

# Perinton Ecumenical Ministries, Inc. and Ecumenical Ministries of Perinton, Inc.

Advent House, Fairport Good Neighbor Fund, Perinton Congregations for Flower City Habitat for Humanity,  
Prison Ministry of Upstate New York, Stop the Stigma ROC  
P.O. Box 733, Fairport, New York 14450 · pememp.org

## **Annual Report to Our Members** **July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Boards of Directors of Perinton Ecumenical Ministries, Inc. (PEM) and Ecumenical Ministries of Perinton, Inc. (EMP) provide this annual report to the 13-member churches that established these not-for-profit corporations. Each member church appoints one director to the PEM and EMP boards, and additional directors who are supportive of the ministries are appointed from the community at large. We hope this report will help our church communities become more familiar with the important work performed this past year by each of the sponsored ministries of PEM and EMP.

### **PERINTON ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES, INC. (PEM) - ADVENT HOUSE**

PEM is a New York not-for-profit corporation established in 1990 to own and operate Advent House, a comfort care home at 1010 Moseley Road. Advent House provides a caring living environment for two terminally ill residents who can no longer be cared for in their own homes, and assists those residents and their families to cope with end-of-life issues. Three years ago PEM created Sweet Charity Resale Boutique in the Whitney Town Center in Perinton as an additional source of ongoing funding to sustain Advent House operations. The ministry is carried out day to day by a dedicated staff and supported by scores of volunteers who provide hands-on care at Advent House, or serve as sales, sorting, receiving and delivery personnel for donated goods at Sweet Charity.

From July 2019 until the required shutdown due to COVID-19 in March 2020, Advent House cared for fifteen residents. Based on recommendations from multiple health care agencies and care providers, no residents will be accepted until at least January 2021. The general consensus is that there are too many unknowns and that it is not prudent to reopen at this time. The wonderful Annual Gala fundraising event was also cancelled until April 2021, but the annual golf tournament in September was fully subscribed. Sweet Charity was able to reopen in June 2020 with staff only, and following revised procedures and adhering to CDC guidelines. This boutique shop remains a vital financial support for the ministry. Representatives of Advent House are always eager to visit churches, participate in Mission Sundays, provide information about Advent House and welcome new volunteers. Contact Glenda Hastings, Executive Director, at 223-6112, email [theadventhouse@frontiernet.net](mailto:theadventhouse@frontiernet.net) or, for more information, visit [TheAdventHouse.org](http://TheAdventHouse.org). Advent House's United Way Donor number is 1800.

### **ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES OF PERINTON, INC. (EMP)**

This corporation serves as the not-for-profit legal entity encompassing Fairport Good Neighbor Fund, Perinton Congregations for Flower City Habitat for Humanity, Prison Ministries of Upstate New

York and Stop the Stigma ROC. With financial support from its member churches, EMP covers the costs of insurance premiums, tax reporting requirements, informational brochures, and website updates. EMP continues to be open to sponsoring new ministries. The work done during the past year by each of the EMP ministries is summarized below.

**FAIRPORT GOOD NEIGHBOR FUND (FGNF)** was established as an emergency fund under the auspices of the Perinton Pastoral Association. The FGNF administers the monetary donations provided by community churches and organizations, with leadership provided by Frank DeChalais, who serves as the FGNF Treasurer.

Residents of the zip code 14450 or church members apply for emergency assistance to a member church that determines if it is an emergency. The treasurer interviews and verifies the applicant and the vendor that is owed funds. The treasurer makes payments directly to the vendor, with a maximum of \$750.00 per applicant in the past 12 month period.

This year FGNF carried over \$619.51 from the previous fiscal year (2018-2019) and received many generous contributions, totaling \$15,987.62. Emergency distributions totaled \$14,032.88, leaving a balance on June 30, 2020 of \$2,574.25. The new debit/credit card was used five times to avoid late payment charges for our applicants.

FGNF had 39 applicants this year, compared to 66 applicants last year. The pandemic was the likely cause of the lower number of applications, but many more requests are expected soon due to the anticipated expiration of restrictions on landlord and utility collection actions. Even though all applicants received a stimulus payment, many still will not have funds to catch up on housing expenses.

Thank you for continuing to meet this need among our community neighbors. Donations to FGNF may be sent directly to: Frank DeChalais, Treasurer c/o 21 High Gate Trail Unit 4, Fairport, NY 14450.

**PERINTON CONGREGATIONS FOR FLOWER CITY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY (PC-FCHH)** was started in 1997 when Flower City Habitat for Humanity (the Habitat affiliate for Monroe County) contacted EMP to request sponsorship support. PC-FCHH soon became an official ministry of EMP. Habitat for Humanity believes that no matter who you are, or where you come from, everyone deserves a decent place to live. Habitat homeowners help build their own homes alongside volunteers and pay an affordable mortgage. Seeking to put God's love into action, Flower City Habitat for Humanity brings partners together to build homeownership, communities, and hope.

