

# Allentown Association Inc.

## 1997 Annual Report

### to Members

Dear Members:

The year 1997 was one of accomplishment for your neighborhood organization – a year in which both membership and revenues rose to levels not seen in nearly a decade.

Our roster of members reached about 400, approximately the high it had been in 1989-90, before the Association lost state funding, laid off its staff, and went into temporary eclipse.

As to finances, after four years of annual revenues in the \$20,000 range, the Association suddenly vaulted in 1977 to about \$57,000, thanks to dramatically higher public funding, more effective fund raising, and higher membership contributions. Niagara District Council Member Robert Quintana was especially helpful in steering \$25,000 in federal Block Grant funds to us. (See financial summary on Page 3.)

1997 was also the first full year since 1989 that we operated with a paid executive director.

In a sense, we are stronger than we have ever been because we have clarified our mission and marshaled our resources to carry out concrete tasks that benefit the neighborhood. Five to 10 years ago, the Association was suffering identity crisis. We dabbled in low-income housing rehabilitation, not so much because we thought that was the best use of our time and talent, as because our former state funding was tied to it. Directors openly wondered why the Association even existed.

Today, no one on the Allentown Association board doubts the value of what we do. We concentrate on beautification, crime prevention, housing and historic preservation, business development, and member assistance. In nitty-gritty terms, that means we plant flowers, pick up litter, work with the police, fight bad landlords, assist merchants, and help members with problems as diverse as assessment challenges and burnt-out street lights.

Behind the scenes, we make public officials aware of the neighborhood's needs, we fight the social services overload, and we constantly trumpet Allentown's many virtues and charms.

We do all this almost entirely with volunteers. The Association isn't a clique. It is you – the members, your neighbors and friends. It is only as good as the people who show up to volunteer. I invite you to participate.

**RICHARD R. HAYNES**  
*President*

# 1997 Highlights

## BEAUTIFICATION

- Spent \$2,000 and won a city matching grant for \$2,000 to plant 21 trees.
- Bought and installed 20 "Spin Bin" trash receptacles with \$2,000 in Association funds, \$2,000 in a city matching grant, and a \$600 allocation from Erie County Legislator George Holt Jr.
- Obtained \$2,500 in funding from Erie County Legislator Judith Fisher for street cleaning and grounds maintenance equipment.
- Supervised Mayor's Summer Youth and "workfare" assistants in cleaning the streets, and paid \$1,400 in worker's compensation premiums for the adults.
- Obtained \$900 in funds from Legislator Holt for hanging flower baskets.
- Planted the community garden at Main and Allen twice – once in the spring with annuals and once in the autumn with bulbs at a total cost of over \$1,000.

## CRIME PREVENTION

- Was co-applicant with the Buffalo Police Department for a successful \$157,000 federal "Partners in Problem Solving" grant to fight prostitution.
- Continued as fiscal agent for the School for Johns, another anti-prostitution initiative.
- Conducted citizen crime patrols.
- Obtained a \$4,500 grant from State Sen. Anthony Nanula's Buffalo Neighborhood Crime Prevention Program, which paid utilities for our C.O.P.S. Station, purchased equipment for the crime patrols, and paid for street security during Christmas Shopping Nights in Allentown.

## HOUSING AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

- Worked with building inspectors to bring numerous problem properties into code compliance.
- Conducted the Allentown Alive! event that highlighted living opportunities in Allentown.
- Won a \$450 city matching grant to help pay for a booklet to be sent to all Allentown property owners to explain the historic district requirements. (To be completed in 1998.)

## BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

- Conducted a survey of neighborhood residents to determine the kinds of new businesses they would support as the first step in developing a comprehensive business plan.
- Sponsored holiday promotions, including buggy rides and Christmas tree sales, to boost street traffic and shopping.

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

- Hosted the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Buffalo Blizzard Ball, a glitzy social event that put the spotlight on elegance in Allentown.
- Conducted an incredibly successful Tour of Historic Homes/Taste of Allentown that brought over 1,000 people into the neighborhood to view extraordinary architecture and sample food from Allentown restaurants.
- Mapped plans to create a web site, which will open in 1998.

# 1997 Financial Overview

Cash basis, Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, 1997

## REVENUES

Membership donations		\$ 6,443
Allentown Village Society donation		900
Chase Manhattan Bank grant		1,500
Other donations		545
City Block Grant funding		25,493
City Matching Grants		4,875
Erie County legislators' funding		4,000
NY State crime prevention grant		1,297
Taxable sales of T-shirts, etc.		967
FUNDRAISING:		
Annual dinner receipts	1,605	
Less expenses	1,291	314
Blizzard Ball receipts	11,805	
Less expenses	8,717	3,088
Tour of Homes receipts	10,250	
Less expenses	4,086	6,164
Hot Dog Stand receipts	4,877	
Less expenses	2,773	2,104
TOTAL ALLENTOWN ASSOCIATION REVENUES:		<u>\$ 57,690</u>
SCHOOL FOR JOHNS REVENUES		\$ 13,285
TOTAL ASSOCIATION AND SCHOOL FOR JOHNS REVENUES		<u>\$ 70,975</u>

## OPERATING EXPENSES

Executive Director salary, benefits		\$ 21,312
Building maintenance, operation		6,615
Printing, copying, postage		4,356
Administration		2,759
Office Supplies		1,352
Equipment		1,218
Sales taxes paid		363
PROGRAMMING EXPENSES:		
Beautification		8,235
Business Development		2,011
Crime Prevention		2,582
Housing and Historic Preservation		620
TOTAL ALLENTOWN ASSOCIATION EXPENSES		<u>\$ 51,423</u>
TOTAL SCHOOL FOR JOHNS EXPENSES		\$ 6,809
TOTAL ASSOCIATION AND SCHOOL FOR JOHNS EXPENSES		<u>\$ 58,232</u>
ALLENTOWN ASSOCIATION OPERATING SURPLUS		\$ 6,267
SCHOOL FOR JOHNS OPERATING SURPLUS		\$ 6,476

# 77 New Members Join the Association

Seventy-seven new members joined the Allentown Association in 1997.

