

# Homespace HAPPENINGS

## WHAT'S NEW IN PROGRAMS & SERVICES?



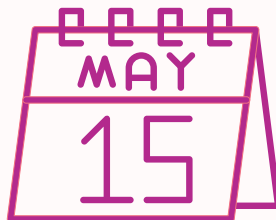
EXCITING PROGRAM UPDATES ON PAGE 4

COMING UP: YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS!  
SUPPORT HOMESPACE AT FUNDRAISING EVENTS THIS SPRING

DETAILS ON PAGES 5-7



HOMESPACE DAY  
AT SAHLEN FIELD  
BISONS GAME



500 PEARL HAPPY  
HOUR FOR FOSTER  
CARE MONTH



3RD ANNUAL  
MISTER GOODBAR  
FUNDRAISER





From the desk of  
Executive Director  
Lindsey Carter



As we close out the first quarter of 2025, I find myself reflecting on how much we've accomplished in just a few short months, and how grateful I am for the people who make it all possible. This quarter also marks the completion of my first full year as Executive Director, and I could not be more appreciative of our dedicated staff, generous donors, and invaluable community partners who help us drive our mission forward every day.

One of the most exciting developments this year is the upcoming launch of a new program. Homespace will soon be offering Health-Related Social Needs (HRSN) services. Thanks to the expansion of the Medicaid 1115 waiver, we will soon be providing critical supports such as housing assistance, food security, transportation, and care management, not just to the youth in our care, but to other eligible Medicaid recipients in need. A significant benefit of this expansion is that all foster care youth automatically qualify for these services. Additionally, we will also be able to assist other eligible Medicaid recipients, such as high Medicaid utilizers, individuals with serious mental illness or substance use disorders, pregnant and postpartum persons, and other high-need populations. In partnership with WNYICC, the lead agency for HRSN services in Western New York, we are working diligently to prepare for implementation and will be growing our team to support this expansion. This program represents a major step forward in providing holistic care to those who need it most, and we are eager to see the impact it will have on our community.

Alongside this expansion, our strengthening of the Next Step program is well underway. We have enhanced supports, introduced more structured daily routines, and increased community outings to provide youth with meaningful experiences that encourage personal growth, life skills development, and connection. These efforts are ensuring a more stable, engaging, and supportive environment for the young people we serve, setting them up for success both now and in the future.

We are also excited to deepen our commitment to restorative practices through a new partnership with the Erie County Restorative Justice Coalition (ECRJC). By incorporating restorative approaches into our work with both youth and staff, we are fostering stronger relationships, encouraging healing, and reinforcing a culture of accountability and support. The impact of this partnership is already being felt, and we look forward to building on this foundation in the months ahead.

Additionally, we recently had the privilege of hosting Kim Watson, Board President of the Council of Family and Child Caring Agencies (COFCCA), for an in-person visit. Having the support and engagement of leaders in the child welfare field is instrumental in helping us grow, advocate for the needs of our youth, and strengthen the connections that shape policies and practices statewide.

The first quarter of the year has been filled with progress, collaboration, and exciting new opportunities, and I am so proud of the direction we are headed. To our staff, thank you for your passion and commitment. To our donors and supporters, your generosity fuels our ability to expand and innovate. And to our partners, we deeply appreciate the role you play in helping us create lasting change.

As we look to the rest of 2025, we remain focused on growth, strengthening our programs, and ensuring that every youth we serve has the opportunity to thrive. Thank you for being part of this journey with us—I can't wait to see what we accomplish together this year!

With gratitude,  
Lindsey

# \* Spring \* Flower Sale

Potted flowering plants locally grown  
and generously donated by our friends  
at Grassroots Gardens

\$10 PER  
PLANT

FREE PICK  
UP WITH  
MULTIPLE  
DATES

OR \$10  
FOR  
DELIVERY

ALL  
PROCEEDS  
DIRECTLY  
SUPPORT  
HOMESPACE!

PRE-SALE  
HAPPENING  
NOW!

PLANTS WILL  
BE READY IN  
MID-MAY



Visit [www.homespacecorp.org/fundraising](http://www.homespacecorp.org/fundraising) for more information

# WHAT'S NEW IN PROGRAMS & SERVICES?



## HRSN

Homespace is excited to announce an expansion in our programming! We can soon provide Health-Related Social Needs (HRSN) to many members of our community.

Health-related social needs are the basic, everyday things that people need to stay healthy. These include having enough food, a safe place to live, reliable transportation, and adequate support for their care. If these needs aren't met, it can make it difficult for someone to stay healthy - *this is where Homespace comes in.*

We will soon be able to provide housing assistance, food security, transportation support and care management to ANY eligible Medicaid recipients, not just those in foster care.

This is an incredible milestone for Homespace, as we have been awarded capacity-building funds to allow us to hire new staff, support existing staff, and prepare for full implementation. We are excited about this new chapter and what it means for our ability to serve the community.

*Stay tuned for more on this!*

## Next Step

Next Step Home provides a supportive & highly structured environment for young women ages 14-21, helping them develop life skills and prepare for independence.

A new structure was implemented at Next Step Home in December 2024.

The residents have been participating in an hour-by-hour routine, and are able to progress through a level system in which they are able to earn allowances, increase unsupervised community time, and other privileges by demonstrating adherence to program expectations and respect toward themselves, their peers, and their staff. Staff are trained to follow the designated routine of the program, work to form developmental relationships, remain trauma informed, and utilize Therapeutic Crisis Intervention.

We're also excited to partner with the Erie County Restorative Justice Coalition on restorative practice strategies, which aim to build community, celebrate accomplishments, transform conflict, and rebuild relationships that have been harmed.

These positive updates make the program more structured, supportive, and focused on personal growth.

*50/50 park  
raffle  
benefitting  
Homespace!*



*All seats  
sold will be  
together!*

# HOMESPACE



# DAY



*in the park*

# SATURDAY APRIL 26TH

*Scan the QR code or visit [www.homespacecorp.org](http://www.homespacecorp.org) for ticket link*



*A portion of each ticket sold through our link will be donated back to Homespace!*

**GAMETIME 1:05 PM  
GATES OPEN AT 12:00 PM**



# Foster Care Month Happy Hour

BENEFITTING LOCAL  
YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE!

THURSDAY  
MAY 15TH

4:00pm - 7:00pm

500 Pearl - *both* Patrick's  
rooftop bar and WXYZ bar

HELP CELEBRATE AND RAISE  
AWARENESS FOR FOSTER CARE MONTH  
BY JOINING US FOR HAPPY HOUR! FROM  
4-7 PM ON MAY 15TH, \$1 FROM EVERY  
DRINK SOLD GOES TO HOMESPACE!





3RD ANNUAL

# HOMESPACE NIGHT

50/50  
RAFFLE



*at Mr. Goodbar*

FRIDAY

JUNE 6TH

6:00-8:00 PM

**JUST A \$5 DOOR  
DONATION GETS  
YOUR FIRST  
DRINK FREE!**

LIVE MUSIC  
BY THE  
MOON OWLS



100% OF YOUR DONATION AND 50/50 RAFFLE  
TICKET PURCHASE WILL BENEFIT HOMESPACE, A  
LOCAL AGENCY WITH SERVICES FOR YOUTH IN  
FOSTER CARE RIGHT HERE IN WNY.