PC-FCHH began this past year with a plan to build its eighth house in Rochester. The \$65,000 needed to commit to the build was raised and the volunteers were about to enter the construction phase when COVID-19 struck. As a result, FCHH suspended all home construction and only recently restarted work. The current plan is for PC-FCHH to build the next home in 2021, depending on the status of COVID-19.

Thank you to the EMP member churches for their generous financial support, especially those who include funds for Perinton Congregations for Flower City Habitat for Humanity in their annual budgets. For more information, please visit the ministry's new website at [PerintonHabitat.org](http://PerintonHabitat.org). (Mark Stevens, Chair)

**PRISON MINISTRY OF UPSTATE NEW YORK (PMUNY)** - This has been a year like no other. Bad news seems so common these days. We are thankful that in such times we can still be the bearers of the Good News!

During the last 12 months PMUNY volunteers held three Residents Encounter Christ (REC) retreats in three different male prisons in Upstate NY (Attica, Groveland, Wende), and three Fully Alive (FA) Retreats at Albion Women's Prison, and weekly Houses of Healing (HOH) sessions inside the Monroe County Jail (last session was 3/4/2020). In all, 273 incarcerated men/women have participated in these programs and approximately 122 volunteers have facilitated those events.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the need for social distancing, all programs were brought to an abrupt halt in the beginning of March 2020. During the time since then, PMUNY leadership has worked on updating the website and continuing to spread "The Word" to others who may be interested in supporting this ministry.

However, more help is always needed and welcome! Please contact PMUNY to discuss how a little bit of time could benefit the world in a big way. There is a place for all to serve...a place to find meaning and purpose in these challenging times. Check the new website for PMUNY at [pmuny.org](http://pmuny.org) to discover lots of GOOD NEWS!

God Bless You and THANK YOU for your faith community's support of Prison Ministry of Upstate New York. Prison Ministry of Upstate New York, PO Box 10106, Rochester NY 14610. 585-633-0184. [pmunyorg@gmail.com](mailto:pmunyorg@gmail.com) (Joyce McAndrews, Ministry Leader).

**STOP THE STIGMA ROC** – STS-ROC is an organization that seeks to promote suicide prevention and raise awareness about mental health, specifically in youth (ages 10-25). Stop the Stigma began in 2016 and became a sponsored ministry of EMP in 2017. STS-ROC has an advisory board made up of youth and adults.

Highlights of the 2019-20 year began on September 14, 2019 by heading up Fairport High School's recognition of National Suicide Prevention Day. Throughout the Fall, members of the volunteer team spoke or manned resource tables at awareness raising events such as walk-a-thons, forums, churches and high schools.

In January the leadership team spent a weekend retreat reflecting on the mission of STS-ROC and planning for programming events for 2020. Regrettably, the onset of the pandemic prevented the major event of the year – the annual Awareness Concert at the Perinton Amphitheatre scheduled for June. Thankfully, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Jordyn Keeley Memorial Art and Writing Competition was held on February 29, 2020 with a strong showing of interest and support.

In June, with COVID-19 impacting everyone, STS-ROC issued a social media challenge to its followers. Each person was asked to connect with three people, checking in on how they were doing mentally – engaging in more than surface conversations. Any report back to STS-ROC leadership resulted in a \$1 donation from STS-ROC to the National Alliance on Mental Illness – NAMI Rochester, and totaled more than \$700.

Plans include identification and recruitment of additional youth board members and volunteers, with the hope that 2020-21 will allow for a greater return to in-person events to further the mission. Special donations will be made to the U of R's Visit to Youth in-Patient Program to help address their needs.

Thank you for your support of this ministry to provide help and hope to young people who may be struggling with the challenges of mental health.

## CONCLUSION

The Board of PEM-EMP is very grateful for your church's continuing support of Advent House, Fairport Good Neighbor Fund, Perinton Congregations for Flower City Habitat for Humanity, Prison Ministry of Upstate New York, and Stop the Stigma ROC. Suggestions for new or growing ministries that may benefit from an affiliation with EMP as a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation are always welcome. For further information, please contact the representative of your church who serves on the PEM and EMP board, or the leaders of each sponsored ministry.

### **PEM AND EMP MEMBER CHURCHES AND DIRECTOR-REPRESENTATIVES**

Bethlehem Lutheran Church	David Wideman, STS-ROC liaison
Church of the Assumption	James Brekovsky, FGNF liaison
Church of the Resurrection	Raymond Buchanan, PMUNY liaison
Fairport United Methodist Church	Richard Hill, PC-FCHH liaison
First Baptist Church of Fairport	Nancy Hutchings
First Congregational United Church of Christ	Patricia May
Greystone Church	---
Mountain Rise United Church of Christ	Susan Amrine
Perinton Presbyterian Church	Judith Bergeson, Vice President
Risen Christ Lutheran Church	George Havens, EMP Treasurer
South Perinton United Methodist Church	Brentley Smith, Secretary
St. John of Rochester	Lois Rixner
St. Luke's Episcopal Church	Warren Knapp
Director at Large	Kevin S. Cooman, Esq., President
PEM Treasurer	Raymond F. Wager, CPA

Respectfully submitted,  
Perinton Ecumenical Ministries, Inc. and Ecumenical Ministries of Perinton, Inc

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