



GIVING HOPE FOR A FUTURE

What It Will Take To Aid The Homeless

Everyone knew Dogman.

Local police officers constantly checked on him where he slept. Homeless outreach workers frequently tried to help him. Faith groups tried to feed him. Business owners shooed him away from their customers.

Dogman lived on the streets of Cleveland for 27 years. His makeshift homes were abandoned cars he referred to as his “coffins.” He had to answer to no one but himself and owned nothing more than a blanket and some clothing.

For more than two decades, Dogman lived on Cleveland’s streets, always in fear for his safety.



In an earlier life, he was known as Ken Davis. He had served in the Marines. He grew up in a home with a loving mother and many siblings, but was saddled with an abusive father. Memories of these battles still scarred his thoughts. Dogman’s body was slowing down the more time he spent living outside.

Dogman was finally ready for help. He spent four years in Cleveland’s homeless shelter system acquiring the help he needed to leave the streets of Cleveland, forever. One day, he walked through the doors of West Side Catholic Center where his basic needs were met, while staff connected him with resources in the community to help him end his

journey of homelessness.

On the day Ken crossed the threshold of his new apartment (more importantly, the beginning of a new life), was the day it all came together for Ken. He was getting the medical attention he needed for the homelessness took a toll on his body. He had somewhere to go every night that was safe, warm and belonged to him. He even had a job to go to each morning at the West Side Catholic Center.

It was a wonderful day for everyone involved in Ken’s new life. Quoting Ken, “It’s All Good!”

This is the true intention for services at West Side Catholic Center today.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- November 23-24** Resource Center/ Admin. Office Closed
- December 9** Volunteer Mass & Potluck @ Lakewood Women’s Pavilion - 4PM
- December 19** Spirit of Christmas @ Resource Center
- December 22** Resource Center/ Admin. Office Closed @ 12PM
- December 25** Resource Center/ Admin. Office Closed
- January 1** Resource Center/ Admin. Office Closed

For more calendar information visit wsccenter.org!

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WEST SIDE CATHOLIC CENTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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• *deceased*

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

There are opportunities to join our Associate Board, volunteer or to support the programs of the WSCC.

For more information, contact the Advancement Department at info@wsccenter.org.

DIRECTOR'S DIALOGUE



Transitions are challenging on many fronts. Mine has gone pretty well thanks to a dedicated staff and very welcoming volunteers. I feel incredibly blessed to have this opportunity, and try to tackle each day with the hope of living up to the potential I feel within and around me. That will sometimes mean being too tentative, overreacting, making mistakes, or offending someone unintentionally. I can live with these things from myself, provided I am acting with our mission in mind. To whom much is given, much is expected. I've been blessed and now need to earn it.

Anita Cook ended her final "Letter from the ED" saying she looked forward to working with her successor to ensure a smooth transition so that the "Miracles on 32nd Street" would continue. When you think of Anita, please let part of her legacy be that she is living up to her end of that changeover with thoughtfulness, grace and our mission in mind. She never did this to receive credit or thanks, but I will always owe her a debt of gratitude for her selfless transition.

Sometimes, when it rains, it pours, and that is exactly what I thought when Jennifer Highfield shared word that she is leaving her post as our Advancement Director for another opportunity. Jennie has revolutionized marketing and development at the West Side Catholic Center by helping us be better storytellers of all the good that happens here. As I look back at the last few years' communications and materials, I realize how much has happened to tell you and others about the faces and names of those we serve. She has changed what can often be an "us vs. them" mentality and made it into a "we," because the clients, volunteers, staff and board are all a part of the face of the West Side Catholic Center. We will miss her in a lot of ways, many of which we won't fully realize until January when she is no longer coming to West 32nd Street every day. Her successor will have big shoes to fill, just as I do with Anita.

And while I'm mentioning departures, I would be remiss if I didn't also mention Allison Morford, who is leaving a role as Advancement Manager. Allison worked very closely with volunteers across all programs at WSCC. I know how much she will be missed. The volunteers and I are so thankful for her service to the West Side Catholic Center.

My transition, and those of Anita, Jennie and Allison, are problems many of our clients would love to have. I attended my first graduation of the Workforce Development Program in September, and I met a lot of people who were seeking the blessing of a new transition. One of them, a gentleman named Ernesto, was applying for positions after graduating. We talked sports, especially Cavs, and I learned of his desire to work at Home Depot or someplace where he could apply his knowledge as a handy man. A month and a half later, I was delighted to find that WE had hired him! Ernesto recently started a job as part of our new apprenticeship program at WSCC. The program will focus on filling needed roles at WSCC with participants of our Workforce Development Program so that they have skills to build on when they find employment elsewhere.

