MISSION STATEMENT

The New Buffalo Institute works to align the research, service, and educational programming of Canisius College toward Buffalo’s East Side neighborhoods, including our own Hamlin Park neighborhood. We embrace our goal of collaborating with faculty, students, and staff to affirm our commitment to social justice through service and community-based learning and providing a welcoming place for community partners to convene, voice concerns and exchange ideas. Informed by our Catholic, Jesuit tradition, the NBI is committed to finding new ways to address the challenges confronting the neighborhoods of the East Side and working in an educated solidarity with our community partners.

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Year two of the New Buffalo Institute yielded empowering new initiatives and the continuation of innovations from our inaugural efforts. We continue to provide exciting opportunities for our students, faculty, and staff to learn and engage with our neighbors on the East Side of Buffalo.

The challenges of Covid-19 remained, however, as 2021 began with a delayed start to the semester in hopes of fending off its effects. Thirteen percent of our students chose fully face-to-face classes, while the majority opted to learn partially online. Faculty adjusted to multi-modal instruction and most campus programming maintained virtual platforms. A Covid resurgence remained a lingering concern into the summer of 2021. The fall of 2021 brought renewed excitement as students returned to in-person instruction with a larger number housed in campus residence halls. The students’ enthusiasm and energy helped to revive programs that had moved to virtual implementation in 2020 and 2021.

The uncertainties of Covid-19 still loom for our school and community nonprofit partners. Lost revenue from events and fundraisers in 2020 and 2021 led to financial problems and concerns about how to continue their programs. We worked to keep programs evolving with ongoing and extensive virtual team/partner communications, and community outreach.

Our partnerships with our neighbors in Hamlin Park and on the East Side of Buffalo continue to strengthen. We applied for and successfully received grants from four funders for a community garden on college-owned vacant lots on Jefferson Avenue in partnership with local non-profit organizations and faith communities.

We provided an educational program on accessing credit and marketing to support 25 multicultural business owners from the East Side. M&T Bank distributed $10,000 in prize money to the pitch competition winners.
The New Buffalo Institute team supported community leaders; provided input on streetscape and safety improvements in the Main, Delavan, and Jefferson triangle, and participated in community discussions surrounding health equity, restoring green infrastructure, and adding a trail system through the East Side on the site of Scajaquada creek. We continue to connect students with non-profit organizations through community-based learning courses and service programs.

We are pleased with our progress breaking down barriers between the college and the community and improving the reputation of the college as a place where our neighbors feel heard, included, and welcome. We look forward to more exciting collaborations in 2022.

A Glimpse Into Year 3
As part of our planning efforts, we are exploring adopting a more concerted place-based approach to community partnerships that would reduce the number of community partners and enable Canisius to improve its focus on the organizations with the greatest needs and where we can have the greatest impact. Refer to Figure 1.

Within a two-mile radius of the College there are 13 social service agencies, 17 schools, 7 community centers, and 32 faith-based organizations. Concentrating on a smaller footprint would maximize our impact within our community.

Figure 1. Canisius Community Map
Click the map for a list of our identified neighbors
NBI—OUR MISSION BROUGHT TO LIFE
ADVANCING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Success Snapshots

Launched M & T Bank Multicultural Business Owners Innovation Lab. In collaboration with David Femi, M&T Bank Director of Multicultural Banking, and with the participation of George Palumbo and Craig Rogers, professors of economics, Mary Owusu, assistant professor of marketing and Sara Vescio, director of the Women’s Business Center, NBI conducted a six-week course to help 25 small business from the East Side of Buffalo create business plans, gain access to credit, and learn to market their companies. Concluding with a pitch competition, selected businesses won $10,000 in seed money.

Assumed Directorship of Western New York Prosperity Fellowship. The Fellowship Program assists undergraduate and graduate students at Canisius College and UB who are actively preparing for careers that further economic development and growth in the Western New York area. The Fellowship Program combines financial assistance in the form of scholarships with paid, credit-bearing internships to assist Fellows in acquiring both academic and practical experiences in their intended professions.

Partnered with Women’s Business Center (WBC) at Canisius College. Participated as an “influencer” in the Allyship program-- a six-week program matching influencers with business owners to expand their networks and connect them with resources to grow their businesses.

