

Salvation Army ‘Back-to-School Bash’ supports area students

Press release

The Salvation Army Tonawanda Worship and Community Center recently held its fourth annual “Back-to-School Bash,” a free community event helping students from Tonawanda, North Tonawanda, Amherst and Grand Island get ready for the new school year.

The event featured games, prizes, bounce houses and live music, along with free clothing, meals, and backpacks filled with school supplies for children in grades K-6.

This year, an impressive 350 backpacks were distributed, 400 meals were served, and 1,200 items of clothing were provided to area children and families.

The Rotary Club of Grand Island worked with local merchants to help secure donations of backpacks and school supplies, and coordinated the collection and delivery of donated items to the Salvation Army.

A special thank you goes to the Grand Island Dollar Tree for its exceptionally generous donation



Pictured: Susan Bartel of the Salvation Army; Faye Teluk, president of the Grand Island Rotary Club; and Dr. Brian Graham, Grand Island Central School District superintendent.

of backpacks and school supplies, which made a significant contribution to the success of the event.

The “Back-to-School Bash” is one of the many ways the Salvation Army of Tonawanda provides assistance and support to families throughout the communities it serves.

If you or your family are in need of assistance or would like to learn more about available services, contact the Salvation Army of Tonawanda at 716-693-3110.

Niagara USA Chamber invites businesses to participate in 2026 Small Business Expo

The Niagara USA Chamber of Commerce will bring together businesses, entrepreneurs and community leaders from across Western New York for its 2026 Small Business Expo from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 5, at the Kenan Civic Arena in Lockport.

Since relaunching in 2024 with approximately 125 attendees, the Small Business Expo has grown each year, attracting nearly 200 participants in 2025. Organizers are aiming to welcome more than 300 attendees and 50 exhibitors this year, making it the largest expo to date.

Designed as a full day of education, networking and business development, the Small Business Expo, presented by M&T Bank, gives business owners and professionals an opportunity to step away from their daily routines and spend time working on their businesses rather than simply working in them.

The event will feature exhibitors, educational programming, networking opportunities and presentations focused on providing businesses with new ideas, re-

sources and connections they can put to work in their organizations.

Businesses and organizations interested in reaching a broad audience of entrepreneurs, business leaders and community partners are invited to participate as exhibitors or sponsors. Exhibitor tables are available for \$250 on a first-come, first-served basis, and sponsorship opportunities are available at multiple levels. Organizations interested in presenting educational content may also participate in expo mini sessions, with priority given to sponsors and vendors based on registration order.

A highlight of this year’s expo will be a keynote presentation from Pat Mathews, president and CEO of Sports Leaders of Tomorrow (S.L.O.T.) and a member of the United Football League’s football operations team.

Businesses interested in attending, exhibiting or becoming a sponsor can learn more and register at <https://niagarachamber.org/events/niagara-usa-chamber-of-commerce-small-business-expo-2026/>.

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