It's About People.
It's About Family.

2022 CALENDAR

HOPE
Housing Opportunities for the People of Erie

"It's About People!"

The Housing Authority of the City of Erie • hace.org

"It's About People!"

The Housing Authority of the City of Erie (HACE) 2022 Calendar hopefully paints a picture and tells a story of how HACE, its communities and its families began the journey of returning to a more normal life. 2021 was filled with masks, hand sanitizers, testing and vaccine sites, Zoom meetings, meal deliveries to those in need and very limited social service programming. At HACE we have always believed that to make a neighborhood a community you need to bring programs and services to residents and their families.

Throughout the past twenty plus years HACE and its social service partners have developed a network of programs designed to assist residents in their path to self-sufficiency and provided youth with recreational opportunities that entertain and challenge them to excel in sports and improve creatively in the arts.

HACE on-site social service partners include the YMCA of Greater Erie, Community Health Net Dental Services, the E. F. Smith Quality of Life Learning Center, the John F. Kennedy Center, Early Connections Childcare, GECAC HomePlus Senior Services, the Erie County Library, SafeNet Domestic Violence Counseling, Gannon University Nursing Center, the City of Erie Rodger Young Pool, and the Neighborhood Art House Nature Programs. 2021 saw HACE add a new partnership with the Dafmark Creative Arts Center to provide cultural arts programming. HACE also partnered with volunteers from ReLeaf to plant trees throughout several Housing Authority communities.

In addition to the social services programs, HACE offers a Public Housing and Section 8 Family Self-sufficiency Program (FSS) that provides on-site caseworkers who work with individuals and families to begin their path towards economic and family self-sufficiency. Over 134 individuals have graduated from the program earning over $900,000 in FSS escrow funds. Residents have used these funds for items such as the down payment on a house, educational opportunities, and purchase of a reliable vehicle.

The 2022 HACE Calendar celebrates the partnership we have with the City of Erie and Erie County to provide community policing to public housing communities through the Community Oriented Police and Probation Services Program (COPPS), or as it is better known, the Quebec Unit. These eight police and probation officers and many others who have participated in the program for over twenty years have played a large part in reducing crime in our neighborhoods and bringing trust and support of the police to our residents.

Special thanks to Mayor Schember and his staff, including the officers in the PAL Program for visiting HACE neighborhoods throughout the summer.

Please enjoy our journey through 2021 as you enjoy the 2022 HACE Calendar. Thank you to the HACE staff and our program partners and volunteers who prove everyday that IT'S ABOUT PEOPLE – IT'S ABOUT FAMILIES!!!!

Michael R. Fraley
Executive Director
Housing Authority of the City of Erie

Neighborhood Events

Throughout the year HACE sponsors events for residents in our communities and our high-rise apartment buildings. Events in 2021 included National Night Out in partnership with the United Way of Erie County, Meet Your Neighbor Days in several family developments, Movie Days, Bingo, Donut Days and Holiday Dinners in the high-rise buildings, and several special events with service agencies to introduce their programs to HACE Residents.

HACE was excited to partner with the Erie Philharmonic to offer John E. Horan Garden Apartment residents an outdoor live presentation of Peter and the Wolf by Music Director Daniel Meyer and the Erie Philharmonic Orchestra. The narrator for the event was Eddie Ocasio from the Multi-Cultural Resource Center.

The goal of these events is to bring neighbors together to enjoy an evening of interactive entertainment, good food, book giveaways, music, displays of our local social service partners programs, and provide an opportunity for local service providers to advertise their programs. These events can only be offered because of the commitment of volunteers from our partner agencies and the HACE staff. Special thanks go to the officers from the C.O.P.P.S. Program who attend our events and let our residents know that they consider themselves members of HACE communities.

"It's About People!"