Leading into 2022

- Continue Multicultural Business Owners Innovation Lab in collaboration with M&T bank. Launch Cohort # 2.
- Create internships for Wehle School of Business students with multicultural business owners on the East Side of Buffalo.
ADVANCING NEIGHBORHOOD ENGAGEMENT AND REVITALIZATION

Success Snapshots

Garnered $13,500 in local grants to begin work on Jefferson Ave. garden. Canisius College donated four vacant lots to the community for development as a community garden and space for convening. Neighborhood residents, parishioners at the Upper Room Church of God in Christ, Mayor’s Summer Youth program and Canisius students created garden beds as an initial step toward creating a full vegetable and flower garden with spaces for meditation, reflection, and community events. We are working with master gardener Gail Wells and Rita Hubbard Robinson of Neuwater Associates to bring to fruition our vision of an inviting green space that can also provide fresh produce to the food pantry at the Upper Room Church. Requests for an additional $10,000 are pending.

Supported the African American Health Equity Task Force with resources for the Walk of Healing. Canisius’ Physician Assistant and Pre-Health students work in partnership with the task force to address health disparities on the East Side of Buffalo. Vans shuttled participants from the Freedom Wall to the African American Heritage Corridor. Students participated in the walk and celebratory activities.

Created seats at the table with the City of Buffalo on improvements to the Jefferson Avenue streetscape. The parking ramp demolition at Jefferson and E. Delavan provides opportunities to reimagine the streetscape on Jefferson Avenue between Main St. and E. Utica St. Students, faculty and staff in partnership with community members provided ideas and refined plans for improvements with City of Buffalo planners and landscape architects.

Installed crosswalks and striping at Florida St. and Donaldson Ave. Working with Go Bike Buffalo, Deyron Tabb of PUSH Buffalo, Oswaldo Mestre, Director of Citizen Services, and the Commissioner of Public Works, we safely connected Hamlin Park School with playground and exercise equipment on Florida St. The city also installed speed humps on Florida and Northland to calm...
traffic in the residential area near the school and improve safety for students.

**Erected free little libraries at three locations in Hamlin Park.** Partners included Patrick Cook, Principal at Hamlin Park School, Hamlin Park Taxpayers Association, Canisius College WNY Residency Fellows, Grace Church, Masten Park Councilman Ulysees Wingo and Masten Park Free Little Library coordinators.

**Deepened community engagement at the East West Community Garden on Lafayette Avenue.** College staff and community members cultivated garden beds and donated produce to First Fruits Food Pantry at Lincoln Church. A garden closing celebration with neighborhood friends was held on November 20.

**Continued working with the African American Health Equity Task Force.** Connected Canisius’ Physician Assistant and pre-health programs with Kimberly Slew Ngambe, Executive Director of the Health Equity Task Force which resulted in collaboration on Health Equity Week, a series of educational and service activities.

**Leading into 2022**

- Continue to build the Jefferson Ave. Garden with remaining grant funds.
- Explore possibilities for future collaboration with the college’s pre-health and Physician Assistant programs to support the work of the African American Health Equity Task Force.
- Coordinate with Niagara Greenway, Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper, Scajacquada Corridor Coalition, and Olmsted Parks Conservancy to assist with efforts to restore green infrastructure on Humboldt Parkway and Scajacquada Creek, adjacent to our campus.
ADVANCING URBAN EDUCATION INITIATIVES WITH THE CENTER FOR URBAN EDUCATION

Success Snapshots

Launched second cohort of Emerging Health Care Scholars program. Funded by First Niagara Foundation and KeyBank, this enrichment program, designed to encourage high school students to enter health care careers, is conducted by Canisius College Pre-Health students who work with Math, Science Technology School, Bennett High School and School #45 students.

Created a partnership with Buffalo Public Schools (BPS) Community Schools Saturday academies programs. Canisius student volunteers provided enrichment programs at Hamlin Park, Lydia T. Wright and Burkard Vocational Schools.

Increased student teacher placements in Buffalo Public Schools. To help BPS students find success and to share best practices of the School of Education, Canisius continued to place pre-service teaching candidates and student teachers in Community Schools in the City of Buffalo.

Created instructional modules for WNY United Against Drugs and Alcohol Leadership into Tomorrow Summer program. Provided 130 rising 7th and 8th graders from Buffalo Public and suburban schools with virtual campus tours with admissions guides and gifted Canisius swag. Also, conducted career exploration sessions with our Career Services Staff.