By "new" we mean people who have never been members before, or people who are rejoining after an absence of three years or more. A member can be an individual, a family, or a business or other organization.

This brings total membership to the 400 range. Membership in the Association is the single most important way the people of the neighborhood can do something to improve Allentown.

These are the new members:

## Contributing Members (\$100 level)

Rev. Robert E. Mack, St. Louis Church  
173 North Street Associates, 175 North St.

## Sustaining Memberships (\$50 level)

L. Mancuso & M. Stenger, 125 Edward St. 2E  
Harold E. McNeil, 65 Cottage St.  
Michael Petrillo, 455 Franklin St. #2  
Debra C. Robinson, 9 Mayfair Lane  
Phillip & Margaret Thomas, 146 N. Pearl St.  
Louis E. & Mary M. Wagner, 17 Irving Place

## Business Memberships (\$25 level)

Allen Street Dance Studio, 85 Allen St.  
Edward L. Arcara CPA, 465 Franklin St.  
Best Western Inn-Downtown, 510 Delaware Ave.  
Career Blazers Learning Center, 584 Delaware Ave.  
College Club of Buffalo, 264 Summer St.  
Fiddle Heads restaurant, 62-66 Allen Street  
First Choice Rentals & Sales, 80 Elmwood Ave.  
Hair to Go ... Natural, 93 Allen Street  
Hamlin House Restaurant, 432 Franklin St.  
L'ete, 65 Elmwood Ave.  
Mad Designs, 68 Allen St.  
St. Mary's Square Condominiums, 125 Edward St.  
Squeaky Wheel/Buffalo Media Resources,  
175 Elmwood Ave.  
Tres Beau Interiors, 789 Delaware Ave.  
United Church of Faith, 220 North St.  
YWCA of Western New York, 245 North St.

## Individual and Family Memberships

C. Teo & Jennifer Balbach, 176 Park St.  
Thomas & Francesca Behr, 18 Arlington Place  
Sally H. Bender, 404 Franklin St.  
Alex & Lisa Blair, 44 Mariner St.  
Abe Booke, 57 1/2 Trinity Place  
Jennifer Briggs Braswell, 167 College St.  
Maureen A. Carter, 112 Mariner St.  
Mary Chan, 33 Wadsworth St.

Gail Donaldson, 175 North St. #702  
William F. Donaldson, 115 Elmwood Ave. #1  
Henry "Joe" Donley, 26 Irving Place Apt. B  
James Evans, 268 North St. #8  
Jerry & Rita Gallagher, 201 Crescent Ave.  
Greg & Ann Gerwitz, 7440 Boston State Road,  
Hamburg

William Godfrey, 175 North St. #707  
Gretchan Grobe, 26 Irving Place #1  
Adrian Guadalupe, 84 Mariner St. #8  
Richard J. Gutta, 228 Allen St.  
Barbara Ellen Handschu, 20 St. John's Place  
Isabel Hartenberg, 45 Trinity Place (Rear)  
John P. Higgins, 121 Park St.  
Thomas Higgins, 129 College St.  
Linda Hunter, 65 Mariner St.  
Elizabeth Kauffman, 5 Orton Place  
Stanley Kulansky, 309 North St. #39  
Frederick A. Keller, 168 Mariner St.  
John Kelly, 74 Mariner St.  
Nancy Kissler, 58 Park St.  
Bruce Kogan, 38 St. John's Place (2nd Floor)  
Alan Lemanski & Mark Marcus, 157 Park St.  
Jill M. Lemke, 20 St. Louis Place #1  
Elizabeth Loes, 338 Maryland St.  
Sally A. Lombardo, 291 West Tupper St.  
Charles & Claity Massey, 44 Elmwood Ave.  
Kimberly A. & Darren P. McKee, 75 Mariner St.  
Mary M. Myszkiewicz, 65 New Amsterdam Ave.  
Bonnie Northrop & Jerry McGuire,  
529 Fairway Drive, Lewiston  
Mr. & Mrs. Edward F. Norton, 309 North St. #31  
Tad O'Rourke, 126 Chatham Ave.  
Alexandra E. Priebe & G. Andrew Love Jr.,  
414 Virginia St.  
Jean M. Rack, 309 North St. #11  
Michael-Martin Redmond, 125 Edward St., #11  
Kristin Richardson, 136 College St.  
Louis & Debra Rivera, 347 Maryland St.  
Amy Schwartzott, 567 Delaware Ave.  
Louise Scott, 35 Days Park  
Frederick & Ann Seidl, 69 Symphony Circle  
Jane W. Skinner, 175 North St. #508  
Elisabeth Taylor, 10 Mayfair Lane  
Mary A. Tomaselli, 224 Allen Street  
Patricia Van Remmen, 756 Niagara St.  
Savannah A. Wallard, 87 Mariner St. #601  
Paul J. Weiss, 309 North St. #8

*To all our new members: Your neighbors who volunteer their time to carry out the activities of the Association deeply appreciate your support. Thank you very much for joining.*