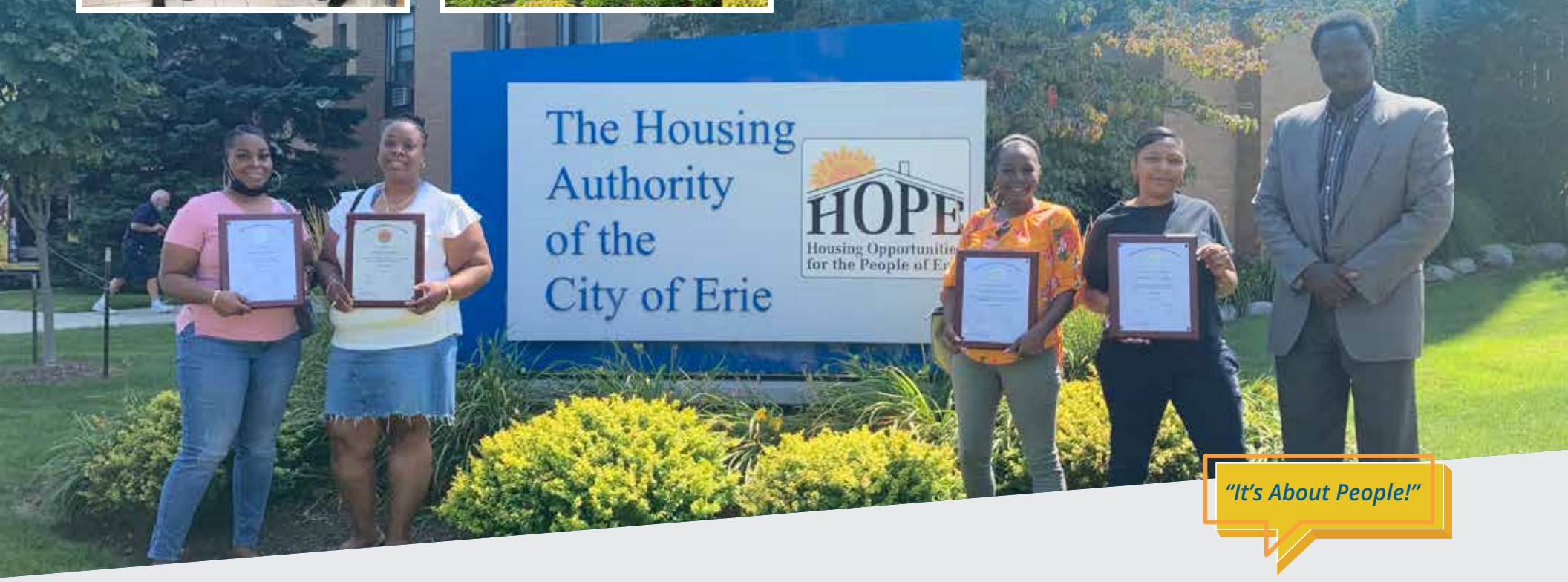
JANUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 New Year's Day
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	18	19	20 HACE Board Meeting	21	22
23	24 HACE Board Meeting	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Family Self-Sufficiency

Since its inception in 2004, the Housing Authority through its Family Self-sufficiency (FSS) Program has provided two caseworkers to assist residents on their path to self-sufficiency. The FSS Caseworkers work with participants to complete an assessment tool to determine areas they need to address as they move towards self-sufficiency. These areas include addressing debt, improving employment, obtaining health insurance, establishing a savings account and learning the ins and outs of purchasing a home.

Despite the constraints of COVID-19 HACE FSS Caseworkers have graduated 22 participants from the FSS Program, many of whom worked with their caseworker the entire five years permitted in their contract of participation. Participants who improve their income through employment can establish an FSS Escrow Savings Account that sets aside funds that would normally go towards an increase in their rent. Upon graduation the funds in the FSS Escrow Account can be used to improve their current level of family self-sufficiency. Recent graduates have used their escrow accounts for paying down debt, family educational opportunities, purchase of a reliable vehicle and in the most recent graduation the purchase of a new home.



"It's About People!"

FEBRUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2 Groundhog Day	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14 Valentine's Day	15	16	17 HACE Board Meeting	18	19
20	21 President's Day HACE Board Meeting	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

Mayor Schember Visits Our Neighborhoods

Throughout the summer Mayor Schember, his staff, members of the Police Athletic League, the Bureau of Police and Fire Departments and members of the HACE C.O.P.P.S. programs visited several of our communities to meet our residents and enjoy nice Erie summer afternoons. Activities included treats from an old-fashioned ice cream truck, demonstrations of fire trucks and police cars and meet and greets with Mayor Schember and his staff.