As we look ahead to the future of our center, we must build upon the solid foundation set forth by so many. We must "stand on the shoulders of giants" as Anita once put it. We must allow the transitions of our lives to inform our actions moving forward!

In thanks for their service and that of so many others,

John Litten, Executive Director

GIVING HOPE: CONTINUED FROM COVER PAGE



Photograph of a veteran and her family being served in Moriah House.

Forty years ago, the founders opened the doors of WSCC to provide basic human services to all that came to them. A meal to eat, appropriate clothing and shoes for the time of year, respite from the elements or the cold world. Today, West Side Catholic Center is still focused on providing those necessities of life, in addition to services that can aid clients in self-sufficiency. For some, that might be counseling or medical services, or other aid from family services. For many, it is a focus on economic opportunities within their household. Regardless, it takes a village.

Like Dogman, the individuals served in the Resource Center or families in Moriah House and Zacchaeus Housing Solutions Program do not wake up one morning and choose to be homeless. For most, many circumstances came together resulting in lost jobs, lost homes or lost dreams. For others, they come from generational poverty. The perplexities that caused their situations are not easily solved. You cannot simply “get a job” and expect all the issues to be resolved. You cannot move into a home and have all a family’s problems disappear.

Our clients all need the same solution - experienced and educated case workers who can help people—like Dogman—cope with their internal and external struggles. These case managers work one-on-one with every single client to establish individual and family plans, with achievable goals the clients set. The case managers direct clients to long-term support systems in the community and neighborhoods they live in to ensure those networks and resources will be available long after clients leave WSCC’s care. It is to help people create a system of support. This is critical to the success for each client.

Just as it took Dogman years and countless community resources to end his cycle of homelessness, so will it take the support of our community, our village, to help the thousands in Cleveland find their path to self-sufficiency. This is the future of WSCC.

WSCC will continue to engage with other community resources, social service agencies, parishes, and advocates on behalf of our’s clients. The real change will come from you; from your donations of cash, in-kind goods and your volunteer service.

DID YOU KNOW?

National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week (November 11-19, 2017) is a national endeavor by the National Coalition for the Homeless to promote education, action, and awareness about hunger and homelessness. Many Americans are living on the edge, forced to choose between basic necessities like purchasing food, paying rent, or going to the doctor.

43.1 million

Americans live below the poverty level

549,000

Americans are homeless on a typical night

42 million

Americans are at risk of suffering from hunger

1 in 5

Children in the U.S. live in poverty

As a society, we have the resources and knowledge to end hunger and homelessness — we just need the collective will to make these ideas a reality.

WISHES FOR THE FUTURE:

Staff and Board Share Thoughts

WSCC asked staff and Board members to provide their thoughts on what they thought was going to be important for the future of WSCC. Their responses were as follows:

While our goal should always be to put ourselves out of business by ending homelessness, it is unrealistic to think there will no longer be a need for the West Side Catholic Center's services in the future. So, we will always do everything we can to meet our clients' immediate needs of food, clothing and comfort.

My larger hope is that we continue to expand our services and adjust our programming strategies, as we have in the recent past, to augment our immediate needs with services that get our clients off the streets and into stable, permanent housing and steady employment.

In recent years, that has meant expanding our housing programs and developing new initiatives to educate our clients and provide them the confidence and tools necessary to find a job.

In the future, that means our programming team will keep questioning why our clients find themselves in the tough situations they are in, and then innovate new programs designed to break down the barriers that keep them in those situations.

Christopher Koehler
President, Board of Directors



As the Resource Center Manager, I would like to see clients taking advantage of our newly reimagined Resource Center. With more and efficiently used space, I want to see clients engaging in meaningful activities and creating long-term relationships with each other. I hope the Resource Center becomes more than a space for respite, but a place for addressing long-term needs.

With the implementation of the new data collection software, Apricot, the Resource Center will be able to collect information on how clients use the Resource Center services for the first time. This will allow us to understand who needs what kind of help, including those who are homeless. This will mean we can provide more quality services rather than focus on the quantity.

Barbara Taylor
Resource Center Manager

As we look ahead for what the future holds for the West Side Catholic Center, I would like to see the exploration of new and innovative ways of addressing poverty. Many of our clients have significant barriers to self-sufficiency. We know the best way to address these issues will mean WSCC needs to be a strong leader in collaborative efforts in the community with other agencies and organizations. WSCC will need to take a strong advocacy role in addressing unjust social policy. This will require us to work assertively with policy makers and other partners in Cleveland.

Finally, to provide critical to long-term and sustainable impact for our clients' lives, we need to focus on employment and trade or skill-focused training with engaged and knowledgeable community partners.

Frank Johaneck
Economic Opportunities Manager

As the new Executive Director, it is easy to talk "future" because I have not personally lived our past. With this said, our rich history as an organization is not lost on me and I believe we must honor that past, while simultaneously assuring our future.

