

Women United, local agencies share the love this Valentine's Day

To celebrate Valentine's Day, Women United of Greater Niagara members are sharing the love by continuing their annual trend of distributing handmade valentines and chocolate bars to those in need.

Led by Niagara Falls Boys & Girls Club CEO and Women United member Rebecca Vincheski, youth at the club crafted handmade valentines with construction paper, ribbons, markers and plenty of glitter. Women United provides the custom chocolate bars, and the valentines are ready to be delivered.

On Tuesday morning, Women United President Joanne Beaton, Vincheski, and United Way of Greater Niagara President and CEO Andrea Gray gathered at Community Missions of the Niagara Frontier to deliver the valentines.

A press release noted, "Community Missions provides integrated human services that meet people where they are and help them find and elevate their place in the world."

"Women United of Greater Ni-



Pictured, from left: Community Missions Vice President of Public Relations and Development Christian Hoffman, Women United President Joanne Beaton, Niagara Falls Boys & Girls Club CEO Rebecca Vincheski, United Way of Greater Niagara President and CEO Andrea Gray, and Community Missions Vice President of Specialized Services Eric Boerdner. (Submitted photo)

agara is an influential group of community-minded women who work with United Way to improve lives and build a better future for the Niagara community. At the same time, they work to inspire and bring value to local women. If

you are interested in becoming a member, please call 716-731-4580.

"United Way of Greater Niagara helps nonprofit agencies secure the funding they need for programs serving local youth. To learn more, visit www.uwgn.org."



Assemblyman Angelo Morinello with the Meals on Wheels of Niagara Falls team delivering Valentine's Day cards to volunteers who distributed them to seniors in the area. (Submitted photo)

Morinello teams with Meals on Wheels to visit seniors

Assemblyman Angelo Morinello delivered Valentine's Day cards with crafted special messages made by students for seniors at dedicated facilities and centers, plus Meals on Wheels clients, residents of nursing homes, assisted living and rehab facilities across the 145th Assembly District.

"I am extremely grateful to all the schools and senior facilities

that participated in my eighth annual 'Valentines for Seniors' program," Morinello said. "The looks on our seniors' faces when we gave them their special Valentine's Day messages were truly wonderful. We hope, by continuing this annual program, we can spread cheer from our fantastic schools to many seniors in our community for many years to come."

Francis Center receives Niagara Area Foundation grant

The Francis Center children's program was awarded a grant of \$10,000 by the Niagara Area

Foundation, a division of the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo.

Francis Center offers both academic and social-emotional support to elementary school-aged children who reside in struggling neighborhoods in the City of Niagara Falls. Its goal is to help the children build strong foundational reading and math skills while teaching them habits and behaviors that will help them to be successful in school. The Francis Center does this through a full-time after-school program, as well as a summer booster camp.

"Ours is a unique after-school experience because of the academic component," Director Mary Beth Smith said. "We hire qualified teachers so that we can help them strengthen core skills, and we collaborate with the students' classroom teachers and administration at Niagara Falls schools to ensure that we're supporting them in the most effective ways."

Francis Center aims to follow its students from kindergarten through second grade, at which



Nath and Samuel in the art room. (Submitted)

who have visited the after-school program.

Moreover, "We are able to offer our programs at no cost to the families thanks to generous donations from people in the community and through help from organizations like Niagara Area Foundation," Smith said.

Those who would like to help support the Francis Center children's program can visit www.franciscenter.com; check out the Francis Center page on Facebook; or mail to: Francis Center, 335 24th St., Niagara Falls, NY 14303.

point the aspiration is for these children to be performing at grade-level standards.

"In third grade, the focus shifts from learning to read to reading to learn, so it is crucial that children have necessary reading skills by that time," Smith said. "I believe it's also crucial that they have learned to love to read, so we spend lots of time at Francis Center sharing and enjoying what we read."

The teachers at Francis Center understand that continued learning after-school needs to be presented in special ways so that the children's attention and interest are kept. Teachers use hands-on activities, learning games and creative expression. They also rely on adult volunteers to help provide individual attention to the kids. The children are given a variety of experiences to help expand their breadth of knowledge and their vocabularies. Dance teachers, artists, an ecologist, storytellers and yoga instructors are some of the special guests

Those interested in volunteering can call 716-284-2050.

The Niagara Area Foundation was established in 2000 and is a division of the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo. The Niagara Area Foundation is committed to strengthening the Niagara Region by addressing critical needs to improve lives.

For more than a century, the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo has enhanced and encouraged long-term philanthropy in the Western New York community. A 501 (c)(3) organization, the Community Foundation's mission is: Connecting people, ideas and resources to improve lives in Western New York.

Established in 1919, the Community Foundation has made the most of the generosity of individuals, families, foundations and organizations who entrust charitable assets to the Community Foundation's care. Learn more at <https://www.cfgb.org/>.

THANK YOU

to everyone participating in the

Souper Bowl contest winner is

Edward Bush

Prize: Brickyard Pub & BBQ/Brickyard Brewing Co.

432 Center St., Lewiston • 716-754-7227 • www.brickyardpub.com

NIAGARA FRONTIER PUBLICATIONS
wnypapers.com • 716-773-7676
Island Dispatch | Niagara County Tribune/Sentinel | Grand Island PennySaver

CARPET MILL OUTLET

TRUCKLOAD SALE

THREE TRACTOR TRAILERS FULL OF QUALITY PRODUCT

100's Of Carpet Rolls Specials

Just \$259 to \$449

sq ft to sq ft

Installed wall to wall over heavy pad

Large Selection of Flooring

99¢ to \$299

sq ft to sq ft

- Vinyl Sheet Goods
- Vinyl Planking
- Laminate Planking
- Carpet

Cash & Carry • All in stock

OUR WAREHOUSE IS FULL TO THE CEILING

100's Of Carpet Remnants All Colors & Sizes • Low Prices Starting at 99¢ sq ft
Area Rugs Bound 5x8 - \$79 & Up • Quality Installation - Free Measures

BRING YOUR TRUCK FOR CASH & CARRY

SOME PRODUCTS BELOW WHOLESALE

CLOSE OUT SALE! SHOP NOW & SAVE

716-297-7705

2941 Military Rd • Town of Niagara
2 Blocks North of Tim Hortons

HOURS: MON-FRI 9-5 • SAT 10-2