

Cheektowaga Y.E.S.

Dear Y.E.S. Volunteer,

Can't believe we're already wrapping up 2025! As we finish up my fourth full year with program, it has been our best and busiest year yet! Keep up the great work as we move into 2026. I'm the first person to brag about how great the volunteers in our program are to literally anyone that will listen - but wanted to share the kind words that I received from Kim at St Stephens Pantry about our program. *"We have had a lot of feedback in regard to the kids that volunteer with us. So many wonderful comments about their willingness to help, their good attitudes, and the joy it brings our clients to see them! We are blessed to have you all as a part of our team!"*

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

While our program focuses on making the community a better place all year round, we always try to make the holidays even more special for our neighbors in need. Again this year, we'll be collaborating with the Rink/Open Skate and collecting food for our friends at **St. Stephen's Faith & Joy Food Pantry from November 1 - 22**. Please bring donations to your Y.E.S. event or drop off at the Alexander Center. There will be a collection bin outside our office on the second floor. Kim also told me that they are short on "pantry items" such as salt, pepper, sugar, cooking oil, flour, and spices.

Thanksgiving Open Skate - November 21, 7:00 - 8:50 pm and November 22, 6:00 - 7:50 pm

You can also bring canned goods or non-perishable food items to donate and receive FREE admission for open skate at the ice rink (skate rental is \$5) - **This is NOT a Y.E.S. event, but volunteers, friends, and families are invited to attend and support our food drive.**

CELL PHONES & ELECTRONICS

Lately, we've seen a lot of cell phones out during activities when we are supposed to be helping and interacting. If you have your phone out, you will receive one warning to put it away. If you have to be told a second time to put the phone away, it goes into the Cell Phone Hotel until the activity is finished. Thank you for your cooperation!

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Salsarita's fundraising event! Between Salsarita's and selling snacks during family concerts, we were able to raise approximately \$400 this summer!

MAILING LIST CLEAN UP

We're cleaning up our mailing list heading into 2026. If you have an "X" on your label, it means we haven't seen you this year. If you'd like to stay on the mailing list, please let me know or sign up for an activity during Nov/Dec. If not, you'll be removed and will no longer receive newsletters.

ADVISORY BOARD (AB) 2026

We're wrapping up our first Advisory Board term and we'll be accepting new applications for 2026. Want to see what it's all about? You're welcome to attend the meetings in 2025! We're looking for dedicated volunteers who would like to take their commitment to Y.E.S. to the next level. **For more information or to apply, visit CheektowagaYES.org and select Advisory Board and complete the online form by December 1.**

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER REGISTRATION

Registration for Nov/Dec will go live on Saturday, October 25 at 9:00 am. I will send out a Remind with the link and it will be posted on the Y.E.S. website —www.CheektowagaYES.org.

If you have not started following Y.E.S. on Remind, please do so! It's the best way for me to reach out and get out mass messages to parents and volunteers. Whether we have a program cancellation due to weather, a last minute activity added or an update, it's the most effective way to reach everyone!

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

Volunteer of the Month August 2025: Courtney Romalewski - 35 activities, 70 service hours

Volunteer of the Month September 2025: Eirelynn Murphy - 28 activities, 57 service hours



Thank you volunteers!
- Alicia



Cheektowaga Y.E.S.

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Y.E.S. Program Coordinator:
Alicia Hark

Y.E.S. Event Supervisors:
Jessie Cecere
Anastasia Figueroa
Kirkland Nguyen

Y.E.S. Volunteer Advisory Board
Cole DiGesare
Giada DiGesare
Audri Miller
Maddy Pollack
Maddie Radder

Activities with the Elderly

Activities at Peregrine Senior Living

575 Cayuga Creek Rd, Cheektowaga

Join us on the first Wednesday of each month for activities, games and crafts. Cornhole tournaments have become a volunteer and resident favorite! The first time you volunteer here, you'll be required to complete a HIPPA form. Forms can be downloaded from our website www.CheektowagaYES.org. Extra forms will be available the night of the event.

Wed Nov 5	6:00 - 7:15 pm	Activity Night
Wed Dec 3	6:00 - 7:15 pm	Activity Night

Activities at Elderwood Assisted Living at Cheektowaga

229 Bennett Rd, Cheektowaga

(enter by 2nd driveway awning)

Join us for crafts, games, bingo, holiday events and more! Each month will be a different fun activity.

Tues Nov 18	5:45 - 7:15 pm	Activity Night
Tues Dec 16	5:45 - 7:15 pm	Activity Night

BINGO at Glenwell DePaul Assisted Living

2248 Old Union Rd, Cheektowaga

There are multiple buildings - look for 2248 above the entrance!

