



April 10, 2012

Dear Commissioner Whitfield -

On behalf of the Valley Community Association, I would like to thank you for your support of the 19th Annual "Old Neighborhood" St. Patrick's Day Parade, which was held on Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup>!

The 2012 parade will long be remembered as one of the best ever! Cars of those coming to watch the parade were parked out South Park Avenue to Hopkins Street, down Van Rensselaer Street to Seneca Street, and out Elk Street to Babcock. Thousands of people were along the parade route, celebrating St. Patrick's Day in the neighborhood where Buffalo's Irish heritage began.

This year the actual parade boasted the most diverse, entertaining, and fabulous looking contingents yet, as groups continually find ways to out do each other with their floats, marching groups, and music! Requests are already coming in from new groups who want to join in the 2013 parade!

The parade has become exactly what we set out to do when it began 19 years ago...it has become an event that brings back old friends and neighbors to the "old neighborhood", it's an event that brings pride to the community, and it's an event that celebrates our Irish heritage and tradition. At the same time the event welcomes with open arms newcomers, who soon make it their own St. Patrick's Day weekend tradition!

The parade also serves as a fundraiser for the many Valley Community Association programs that serve the residents of the Buffalo River Community - including affordable child care for working families; academic, social and recreational programming for school age youth; socialization and wellness activities for senior citizens; family support services such as a food pantry; and neighborhood beautification projects such as the Buffalo River Fest Park on Ohio Street.

We greatly your support of our special event! We are already planning for next year when the parade will be on Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup>!! Thank you again for your support and we are looking forward to seeing everyone next year!

Sincerely,



Lori Overdorf  
Parade Committee Co-Chair

Serving the  
Buffalo River Community  
with  
Child Care  
Youth Services  
Senior Programs  
Family Support Services  
Community Events  
and  
Neighborhood  
Beautification Projects

93 Leddy Street  
Buffalo, New York 14210  
PHONE 716-823-4707  
FAX 716-823-4254

[www.thevalleycenter.com](http://www.thevalleycenter.com)



Funded by the City of Buffalo,  
County of Erie, State of New York,  
and the United Way  
of Buffalo and Erie County