Thank you, Mayor Schember, for showing your commitment to our residents and proving our motto of It's About People. It was obvious to all involved that our residents enjoyed the time you and your staff spent in their neighborhoods. Special thanks to Michael Outlaw for organizing the events.

"It's About People!"

MARCH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2 Ash Wednesday Read Across America Day	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Begin Daylight Savings Time	14	15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day HACE Board Meeting	18	19
20 First Day of Spring	21 HACE Board Meeting	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Community Oriented Police and Probation Services (C.O.P.P.S.)

The C.O.P.P.S. Program is a partnership between the Housing Authority of the City of Erie and the City of Erie and Erie County to provide on-site community policing and probation services throughout HACE communities. This partnership began over twenty years ago and during that time has dramatically reduced crime in HACE communities and brought a sense of trust and support between HACE residents and C.O.P.P.S. program partners.

This sense of trust and support has resulted in one of the best community policing programs in the country. The C.O.P.P.S. officers have partnered with SafeNet to address domestic violence in our communities and make sure victims have a voice and a safe place to live. C.O.P.P.S. officers have become a fixture in HACE communities by doing bike patrols, meet and greet with resident groups and participating in resident activities throughout the year. They are often seen participating as youth mentors in fishing, golf, and nature programs; volunteering to cook and serve food at HACE community events and delivering care packages monthly in HACE neighborhoods. In short, they understand the importance of It's About People!

"It's About People!"

APRIL

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 April Fool's Day	2 Beginning of Ramadan
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 Good Friday Passover	16
17 Easter	18	19	20	21 HACE Board Meeting	22 Earth Day	23
24	25 HACE Board Meeting	26	27	28	29 Arbor Day	30

Flower and Vegetable Gardens

Walk or drive through any HACE community and you will see multiple flower and vegetable gardens that beautify the neighborhoods and provide a healthy source of food for many families. Every year HACE sponsors a flower and vegetable garden contest to recognize those who have gone above and beyond to beautify and make their community special. Congratulations to the five winners of the 2021 HACE Flower and Vegetable Garden Contest who are displayed on this page.

"It's About People!"

MAY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5 Cinco de Mayo	6	7
8 Mother's Day	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19 HACE Board Meeting	20	21
22	23 HACE Board Meeting	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 Memorial Day	31				

Mentoring Youth

Every year HACE sponsors recreational programs that give youth the opportunity to be mentored by caring adults in activities they can do for the rest of their lives and hopefully pass onto youth when they become adults. Activities include golf, fishing, bowling, nature adventures, hooping, live theatre productions, reading clubs, Spoons Basketball Leagues and Biddy Ball Programs and Gardening.

These activities depend on a special group of adult mentors who give their time to make these youths' lives a little more fulfilled. Special thanks to Mel Witherspoon, John Pete, Sister Pat Lupo, Tammie Johnson, Eddie Ocasio, the S.O.N.S. of Lake Erie, Master Gardeners, members of the C.O.P.P.S. Program and HACE Resident Initiatives Coordinator Cherie Kinem who is the ringmaster putting all these activities together.

