



PO Box 700
Jamestown, NY 14702-0700
Phone (716) 661-1680
Fax (716) 661-1617

**ELECTRIC
DISTRICT HEAT
WATER
WASTEWATER
SOLID WASTE**

NEWS RELEASE: For immediate release
CONTACT: Rebecca Robbins 661-1680

July 27, 2017

Jamestown BPU “Cents for St. Susan’s” Campaign Raises Record \$17,346.70 for Soup Kitchen

Jamestown Board of Public Utilities (BPU) employees and major donors met recently to celebrate donations raised by the community during the 2017 annual BPU “Cents for St. Susan’s” campaign.

The BPU fund drive result this year totals \$17,346.70 to benefit the St. Susan Center soup kitchen. The amount of money contributed in 2017 brings the cumulative amount raised, in eighteen years of BPU campaigns, to \$195,481.25. The soup kitchen is located at 31 Water Street in the Gateway Center building.

Personnel representing major campaign sponsors were on hand for the announcement, including: KeyBank at the \$2,000 level; Alfie’s Restaurant, Asplundh, Boyle Motor Sales, Century 21/Turner Brokers, Chautauqua Chemicals Co., Inc., Falconer Printing and Design, Inc., Freed Maxick Accountants, The Legend Group with Lou Deppas, National Fuel, Northwest Bank, Shults Auto Group, Slone-Melhuish Insurance, Valu Hearing Services, Weinberg Financial Group and Wright, Wright and Hampton Attorneys, all at the \$500 level. DFT Communications, Attorney Dale C. Robbins and TJ’s Plumbing & Heating contributed as one-newsletter sponsors. The Jamestown Post Journal and the Media One Stations provided generous media coverage.

BPU General Manager David Leathers expressed appreciation to the major sponsors and all those in the community who contributed to the success of the fund drive.

“We never set a goal for this campaign, hoping that the community will come forth in the best way it can in any given year,” said David L. Leathers, BPU General Manager. “We have raised funds above the \$17,000 level for four years in a row, a significant level of community support for which we are extremely grateful.”

“We had enormous help from our major sponsors again this year as well as from many local residents who contributed through the mail, added gifts to BPU bill payments and dropped coins in canisters around the community,” noted BPU Communications Coordinator Becky Robbins who organizes the campaign. “The BPU and our sponsors are happy to help St. Susan Center feed the increased numbers of visitors to the Center again this year.”

St. Susan Executive Director Jeffrey Smith added, “The St. Susan Center to date this year, as of June 30, has served 59,414 meals, at a rate of one meal per person per day. This number compares to 58,093 meals served by June 30, 2016.”

“We are grateful to the Jamestown BPU and all its campaign sponsors for helping us feed our guests at the soup kitchen,” continued Smith. “Our meal numbers increase each year and we thank all of you for assisting us in meeting this challenge.

The BPU has organized annual “Cents for St. Susan’s” campaigns since 2000 as a way to serve the community. Major sponsors comprise a large segment of the fund drive, but substantial amounts are raised through mail-in gifts from customers, local businesses and spare change contributed in the nearly 100 canisters placed around the community each April - July. Significant amounts were raised this year

at tag days conducted at Brigiotta's, Sam's Club and Walmart and through donations of redeemable bottles and cans. Businesses permitting canister placement at their facilities make a big difference in the campaign.

###