Inaugurated a Juneteenth celebration and community clean-up. Partnered with Office of Diversity and Inclusion, REACH Buffalo, and City of Buffalo Office of Citizen Services to hold a neighborhood cleanup followed by an educational program on the history and meaning of Juneteenth conducted by Tradition Keepers: Black Storytellers of WNY. Over 100 faculty, staff, students and neighborhood residents participated.
Leading into 2022

- Continue Emerging Health Scholars Program, launching Cohort #3 and begin a tutoring program.
- Host Summer Leaders in Training Program of Western New York United Against Drug and Alcohol Use on Canisius Campus.
- Continue Partnerships with BPS teacher education programs and Saturday Academy enrichment programs.

ADVANCING COMMUNITY SERVICE AND COMMUNITY BASED LEARNING

Success Snapshots

Virtual Service Week (April 2021)
More than 350 people registered for VSW, including over 250 athletes who participated in clean ups in Hamlin Park, Tifft Farm, East-West Garden, West Side Rowing Club, The Foundry, People’s Park, and Delaware Park. Students also contributed to the Food Pantry at Lincoln Church and recorded story readings to share with our community partners.

Virtual Service Week- Health Equity (October 2021)
Led by the Physician Assistant Program, more than 200 people worked with service partners, including St. Luke’s Mission of Mercy, First Fruits Food Pantry, Buffalo Community Fridge, Empower, Most Valuable Parents (MVP) Organization, Boys and Girls Clubs, Delavan Grider Community Center, Journey’s End.

Partnered with Upper Room Church of God in Christ to host community activities on our campus. Programming included vaccination pop-up clinics, community fairs, worship services, exercise classes, movie nights, and food giveaways.
Leading into 2022

- Encourage and recognize achievement in courses that connect students with our community through the Engaged Scholarship program.
- Coordinate and centralize service offerings for students (virtually and in person.)
- Identify, communicate and collaborate with diverse community partners involved in neighborhood improvement initiatives.

INITIATIVES FOR YEAR 3: 2022

Integrate WNY Prosperity Fellowship into the work of the New Buffalo Institute.

Allocate resources of the College to help implement recommendations from The Harder We Run: The State of Black Buffalo in 1990 and the Present.

Direct programs and service opportunities to our Place Based partners.

Continue to provide input to the City of Buffalo, Region Central and Scajacquada Corridor Coalition as they develop plans for restoring Humboldt Parkway and improving the Jefferson Ave. streetscapes.

HEARTFELT THANK YOU

Our sincere thanks go to our generous funders. Our work would not be possible without the support and enthusiasm of an anonymous donor and the following sponsors.
APPENDIX

SOCIAL PROFILES

Facebook /NewBuffaloInstitute
Twitter @NBICanisius
Instagram @NewBuffaloInstitute

PROGRAM FUNDING SNAPSHOT

FY 2020 $5,550.
FY 2021 $19,050.

Emerging Scholars Program
First Niagara Foundation/ KeyBank $5,550

Jefferson Avenue Community Garden
City of Buffalo - Love Your Block Grant $1,500
Hope Buffalo Grant $3,000
Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus Spark Grant $4,000
Josephine Goodyear Foundation $5,000
Masten District Neighborhood Revitalization Grant* $10,000

*pending, therefore not included in the $19,050.
COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Through NBI, Canisius currently supports local schools with a variety of initiatives, including student teacher placements, afterschool tutoring and Saturday Academy enrichment programs.

Our partner numbers increased from 46 schools to 48 schools, from 2 to 4 Block Clubs and from 58 non-profit organizations to 70 non-profit organizations. 50% of which work primarily with BIPOC populations.

