

Meet Burt & Barbara: The Inspiration for Our Gifts of the Heart Holiday Drive



One of our signature holiday drives is *Burt & Barbara's Gifts of the Heart*. This drive ensures that older adults, formerly homeless veterans, and adults with intellectual disabilities who run the risk of being alone during the holidays will not be forgotten. Small and thoughtful gifts like warm hats and gloves, blankets, body lotion, or slippers can go a long way to make someone feel cared for.

Burt & Barbara, the couple who inspired this drive, spent nearly half of their lives at the Willowbrook State School on Staten Island, an institution that neglected and abused its 6,000 residents for years. After Willowbrook closed down and Burt & Barbara came into the care of Volunteers of America in 1978, they met, fell in love and married in 1985. **Watch a video about their incredible story.**

[LEARN MORE](#)

A New York Winter's Eve



The annual Gala is Volunteers of America-Greater New York's largest and most important fundraiser of the year, and will be held at The Plaza on **Tuesday, December 5, 2017**. Secure a table at this event to show your support of VOA-GNY's life-changing -- often life-saving -- work.

The Gala will feature a reception, dinner, and exciting live and silent auctions. We have already received donations of auction items from **Salvatore Ferragamo, Elie Tahari, and The**

New York Yankees. Soon our **pre-event auction website** will be available so you can bid on items even if you won't be able to attend the event December 5th.

[RESERVE A TABLE](#)



Toys for the Holidays

You can continue to support some of the same children who benefited from your generosity during Operation Backpack® by participating in Toys for the Holidays!

Collect new and unwrapped toys for children residing in our shelters and students at the **Bronx Early Learning Center**, many of whom also live in poverty. We have a sample shopping list online full of ideas [here](#). We also have the teenagers covered -- check out these **gift cards** that they'll love!

Send us a photo of your team collecting or shopping for these toys and we will laud you on our social media channels!

[Get More Details](#)



Hope & Hearth Food Vouchers

Continuing a century-old tradition of ensuring New Yorkers in need have a special meal during the holidays, we are fundraising to give \$25 vouchers to individuals and families in our care. The vouchers are redeemable for food at supermarkets, so families can cook a holiday meal that is special to them, rather than rely on what is available at a food pantry or soup kitchens.

We received our first donation of \$20K last week, but we'd like to provide vouchers to as many people as possible. Any amount helps!

[Donate Here](#)

Partner Spotlight: Deloitte

A longtime partner, and this year's honoree at our annual **Gala**, Deloitte supports our work throughout the year and recently sponsored two special events for us. A group came to one of our domestic violence shelters to host a Halloween Party last month (pictured) and also hosted a Veteran's Day dinner last week at one of our vets residences in Harlem. Thanks again for your support!



Next Generation Network

Calling New York City's young professionals to join the newly-launched Next Generation Network (NGN). The NGN is dedicated to raising awareness, volunteering, and fundraising on behalf of Volunteers of America-Greater New York.



Support our work, while also building the next generation of influential volunteers and philanthropists.

For more information on getting involved with the NGN, please [click here](#).

To learn more, contact:

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