Our Board is a wonderful cross section of people who've shaped our history and others with great potential to shape our future. I look forward to strategically planning the next 40 years (or at least the next 3-5) with our constituents over the coming months. I believe it is important that we take stock of our tremendous growth so that we can see how best to grow, be more intentional, and be even more impactful in our services. Our best days lie ahead and I look forward to working with everyone to make that a reality.

John Litten
Executive Director



SHARING YOUR TIME AND TALENTS:

Seeking New Volunteers

Thousands of men, women and children depend on the services provided at WSCC. All programs at WSCC are managed by staff, but are supported by the talents and time of hundreds of volunteers. While we take new volunteers in many areas throughout the year, we have a few opportunities available to fill now.

All prospective volunteers are asked to attend a New Volunteer Information meeting to learn more about WSCC and the opportunities. If they choose to volunteer, they will then attend a mandatory Volunteer Orientation Session.

Please see the details below and contact the Advancement Department at info@wsccenter.org or by phone at extension 132 for more information.



Clothing & Household Program :: Sorters

Time :: 12-3

Days :: Monday - Friday

Responsibilities :: Sort clothing and household goods, put donated items in the shopping areas.

Administrative :: Receptionists

Time :: 9-12:30 or 12:30-4

Days :: Monday - Friday

Responsibilities :: Answer phone calls, take messages, light administrative work.

Economic Opportunities :: Mentor

Time :: Flexible

Days :: Flexible

Responsibilities :: Provide continued support and mentorship for clients that have gained or are working to obtain employment through the Economic Opportunities Program.

SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS: *Blessing Those in Need*

No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another.

-Charles Dickens

Each December, in the joyous Spirit of Christmas, WSCC provides new, warm winter essentials to men, women and children.

WSCC distributes the basic necessities of sweatshirts, socks, underwear, hats, gloves, mittens, full-sized toiletries and small toys for children.

Where do all of these items come from? YOU!

For this annual event to be successful, WSCC relies on generous donors to give new items, cash donations and gift cards toward the purchase of necessary items and supplies.

There are a number of ways you can help provide for families in our



community. You can host a Spirit of Christmas drive or simply gather some of the items yourself. This type of drive is a fun and meaningful way to ensure men and women have warm winter wear to endure the coming season and gifts for children to unwrap for Christmas.

Please drop all donations off by Friday, December 15th. Contact the Advancement Department at info@wsccenter.org or by phone at extension 132 for more information.

Suggested Spirit of Christmas Donations:

Men/Women/Boys/Girls - Sweatshirts, socks, underwear, hats and warm insulated gloves.

Baby/Toddler - Sleepwear, socks, hats, mittens, ointment, diapers and wipes.

Toiletries (Full-Size) - Soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, shaving cream, razors, lotion.

PLEASE DO NOT WRAP DONATIONS.

WSCC accepts donations Monday through Friday, 8:30AM - 2:30PM.

Due to the Spirit of Christmas Program, we have limited space for used donations as we are ONLY collecting NEW items during the month of December.

NEWS BRIEFS

40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

On November 11th WSCC celebrated its 40th anniversary at the annual Warm Hearts Winter Nights event. Over 400 people joined staff and board members in raising dollars and awareness to continue the work of WSCC for another 40 years. During the event, WSCC honored Saint Ignatius High School with the Sr. Kathleen Kilbane Walk in Faith Award for their unwavering support of WSCC's mission for 40 years. Also honored that night was the Mazzella Companies with the Giving Hope award for their generous support of WSCC with time and donations. Guests bid on silent and live auction items and raised paddles to give to the cause. All this generosity netted over \$175,000 for WSCC. Thank you all!



SHOP AND SUPPORT WSCC

WSCC is registered with AmazonSmile. AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support the WSCC every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the **added bonus that the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the WSCC.**

In addition, WSCC has wish lists of much-needed items on Amazon.com and Target.com. As you shop online this holiday season, or throughout the year, you can shop for the WSCC and have these items shipped directly to our site. It is so easy to add on \$10 worth of socks, shampoo, or toothpaste.

If you have any questions about AmazonSmile or the Target wish list, contact the Advancement Department.



FROM THE WSCC KITCHEN

A tasty and inexpensive recipe to enjoy during holiday meals.

CRANBERRY FRUIT CONSERVE

Yield: 5 cups

Total time: 50 mins

- 1 bag fresh cranberries
- 1¾ c. sugar
- 1 c. water
- 1 orange
- 1 lemon
- 1 Granny Smith apple
- ¾ c. raisins
- ¾ c. chopped walnuts or pecans

1. In 4-quart saucepan, combine cranberries, sugar, and water. Cook on medium 5 to 10 minutes or until cranberries begin to pop, stirring occasionally.
2. Meanwhile, into small bowl, finely grate peels of orange and lemon, then squeeze juice. Stir into cranberry mixture, along with apple. Cook 15 minutes longer.
3. Remove from heat and add raisins and nuts. Let cool, then refrigerate up to 1 week. Serve chilled.

