

# O'Hara named first full-time executive director of HART

Christine S. O'Hara, MS, has been named as the first full-time executive director of HART Inc., the Home Assistance Referral Team.

O'Hara served as a member of the board of directors of HART for two years prior to becoming the executive director on a part-time basis in 2021.

After 40 years in service, HART has not only grown to a full-time organization, but also expanded to serve both Niagara County and parts of Erie County.

Board chairperson Patricia Berggren said, "The proven community relations, marketing and development skills that Chris brings to HART are a perfect match for the significant growth



we're experiencing. We are most fortunate to have her leading our team."

O'Hara has extensive experience in nonprofit fundraising, donor development, marketing and

community relations. She started her career with the Niagara Falls Area Chamber of Commerce and later spent 16 years at Niagara University serving in various capacities. Additionally, she held

marketing and fundraising positions at the former Niagara Catholic High School, Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center, and Catholic Health. O'Hara has her own consulting business, CSEO Consulting LLC, and is a licensed benefits consultant.

A graduate of Niagara University, she earned a master's degree in administration and supervision and a bachelor's degree in hospitality management. She is a 1992 graduate of Leadership Niagara, 1993 graduate of Dale Carnegie Public Speaking, and a member of the 2014-15 Consortium of Higher Education Women's Leadership Institute.

O'Hara, a Lewiston resident, also is very active in the commu-

nity. She serves as chairperson of the Intandem Foundation board of directors and vice chair of the Niagara Falls Boys and Girls Club board of directors. She also serves on the boards of Anchoring Hope and the Lower Niagara Community Survivors. She is past board chairperson of the Niagara River Region Chamber of Commerce and Leadership Niagara.

HART is a referral service that connects seniors and others with qualified care, allowing them to remain independent in their own homes. Its main office is located at 505 Cayuga St., Lewiston. Call 716-754-8313 for more information.



## Niagara County seeking Purple Heart veterans for Book of Honor

Pictured is the Purple Heart Book of Honor on display in the rotunda of the Niagara County Courthouse in Lockport. (Submitted)

Niagara County Clerk Joseph A. Jastrzemski said Niagara County will once again honor Purple Heart veterans by adding their name to county's Book of Honor at a ceremony to be held on Sunday, Aug. 6. The county is asking any Purple Heart veterans or their family members who have not yet come forward to please do so by May 1 in order to be part of this year's ceremony.

There are currently more than 300 Niagara County residents

listed in the Book of Honor.

"Niagara County is proud of our distinction as an official Purple Heart County, as we are committed to the preserving the legacy of brave military personnel who were wounded fighting for our country," Jastrzemski said. "For families of a Purple Heart veteran who may have passed, the Book of Honor ensures future generations will know of your loved one's contribution to our country and preserving our freedom."

Jastrzemski said, "We are hard at work in the design and preconstruction phase of the county's new Purple Heart Monument,

which will be located at the Niagara County Courthouse. It's our hope that project will be completed this summer and will be able to dedicate the monument as part of our Purple Heart ceremony."

To be included in the Book of Honor and to take part in this year's event, Purple Heart veterans or their families must complete a short application that can be obtained at [www.niagara-county.com/Departments/County-Clerk](http://www.niagara-county.com/Departments/County-Clerk). Those with questions can call the clerk's office at 716-439-7062 or the Veteran's Service Agency at 716-438-4090.

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## University & community collaborations are the focus of second presentation in NU community lecture series

Community organizer and engagement specialist Dr. Keith Caldwell will give the second presentation in Niagara University's community lecture series on Thursday, Jan. 19. Caldwell, executive director of place-based initiatives in the Office of Engagement and Community Affairs at the University of Pittsburgh, will offer strategies to grow existing collaborations as the foundation for high-impact engagement practices, examples of community-engaged research, and approaches to

strengthening partnerships and programs

The event will be held at NU@822, 822 Cleveland Ave., Niagara Falls. Doors open at 4 p.m., and the presentation, which is free and open to the public, begins at 4:30 p.m.

In his role as executive director, Caldwell supports Pitt's Neighborhood Commitments in Homewood, the Hill District, and in Hazelwood, and leads efforts to develop mutually beneficial partnerships that strengthen both the university and its com-

munities. Prior to joining the ECA team in 2022, Caldwell worked for 14 years with the Pitt School of Social Work, including serving as the chair of the BASW program and, most recently, as associate dean for student success.

Caldwell received his doctorate in education from the Pitt School of Education, his master's degree in social work from Pitt's School of Social Work, and his bachelor's degree in social work from Niagara University.

The speaker series is sponsored by Niagara University's Levesque Institute for Civic Engagement and the John R. Oishei Foundation. For more information, contact Karen Kwadrans, associate vice president for strategic and external relations, at 716-286-8559.



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