

I want to take my five hundred words (give or take a few) that I get for this space and use them to give a shout out to this community. You see, this community comes together to help one another and support those in need. I notice this especially during the holidays, but also all year round, and this is a huge strength for this community thus it needs to be highlighted.

Time and time again I notice how this community supports the food bank here in town. Food drives are commonplace, and monetary donations come in. The need is big during the holidays, but there is also a constant need throughout the year. And so, because there is a need, people step up. If you haven't given to the food bank yet, consider grabbing a couple extra items when you do your next shopping run and donate them. Get your kids involved and have them fill up one of those "Shopper in training" carts and donate that. Hunger will always be here. Let us continue to respond in love.

The One God Network (1G) began with an idea in the fall of 2021 and launched in February of this year with elementary and middle school aged kids. Last month we launched 1G Senior High. Since this ministry began, people, churches and businesses have stepped up to support this ministry. Dozens and dozens of kids have been impacted. Donations have come in and we have never lacked adults to show up and love on the kids. And what is neat to see is new people getting involved or dropping checks off for this ministry. What an asset for this community. Thank you to everyone involved.

As I write this, I am witnessing the well-oiled machine of the Giving Tree program. So many volunteers work throughout the year to plan and provide for kids who need help. The packaging of the gifts for families is a sight to behold as well over a dozen people have given of their time to help ensure families have a Merry Christmas (see the article that is coming out about Giving Tree). Thank you to Betsy Goetz and her crew for this important ministry.

And this is just a small sample size. This community loves being community together. This is something to be proud of and something to celebrate. It is something to talk up. We have something special here. Maybe you know that or maybe you do not. Whatever the case, God is on the move here in Buffalo Center. God is working through you and me. Spread the word and to God be the glory. Amen!