SAVE-THE-DATE:

Opportunities for Fundraiser Support

WSCC is grateful for all the generous supporters of WSCC events in 2017, ensuring WSCC continues to be the premier social service agency in our community. WSCC's Spring 2018 events are listed below.

Friends of WSCC Luncheon
LaCentre
Sunday, March 4, 2018

A fun luncheon to raise awareness and funds for WSCC's Moriah House - family emergency shelter. Guests enjoy lunch, auctions, raffles and more. In 2018 the Friends will be celebrating the 30th anniversary of this event. We hope to see you there.

Event, sponsor and ticket information at wsccenter.org/friends-of-wscc

Rock & Bowl
AMF Brookgate Lanes
Saturday, March 24, 2018

A family fun event! Guests enjoy lunch, bowling, raffles and more. A great opportunity to escape the winter blues and support WSCC with friends and family. There are sponsorships and team information online.

Event, sponsor and ticket information at wsccenter.org/rockandbowl

Pancake Run
WSCC
Saturday, June 2, 2018

A healthy way to support the programs of WSCC! Grab a team or run alone on the beautiful course through Ohio City. All guests enjoy a pancake breakfast and entertainment.

Event, sponsor and ticket information at wsccenter.org/pancake-run

DONOR GRATITUDE

Memorial and tribute giving allows you to create a lasting remembrance of a loved one, honor a special person or event, or thank a caregiver who has made a difference in your life.

When you make a tribute gift, we will notify the person or family member that you have made a donation in his or her honor, or that of a loved one, but we will not disclose the gift amount.

If you are interested in asking for donations to WSCC in lieu of gifts, contact the Advancement Department for assistance at info@wsccenter.org or 216.631.4741 ext. 132.

WSCC expresses gratitude for the recent donations made in honor/memory of the following:

In Honor:

Charles Adler
Jennifer Cole
Anita Cook
Linda Falkner
Judy Foley Gawronski
Terrie Garr
Maureen Kyle
Jim Mazzella
Cornell "Pittsburgh" McCray
Mary Alice O'Brien
Jon Strano
WSCC's 40th anniversary

In Memoriam:

Philomena Dessoffy
Mary Knapik
John F. Malloy Jr.
Shirley Malloy
Daniel J. Sheehan

IN THE KNOW?

Did you know you could read monthly blogs from the Executive Director on the WSCC website? Did you know you can see stories daily on WSCC's social media pages about clients and donors? Have you seen our videos posted on YouTube? Be sure to be in the know and interact with us online.

- For current calendars, to donate or to volunteer go to www.wsccenter.org.
- To like us on Facebook go to facebook.com/westsidecatholiccenter.
- Tweet to us using @wsccenter.
- To see WSCC videos go to www.youtube.com/wsccenter.

GIVING CHILDREN HOPE AND BASIC NEEDS

Many of us are fortunate enough to prepare for the upcoming holidays by planning parties, cooking elaborate dinners, and buying fun gifts for our loved ones. But many families aren't as fortunate as they struggle to provide for their families.

On any night in Cuyahoga County there are over 1,600 homeless individuals, and over 200 are children. For them, their Christmas wishes are simple: a hot meal, warm winter wear, a safe place to sleep at night, or just to be treated with dignity and kindness.

Year-round, we are fulfilling these simple wishes. Perhaps it is diapers for the mother who creates makeshift diapers for her baby because she cannot afford them. A

backpack of food to sustain a child for a weekend during the summer who was dependent on school lunches. A job for a veteran who is waiting to be transferred from the shelter system to a permanent home.

Thankfully, you can help WSCC grant some of these wishes.

We are asking for you to send a gift by December 31 in the envelope enclosed or online. Consider \$40 in celebration of our 40 years. Or \$40 a month as a sustaining donor.

Your generosity will ensure your fellow Clevelanders will be able to access the resources they need to restore health and well-being to their lives and once more become self-sufficient.



EVERY \$2.75 PROVIDES A MEAL FOR A MAN, WOMAN OR CHILD WHO WOULD OTHERWISE GO WITHOUT.



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IT IS OUR MISSION :



West Side Catholic Center is grounded in faith, hope, love and respect for those we serve. We assist all who come in need of food, clothing, shelter, advocacy and a path to self-sufficiency.

*"We give the children in Moriah House more than just presents for Christmas. We give them a safe place to stay, hope for their future and, most importantly, love."
- Moriah House Staff Member*