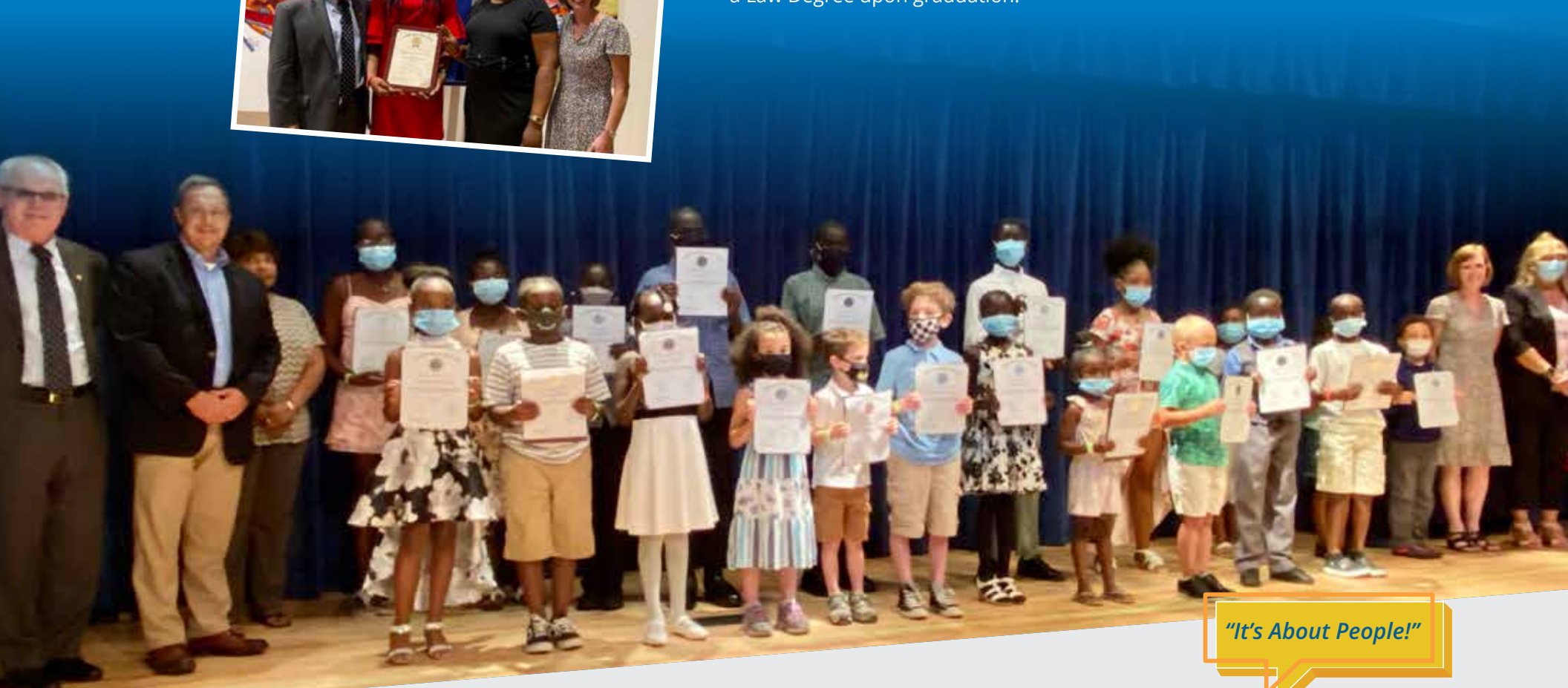
"It's About People!"

JUNE

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 Flag Day	15	16 HACE Board Meeting	17	18
19 Father's Day	20 HACE Board Meeting	21 First Day of Summer	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Ellen Curry Foundation

Ellen Curry served on the Housing Authority of the City of Erie Board of Commissioners for 29 years. She promoted people programs for public housing residents which led to many of the social service initiatives HACE provides for residents. Ellen left a portion of her estate to establish the Ellen Curry Foundation for the education of public housing and Section 8 youth. Founded in 1998, the Foundation has awarded over $600,000 to youth attending private elementary schools and attending college. This year 35 scholarships were awarded to youth attending private elementary schools, five scholarships were awarded to college-bound students and the first annual John E. Horan Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Chrinesse Mpunga a senior at Gannon University who will be pursuing a Law Degree upon graduation.



"It's About People!"

JULY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4 Independence Day	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 HACE Board Meeting	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	HACE Board Meeting					

24th Annual Housing Authority Family Picnic

For 24 years HACE has sponsored a family picnic at Waldameer Amusement Park. Because of COVID-19 we were not able to spend this time with our residents and their families in 2020. This year over 1,000 residents and volunteers spent a beautiful day at the park enjoying the thrilling rides, a picnic lunch and a social services area showcasing area agencies providing educational, health and safety programs throughout the community.