The full list appears on the links below and/or on the following pages.
# Public Schools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PS 17 Early Childhood Center</th>
<th>PS 18 Dr. Antonia Pantoja Community School</th>
<th>PS 27 Hillery Park Elementary School</th>
<th>BPS 30 Frank A Sedita Academy</th>
<th>PS 31 Harriet Ross Tubman School</th>
<th>BPS 33 Bilingual Center</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PS 45 International School</td>
<td>PS 50 North Park Community School</td>
<td>PS 53 Community School</td>
<td>PS 54 Dr. George E. Blackman School of Excellence</td>
<td>PS 61 Arthur O. Eve School of Distinction</td>
<td>PS 64 Olmsted School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PS 67 Discovery School</td>
<td>PS 72 Lorraine Elementary School</td>
<td>PS 74 Hamlin Park Academy</td>
<td>PS 76 Herman Badillo Bilingual Academy</td>
<td>PS 79 Grabiarz School of Excellence</td>
<td>PS 80 Highgate Heights School</td>
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<tr>
<td>PS 89 Dr. Lydia T. Wright School of Excellence</td>
<td>PS 93 Southside Elementary School</td>
<td>BPS 397 Harvey Austin School</td>
<td>PS 99 Makowski Early Childhood Center</td>
<td>PS 156 Frederick Law Olmsted School</td>
<td>PS 192 Buffalo Academy for Visual and Performing Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PS 195 City Honors School</td>
<td>PS 197 Math Science Technology Prep</td>
<td>BPS #198 International Prep School @ BPS 18</td>
<td>PS 207 Lafayette International High School</td>
<td>PS 302 Emerson School of Hospitality</td>
<td>PS 304 Hutchinson Central Technical High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PS 305 McKinley High School</td>
<td>PS 363 Bennett School of Innovative Technology</td>
<td>Lancaster High School</td>
<td>Heim Middle School</td>
<td>Glendale Elementary School</td>
<td>Sweet Home Middle/High Schools</td>
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# Charter, Private & Parochial Schools

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<tr>
<th>Bishop Timon-St. Jude High School</th>
<th>Buffalo United Charter</th>
<th>Cantalician Center</th>
<th>Charter School for Applied Technologies</th>
<th>Elmwood Village Charter School</th>
<th>King Center Charter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NONPROFITS — SOCIAL SERVICES</td>
<td>Boys and Girls Clubs of Buffalo</td>
<td>Child and Family Services</td>
<td>City Mission</td>
<td>Community Action Organization</td>
<td>Compass House</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crisis Services</td>
<td>Delavan Grider Community Center</td>
<td>ENERGY Tutoring</td>
<td>Evergreen Health</td>
<td>First Fruits Food Pantry</td>
<td>FeedMore WNY</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friends of Night People</td>
<td>Habitat for Humanity</td>
<td>Harvest House</td>
<td>Hearts and Hands</td>
<td>Homeless Alliance of Western New York</td>
<td>Jericho Road Community Health Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jewish Family Services</td>
<td>Journey’s End Refugee Services</td>
<td>Lt. Matt Urban Hope Center</td>
<td>People Against Trafficking Humans (P.A.T.H.)</td>
<td>Pediatric Clinic on Allen St.</td>
<td>People, Inc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vive La Casa</td>
<td>Salvation Army</td>
<td>St. Luke’s Mission of Mercy</td>
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<p>| NONPROFITS — OTHER            |                                |                          |             |                              |               |
| African American Health Equity Task Force | African American Heritage Corridor | Batavia Detention Center | Black Achievers Museum | Black Lives Resist in the Rust | Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper |
| Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy | Buffalo United Front          | Buffalo Zoo              | Clean Air Coalition | Court Watch                  | East West Community Garden |
| Erie County Restorative Justice Coalition | The Foundry                  | Institute for Autism Research | International Institute of Buffalo | HOPE Buffalo   | Humboldt House               |</p>
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<tr>
<th>Jefferson Avenue Community Garden</th>
<th>Juneteenth of Buffalo</th>
<th>Justice for Migrant Families</th>
<th>Kino Border Initiative</th>
<th>Lincoln Memorial United Methodist Church</th>
<th>Most Valuable Parents of Buffalo</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mt. Olive Church</td>
<td>None Like You Community Outreach</td>
<td>Open Buffalo</td>
<td>Partnership for the Public Good</td>
<td>People’s Park</td>
<td>Project Access to Affordable Homes</td>
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<tr>
<td>REACH Buffalo</td>
<td>Restore of Communities Assoc. (ROCC)</td>
<td>Say Yes to Education</td>
<td>Sleep in Heavenly Peace</td>
<td>Stand Up for Racial Justice</td>
<td>The Teacher’s Desk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tifft Farm</td>
<td>Upper Room Church of God in Christ</td>
<td>Urban Fruits and Veggies</td>
<td>Volunteer Lawyers Project</td>
<td>Westminster Economic Development Initiative (WEDI)</td>
<td>West Side Bazaar</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Young Adult Lift Transitions Program (Y.A.L.T.)

**BLOCK CLUBS**

| Beverly Road Block Club | Blaine Avenue Block Club | Hamlin Park Community and Taxpayers Association Club | Oxford Square Block |