalo Promise Neighborhood was ReTree the District which began in 2014 as urban reforestation project with the goal of planting 1,000 trees. Thanks to the help of more than a thousand volunteers, the Tool Library, BPN, and over a dozen community partners hit that goal within two years, but just kept on planting! The total tree tally is now close to 1,300 with no end in sight.

The Tool Library worked closely with Westminster Community Charter School on Bailey Fights Blight, a project whose mission is to improve public spaces and re-imagine vacant or underutilized properties on Bailey Avenue through community cleanups, guerilla gardening, and public art. Through numerous afterschool sessions working with Mr. Panek and a handful of his middle school students, Darren, artists Chris Kameck and Nick Miller helped students design and paint two large scale murals at a major intersection on Bailey Avenue and just a few hundred feet from their school's front door. The murals, titled "The Dreamer" and "The Protector" are now part of the neighborhood landscape showing students they can play a pivotal role in transforming their communities. From blank walls passed by every day, to canvases for public art that send a message to the rest of the world that "we have this, it's ours and we are proud to be here", the Tool Library's mission is rooted in the idea that if you can dream it, you can do it... you just need the right tools!

The Tool Library looks forward to continuing to provide those tools to BPN staff, students, teachers, parents, and community members to help them create the change they want to see in their neighborhood.



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We're on Facebook and we think you are too.

[Buffalo Promise Neighborhood!](https://www.facebook.com/BufferPromiseNeighborhood/)



Don't have either? Not a problem! We're on Twitter!

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Only have a LinkedIn? We are there too!

[Buffalo Promise Neighborhood](https://www.linkedin.com/company/buffalo-promise-neighborhood/)