Join us for Saturday Bingo! We'll be adding new activities in the future but the residents love weekend Bingo!

Sat Nov 8 & 22	1:15 - 2:45 pm
Sat Dec 13 & 27	1:15 - 2:45 pm

Meals on Wheels Craft Night

Give the gift of a smile! Help us make crafts to add to Meals on Wheels trays for seniors in the community. Each volunteer will create at least a dozen favors during the event. We've gotten multiple thank you notes from seniors who've received our favors!

Mon Nov 17	5:00 - 6:30 pm	Alexander Center
Tues Dec 9	5:00 - 6:30 pm	Alexander Center

Activities with Children

Event Locations

- Alexander Center, 275 Alexander Ave, Cheektowaga
- Julia Boyer Reinstein Library (JBR)
1030 Losson Rd, Cheektowaga
- Recreation Center, 2600 Harlem Rd, Cheektowaga
- Reinstein Library, 2580 Harlem Rd, Cheektowaga
- Stiglmeier Park (Losson Park), 810 Losson Rd, Cheektowaga

Library Craft Night

Join us for crafts, games and other fun themed activities.

Themes: Nov: Paints & Pilgrims Dec: Merry Makers

Thurs Nov 6	5:45 - 7:15 pm	JBR
Thurs Nov 20	5:45 - 7:15 pm	JBR
Thurs Dec 4	5:45 - 7:15 pm	JBR
Thurs Dec 18	5:45 - 7:15 pm	JBR

Library LEGO Club

Help kids embrace their creative side as they build structures, vehicles, and anything else they can dream up!

Mon Nov 3	5:45 - 7:00 pm	Reinstein
Thurs Nov 13	5:45 - 7:00 pm	JBR
Wed Dec 10	5:45 - 7:00 pm	Reinstein
Thurs Dec 11	5:45 - 7:00 pm	JBR



Special Events

Help run an activity station while kids make crafts, cook/bake, play games, and more!

Theme: PIE is the Limit

Tues Nov 18 5:45 - 7:45 pm Rec Center/Ice Rink
Help kids with making pizza rolls, baking pies, making crafts, and more Thanksgiving fun.

CONGRATULATIONS OUR VOLUNTEERS FOR THE FOLLOWING ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Honor Roll: Jeanette W, Ashley M, Aria H

NJHS: Colin B, Ashlyn M, Riley K, Charlotte N

Ashlyn made the cheer team!

Aria H is playing basketball and participating in Girls on the Run!

Charlotte N is WEB leader!

Brenden M is in the P-Tech Program!



Community Activities

St Stephen's Food Pantry

750 Wehrle Dr, Cheektowaga

Help pack grocery orders for families and organize and restock food at a community food pantry. If the weather is nice, we may be helping in the garden.

Sun Nov 2 & 16 12:00 - 3:00 pm *Limit 1 per month*
Sun Dec 7 & 21 12:00 - 3:00 pm *No open toe shoes!*

Grace Guest House - MEET AT ALEXANDER

The Grace Guest House provides a place for families to stay while loved ones receive care in area hospitals. We'll be cooking dinner for the guests staying there. Meet at the Alexander Center and we'll be driving together in the van. Don't forget to bring a hat!

All volunteers must wear gloves and a hairnet (or baseball cap while cooking). **Must complete waiver - download at CheektowagaYES.org —>**

Volunteer Resources.

IF YOU DO NOT COMPLETE A WAIVER YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ATTEND.

Wed Nov 19 4:00 - 6:30 pm *Limit 1 per newsletter*



Theme Nights @ The Rink

This year, there will be fun theme nights at the ice rink during open skate! Come help face paint and make balloon animals. Come dressed for the theme!

Theme: Hockey Fights Cancer

Sat Nov 15 5:45 - 8:00 pm Rec Center/Ice Rink

Theme: Cartoon Night

Sat Dec 20 5:45 - 8:00 pm Rec Center/Ice Rink

Annual Christmas Tree Lighting

Senior Center, 3349 Broadway, Cheektowaga

We'll be doing face painting inside the Senior Center.

Mon Dec 1 5:45 - 7:30 pm Cheektowaga Senior Center

Winterfest

Stiglmeier Park, 810 Losson Rd, Cheektowaga

Santa will be stopping by for a visit from the North Pole. We'll be face painting, making balloon animals, helping with games, and handing out holiday craft kits. Please dress accordingly. We are partially outside and inside the activity building at the park entrance.

Fri Dec 5 5:30 - 8:30 pm Losson Park

NOTE: During drop off, main entrance may be closed and parents will have to enter the park via 500 Losson Rd!

Christmas on Ice

Volunteers will be assisting with crafts, face painting, balloon animals, and helping kids write their letter to Santa.