As in past year the T-shirt given to all residents was designed by a public housing youth. This year's beautiful T-shirt was designed by Merissa Chatham. She is pictured with her family in the lower right of this month's pictures.

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AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 Ellen Curry Golf Tournament	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 HACE Board Meeting	19	20
21	22 HACE Board Meeting	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Senior Activities

Throughout the year HACE staff and social service providers plan and organize special events at all HACE high-rise apartment buildings. These include monthly bus trips to Walmart, movies, bingo and donut days, special holiday celebrations including Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners, an annual senior picnic at Waldameer and multiple health programs including health screenings, flu shots and most importantly on-site COVID-19 vaccine and booster shots.

Our photos highlight residents spending a beautiful day sailing on Presque Isle Bay aboard the Victorian Princess. Special thanks to the GECAC HomePlus staff who provide daily medical and support services to residents from Schmid and Friendship Apartments.

"It's About People!"

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 Labor Day	9	10
11 Grandparents' Day	12	13	14	15 HACE Board Meeting	16	17 Constitution Day
18	19 HACE Board Meeting	20	21	22 First Day of Autumn	23	24
25 Rosh Hashanah	26	27	28	29	30	

Special Events

Throughout the year HACE staff, social service partners and volunteers organize special events in HACE communities and high-rise buildings. They include youth recreation programs with adult mentors, health fairs for families and seniors, food programs, neighborhood beautification days including tree planting (ReLeaf) and community clean-up days. These make our neighborhoods into communities and build traditions that continue for decades. The Wicked Witch pictured above has been visiting HACE youth programs for over thirty years. HACE is very lucky to have a core of staff, social service partners and community volunteers who understand that "It's About People" and that there is no substitute for giving your time to worthy causes.

"It's About People!"

OCTOBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4 Yom Kippur	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20 HACE Board Meeting	21	22
23	24 HACE Board Meeting	25	26	27	28	29
30	31 Halloween					

Food Programs

Pictured are Eddie Ocasio (MCRC) and HACE maintenance employee Haseina Thompson delivering food boxes in the John E. Horan Garden Apartments. Throughout the year HACE has partnered with the Second Harvest Food Bank to provide monthly food boxes to seniors along with providing a monthly Produce Express food delivery program where they can get staples including meat, dry goods, vegetables, and bakery items that will provide multiple complete meals for their families.

Special thanks to employees from Widget Financial, Onex Inc. and Avarta Coca Cola for continuing their annual Turkey Dinner giveaway for residents of the John E. Horan Garden Apartments. Special thanks to Michael Hooks and the Sisters of Saint Joseph's for delivering hot meals to our three high-rise buildings on Thanksgiving day.

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NOVEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Daylight Savings Ends	7	8	9	10	11 Veterans Day	12
13	14	15	16	17 HACE Board Meeting	18	19
20	21 HACE Board Meeting	22	23	24 Thanksgiving	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Holiday on Wheels

The past 18 months have taught us that to provide the needed services that the Housing Authority of the City of Erie offers we had to adapt and continue to adapt as an organization. We had to learn how to provide services while keeping our residents and staff safe from COVID-19. We had to become COVID-19 testing and vaccination sites. We had to reopen our much-needed social services to our residents. In short, we had to learn to do everything from taking applications, housing families, maintaining properties, and providing social services in a world that changes daily.

When we discovered it was not safe to do our traditional Holiday Parties for Kids, we took the party to the kids one house at a time. Santa and his elves and of course our C.O.P.P.S. officers delivered gifts, books (Hooked on Books for Kids) and goodies to over 200 children. So much joy was spread doing the event this way, that Santa is gathering his group and will again do Christmas on Wheels this year.

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DECEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 Hanukkah	19 HACE Board Meeting	20	21 First Day of Winter	22	23	24
25 Christmas	26 First Day of Kwanzaa	27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve

When it is said that "it takes a village" we at HACE see it every day from staff, social service partners and volunteers. You have all made a difference in the lives of our residents. Thank you for your kindness and caring!

Special thanks to the HACE board of directors and staff for their commitment to the HACE motto of "It's About People."

HOPE
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