

Long-term Volunteers Life-time of Love

Tom and Jean Howard have volunteered with PEACE, Inc.'s Senior Nutrition program at Canton Woods Senior Center for 20 years. The program provides individuals over 55 with a hot, nutritious lunch and opportunities to socialize, helping seniors in our community to age in place.



"I shouldn't have stopped in to have a beer at the Seneca Grill," says Tom, alluding to a night that changed his entire life. Now in his nineties, he served in WWII and the Korean War, and was in the military when his family moved to Tappan Street in Baldwinsville, NY.

One of his first nights back,

his father suggested he go to the "nicest bar in town". There Tom met a waitress named Jean. A few days later, he picked her up and took her to Syracuse, so he could buy a record player.

"What's that got to do with volunteering?" asks Jean, acknowledging that his response doesn't answer the question: What's your favorite memory of volunteering with PEACE, Inc.?

"I didn't know three months later I'd marry her," Tom continues, seemingly ignoring Jean's question (although it's possible he didn't hear her because the battery in his hearing aid died).

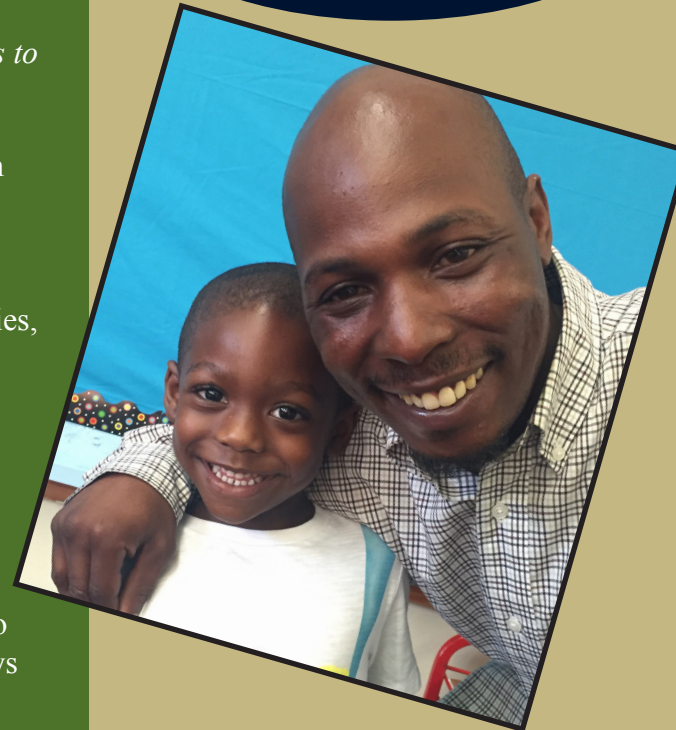
"That's got nothing to do with volunteering," Jean jokes again.

The Howards, who celebrated their 70th anniversary on July 19, have spent all of their married life in Baldwinsville, NY. Tom worked as a tool and die maker for Dietz and Jean raised their daughter, Donna. The couple also played an active role in their community, with Jean serving as a past president and Tom as a past commander of the Baldwinsville VFW.

They started volunteering at Canton Woods when a longtime friend, Jane, began managing the site. Tom dishes the food and Jean serves it. What keeps them coming back is not the chicken, biscuits, and gravy, Jean jokes, but the hugs, the Pinochle, and most of all, the people.

"We have several grandchildren. They all moved down to North Carolina in the last couple years, and you do miss them," says Jean. "And it's the same thing. These people make up for family."

OUT & ABOUT WITH PEACE, INC.



Above: PEACE, Inc. Head Start St. Brigid's enjoyed National Dads Take Kids to School Day.



Right: More than 200 community members attended the PEACE, Inc. Eastside Family Resource Center National Grid Expo and were able to connect with local programs and services.



Left: Joe O'Hara presented to a group of engaged students pursuing their Ed.D in Executive Leadership through St. John Fisher College.

Below: It was lots of fun at the pumpkin patch for PEACE, Inc. Head Start Liverpool students.



Left: Over 50 families from PEACE, Inc.'s Westside Family Resource Center received turkeys with all the trimmings for their Thanksgiving meal from Omar Abraham & Cricket Wireless. Thank you!



Above: Assemblywoman Pamela Hunter - 128th District with the costume contest winner from a Halloween party at Onondaga Senior Center, one of PEACE, Inc.'s Senior Nutrition sites.

The children at PEACE, Inc. Merrick Head Start love playing blocks, telling stories and spending time with Grandpa Roy.

Learn more about Grandpa Roy's story and his experience as a PEACE, Inc. Foster Grandparent by visiting www.peace-caa.org/fgp.



50th Anniversary

Did you know that PEACE, Inc. turns 50 in 2018? We are already exploring ways to celebrate this milestone birthday.

Take our survey at <http://tinyurl.com/PEACE50> to add your input on ways to celebrate.

Please use the enclosed envelope to donate to PEACE, Inc.'s mission.



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Community Connection

PEACE, Inc.'s Mission: Helping people in the community realize their potential for becoming self-sufficient

A letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

At PEACE, Inc., by offering people the tools they need to make a better life for themselves and their families, we are changing lives every day. Since there is no one clear path out of poverty, we offer different things to different people: an enriching summer camp experience, a hot nutritious meal, a first job, or a first time on the honor roll. We empower people to set goals, identify and build on their own strengths, and improve their lives. Please consider giving to the PEACE, Inc. Holiday Appeal and help us fight poverty one family at a time. You can use the enclosed envelope or go to our website www.peace-caa.org to make a donation.

I want to wish each of you a happy, healthy holiday season. I am especially thankful for the loyal support of our board, funders, donors, volunteers and community partners as well as our hardworking, dedicated staff. We could not fulfill our mission without your help.

Every Kind Wish,

Joe

Joseph E. O'Hara
Executive Director



Innovation in Programming



We have some exciting new initiatives going on at PEACE, Inc.

Big Brothers Big Sisters recently kicked off their first workplace mentoring program at BNY

Mellon in East Syracuse. Littles from third and fourth grade at McKinley-Brighton Elementary in Syracuse have been meeting with their mentors from BNY Mellon twice a month to do homework, play games, build leadership and teamwork skills, and get to know one another better.

The New York State Department of State awarded PEACE, Inc. a grant to implement a pilot project with the Syracuse Housing Authority that helps people, who would otherwise be disqualified based on their criminal conviction history, to live with their families in public housing. Only three other communities statewide are participating in this pilot.

PEACE, Inc. is one of the partners in the Green and Healthy Homes Initiative, which streamlines programs that address health, safety, energy efficiency, and weatherization for local home owners. In addition to weatherization services provided by PEACE, Inc., such as a new furnace, insulation or windows, homeowners can also receive asbestos removal, lead paint remediation, electrical improvements, and minor safety repairs.

We are proud of our staff for working with community partners to develop creative new ways to fight poverty and empower people to thrive.



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2016 Champions of Diversity

On September 28th PEACE, Inc. celebrated the 15th Annual Champions of Diversity in style thanks to our sponsors, especially Haylor Freyer & Coon, Washington Street Partners, Bonadio Group, Wegmans, Rick and Judy Shafer, and National Grid. A crowd of nearly 350 gathered in the Grand Ballroom of the newly renovated Syracuse Marriott Downtown to honor CXtec and TERACAI, Mary Beth Basha of National Grid, and Evelyn Carter of Wegmans for improving the quality of life in our community and respecting diversity. We are already busy planning next year's event and hope we can count on your generous support.