Fri Dec 12 6:45 - 9:00 pm Rec Center

Sleigh & Play

Stiglmeier Park, 810 Losson Rd, Cheektowaga

Volunteers will be helping with face painting, balloon animals, crafts, and hot cocoa. Please dress according to the weather - part of the event will be held outside and some stations will be run inside the activity building right at the park entrance.

Thurs Dec 18 4:45 - 8:00 pm Losson Park

Letters FROM Santa

Santa receives so many letters that he needs help responding all of them! We'll be checking Santa's mail and replying to all of the letters.

Tues Dec 16 5:00 - 6:30 pm Alexander

PTO Babysitting & Special Events

Locations

- Theodore Roosevelt (TR) Elementary, 2495 William St, Cheektowaga (Enter lot from Parker Ave, enter through back door)
- Woodrow Wilson (WW) Elementary, 166 Halstead Ave, Sloan (Enter lot behind school on Reiman Ave, enter through back door)

We'll be hanging out with kids ages 4-10 while their parents attend the PTO meeting for their school. We'll be making crafts and playing games. For special events, we'll be helping with stations as needed.

Thurs Nov 6	6:00 - 7:30 pm	TR (Babysitting)
Wed Nov 12	6:00 - 7:30 pm	WW (Babysitting)
Tues Nov 25	4:45 - 7:00 pm	TR (Face Paint & Balloons)
Wed Dec 3	5:30 - 7:30 pm	WW (Babysitting)
Thurs Dec 4	5:00 - 7:30 pm	TR (Babysitting)
Mon Dec 8	6:00 - 7:30 pm	TR (Babysitting)
Fri Dec 12	5:15 - 7:30 pm	TR (Face Paint & Balloons)

Workshops & Socials

SOCIAL: Fun City

Fri Nov 14 5:30 - 7:30 pm

Fun City

3781 Union Rd, Cheektowaga

Cost: \$20

(RSVP and money due

Wednesday Nov 4)

Pay by phone 716-897-7207 or online:

<https://tinyurl.com/4kvsp96u>



PAY ONLINE



Spend your Friday night bouncing, playing, hanging out and having fun with your Y.E.S. friends at Fun City! Pizza, water, and jump socks are included. Bring extra spending money for drinks, treats, and the arcade.

ONLINE WAIVER



Waiver must be completed online prior to the event!

Volunteers will not be allowed to attend without the waiver.

<https://tinyurl.com/4eskmv7x>



August Volunteer of the Month: Courtney Romalewski

Since joining Courtney has been a consistent Y.E.S. member, making time for volunteering while balancing her other activities. Her politeness and maturity make her a key leader during any Y.E.S. activities.



She's a well-rounded volunteer, lending a hand at any type of activity. Whether it's Lego Club, face painting, Bingo, or a children's craft event, she jumps in to assist without any hesitation. Her enthusiasm, dedication, and positive attitude inspires everyone around her. She is making an incredible impact in the community!

September Volunteer of the Month: Eirelynn Murphy

Over the past year, Eirelynn has been a dedicated rink guard, attending nearly every Jr Rink Guard event and stepping in whenever additional volunteers were needed at the rink. Whether she is face painting during special events, interacting with the kids during PTO babysitting events, or assisting with craft nights she consistently demonstrates maturity and responsibility as a young adult.



Keep up the fantastic work Eirelynn, and know that your dedication and passion do not go unnoticed. We're excited to see how you continue to grow and inspire others in the Y.E.S. program and beyond. Thank you for being such an integral part of our community!

Sign Up Genius 101

Visit the link via **CheektowagaYES.org**. You'll be able to view the calendar for the upcoming two months.

On the Calendar, select **Sign Up** on the activities you'd like to select.

4 12:00pm-3:00pm St Stephen's... 5:45pm-7:45pm Family Concert Sign Up	5	6	7 6:00pm-7:15pm Activities wit... Sign Up	8	9	10
11 5:45pm-7:45pm Family Concert	12	13	14	15	16	17

If there is more than one activity on the date, all of them events will show up when clicked. Select **Sign Up** for the dates you'd like to participate in.

If you'd like to pick more dates, choose **Select Other Days** and you'll go back to the calendar. If you're finished, select **Save & Continue**.

On this page, you'll also see how many spots are available for the activity.

08/04/2024 (Sunday) Dates shown as mm/dd/yyyy EDT

Location	Time	Available Slot	
St Stephen's Food Pantry	12:00pm-3:00pm	St Stephen's Food Pantry 1 of 10 slots filled Please select ONLY 1 pantry date per month.	Sign Up
Town Park Mega Shelter	5:45pm-7:45pm	Family Concert 0 of 10 slots filled	Sign Up

Select Other Days Save & Continue

Once you complete the sign up process, you'll get an email with everything that you selected.

SignUpGenius Group Organizing Made Easy

Thank you, Alicia!

You're all signed up for "TEST Activity Sign Ups."

- ✓ **St Stephen's Food Pantry** - Please select ONLY 1 pantry date per month.
08/04/2024 (Sun.) 12:00pm - 3:00pm EDT
Location: St Stephen's Food Pantry
- ✓ **Family Concert**
08/04/2024 (Sun.) 5:45pm - 7:45pm EDT
Location: Town Park Mega Shelter

View Sign Up

Fun Fact: If you create a Sign Up Genius account, you'll also have the option to cancel your activities here, but selecting the **X (delete)**.

07/07/2024 (Sunday) Dates shown as mm/dd/yyyy EDT

Location	Time	Available Slot	
St Stephen's Food Pantry	12:00pm-3:00pm	St Stephen's WAITLIST 2 of 20 slots filled If you sign up for the WAITLIST, we'll contact you if we have cancellation:	Sign Up Delete

Alicia H [edit] [refresh] [X] [AH]

November 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Food Pantry 12:00 - 3:00 pm @ St Stephens	3 Lego Club 5:45 - 7:00 pm @ Reinstein Library	4	5 Activity Night 6:00 - 7:15 pm @ Peregrine Senior Living	6 Craft Night 5:45 - 7:15 pm @ JBR Library PTO Babysitting 6:00 - 7:30 pm @ TR Elementary	7	8 Bingo 1:15 - 2:45 pm @ Glenwell DePaul
9 Happy Birthday Kirkland! 	10 Orientation 6:00 - 7:00 pm @ Alexander Advisory Board Meeting 6:00 - 8:00 pm @ Alexander	11 	12 PTO Babysitting 6:00 - 7:30 pm @ WW Elementary	13 Lego Club 5:45 - 7:00 pm @ JBR Library	14 SOCIAL: Fun City 5:30 - 7:30 pm @ Fun City	15 Theme Night 5:45 - 8:00 pm @ Rec Center/Ice Rink
16 Food Pantry 12:00 - 3:00 pm @ St Stephens	17 Meals on Wheels 5:00 - 6:30 pm @ Alexander	18 Family Craft Night 5:45 - 7:45 pm @ Rec Center/Ice Rink Upstairs Activity Night 5:45 - 7:15 pm @ Elderwood	19 Grace Guest House 4:00 - 6:30 pm Meet @ Alexander	20 Craft Night 5:45 - 7:15 pm @ JBR Library	21 Thanksgiving Skate 7:00 - 8:50 pm @ Rec Center *This is not a Y.E.S. supervised event	22 Bingo 1:15 - 2:45 pm @ Glenwell DePaul Thanksgiving Skate 6:00 - 7:50 pm @ Rec Center *This is not a Y.E.S. supervised event
23	24	25 Family First Dinner 4:45 - 7:00 pm @ TR Elementary	26	27 	28	29

December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Town Tree Lighting 5:45 - 7:30 pm @ Senior Center	2	3 Activity Night 6:00 - 7:15 pm @ Peregrine Senior Living PTO Babysitting 6:00 - 7:30 pm @ WW Elementary	4 Babysitting 5:00 - 7:30 pm @ TR Elementary Craft Night 5:45 - 7:15 pm @ JBR Library	5 Winterfest 5:30 - 8:30 pm @ Losson Park	6
7 Food Pantry 12:00 - 3:00 pm @ St Stephens	8 PTO Babysitting 6:00 - 7:30 pm @ TR Elementary	9 Meals on Wheels 5:00 - 6:30 pm @ Alexander	10 Lego Club 5:45 - 7:00 pm @ Reinstein Library	11 Lego Club 5:45 - 7:00 pm @ JBR Library	12 Christmas on Ice 6:45 - 9:00 pm @ Rec Center/Ice Rink Winter Wonderland 5:15 - 7:30 pm @ TR Elementary	13 Bingo 1:15 - 2:45 pm @ Glenwell DePaul
14	15	16 Letters from Santa 5:00 - 6:30 pm @ Alexander Activity Night 5:45 - 7:15 pm @ Elderwood	17	18 Sleigh & Play 4:45 - 8:00 pm @ Losson Park Craft Night 5:45 - 7:15 pm @ JBR Library	19	20 Theme Night 5:45 - 8:00 pm @ Rec Center/Ice Rink
21 Food Pantry 12:00 - 3:00 pm @ St Stephens	22	23	24 	25  Happy Birthday Jessie!	26 	27 Bingo 1:15 - 2:45 pm @ Glenwell DePaul
28	29	30	31 			