



**WEST SIDE
CATHOLIC
CENTER**



SUMMER 2017

WEST SIDE CATHOLIC CENTER'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY 1977-2017: *Standing In The Present*

"If you do good things and work hard, good things will happen," says Toni, a client in Moriah House. Toni came to Moriah House after she and her two children spent nearly 8 months homeless. During her time at Moriah House, the Case Manager and Family Services staff assisted her with benefits, schooling for her children and programming to address the traumas they have experienced. She also attended the Employment Program. There she worked with staff to find the right employment opportunity for her and her family. Her efforts were rewarded with work through one of the Economic Opportunities Employment Fairs.

The seeds of Toni's success—and that of so many other West Side Catholic Center clients—were planted in 1977 when the churches and people in the

community converged together to address critical unmet needs.

In the 40 years since, WSCC has provided more than 50,000 people in need with food, emergency shelter, legal support, medical aid, educational programs, housing and employment services. More than 1,000 homeless families have been assisted by WSCC in securing permanent housing through Moriah House or the Zacchaeus Housing Solutions Program. Through the newest program, Economic Opportunities, WSCC has helped nearly 400 people secure employment.

A key to 40 years of success has been adapting to the changing faces and root causes of poverty in Cleveland. As the needs of WSCC clients change, the staff and volunteers diligently provide evidence-based practices to ensure their basic needs are met, they have safe places to sleep at night and provide opportunities for a more stable life.

WSCC's Resource Center has become a place where men and women who are homeless or living in poverty can meet with a counselor, receive tax or legal services, or simply socialize over a cup of coffee during art therapy. Some visitors use their time at the Resource Center to access support in moving out of poverty or homelessness. As Kenneth, a Resource Center client, explained, "When I started coming here two years ago, it was because I was hungry. I got a hot meal and food

to take home. Over time, I met with staff that helped me get benefits and a nice apartment. And now I have a safe place to sleep every night."

WSCC continues to connect clients to critical, free resources. Services, such as mental health or drug and alcohol addiction, are offered to aid clients in gaining stable support. Family Services staff encourage healthy family networks and provide resources, such as Moms Are Amazing and Summer Meals Backpack Program, to the Moriah House and Zacchaeus Housing Solutions program clients. Economic Opportunities aids self-sufficiency through sustainable work, which is one of the most challenging, but effective, solutions to ending homelessness and rising out of poverty.

As WSCC looks back on the past four decades of change, it is looking ahead to the future. Over the next few years, WSCC will continue to expand the Economic Opportunities Program to serve more people. Family Services will implement a new Strengthening Families Framework throughout the agency. For 40 years, Cleveland's less fortunate have been directly served by West Side Catholic Center, a "house of hospitality" that provides relief for those living in poverty and experiencing homelessness. The intent is to continue to be a reliable beacon for those we serve.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- August 14** New Volunteer Meeting
- August 22** Mass in Resource Center
- September 4** Adm. Offices & Resource Center Closed for Holiday
- September 11** New Volunteer Meeting
- September 28** Mass in Resource Center
- October 9** New Volunteer Meeting
- October 24** Mass in Resource Center

For more information visit the WSCC website!

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DIRECTOR'S DIALOGUE



This is my last "letter from the ED" for the WSCC newsletter. While there is so much I could share about the renovations taking place this summer, the 4th year of our successful backpack program or our continued efforts in helping people find sustaining employment, I will instead share about 2 clients who had a very strong impact on me during my time at WSCC.

In the fall 2013 newsletter we told a story about "Jack's Journey." Well Jack was actually Max but the rest of the story was true. Max lived on the streets for many years, riding in RTA buses and trains and sleeping in bus shelters. It took many years but Barb Taylor, Resource Center Manager, got him his citizenship papers, benefits and most importantly, his housing. I am sad to report that Max passed away peacefully in his apartment on February 9. Through the efforts of many, Max spent the last 3 years of his life in housing. Through a generous anonymous donor, Max was cremated and a memorial service held at WSCC. Barb Taylor was also able to locate his daughter in Croatia. Max's cremains were sent to his daughter where he is at rest in his native Croatia.

We wrote about Charlie Williams last fall in the newsletter. At that time Charlie was living in Joseph's Home as he was being treated for prostate cancer. On March 1, 2017 Charlie moved into an apartment on the near west side. He actually liked having a bed and a roof over his head. He still remained a regular volunteer at WSCC, Cosgrove Center and St. Augustine. Unfortunately, Charlie passed away on Monday, June 12 after a brief illness. He would have been 64 on June 24. A funeral service was held on Thursday, June 15 at St. Augustine Church. There were over 200 people in attendance, evidence that Charlie touched so many! I called Charlie a friend. My husband and I volunteered with him on Thanksgiving and Christmas at St. Augustine. Charlie could always make me laugh. A decorated Vietnam Veteran, Charlie was interred at The Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery in Rittman, OH on July 5.

Through Max and Charlie, I have learned about the incredible spirit that resides within each of us. These men always had a ready smile and love to give in spite of having so little material wealth. Whether we struggle with mental illness, substance abuse or post-traumatic stress, there is such a strong need to have relationships with other people and to go on no matter how dire the circumstances in our lives. I see this every day in all of the people that come to the WSCC "in need of food, clothing, shelter, advocacy and a path to self-sufficiency."

It has been my honor and privilege to serve at the WSCC. I didn't know when I began this journey six years ago that this would be my "dream job". Working with the clients, staff, volunteers and donors has made these past six years some of the most enriching in my life. I look forward to working with the board and my successor (to be named soon) to ensure a smooth transition and that the "Miracles on 32nd Street" continue.

Thank you for all you have done for me and the WSCC!

God Bless!

*Anita Cook
Executive Director*



WSCC IS WEARING A HARD HAT:

Construction Update

In June, WSCC donned hard hats and broke ground on the major renovation of the Resource Center. The building needs to be expanded and revitalized to provide our programs needed increased space and opportunity and so our organization can continue serving those who come to us in need.

This is the second phase of *The Campaign for the Future* capital campaign. The improvements outlined in this phase include renovating and reconfiguring the Resource Center first floor as well as the expansion of the second floor. Resource Center renovations are expected to be completed in the early part of 2018.

Despite the construction, the Resource Center staff and volunteers continue to make services available on site. WSCC appreciates the patience and support of visitors and volunteers as we go through this process.

Overall, *The Campaign for the Future* has three phases. The crucial repairs to Moriah House were completed in the fall of 2016 as part of Phase One. Phase Three will include a new roof and the addition of an elevator at the Zacchaeus Building. With these changes, our clients will be able to achieve more than ever. The

Zacchaeus Building will be safely accessible for ALL clients-- not just the able-bodied. This means the Economic Opportunities program will gain space to serve an increasing number of clients and create a more efficient office space for staff. Clients will also be able to access expanded services in financial literacy training and adult education, including a new on-site computer lab.

"This is an incredibly exciting time for the WSCC and we're pleased with the response of our supporters," says

Executive Director, Anita Cook. "Supporters are contributing to our campaign because they are passionate about the WSCC."

It is not too late to make a contribution to *The Campaign for the Future*. The organization has raised \$1.9 million of its \$2.25 million dollar goal.

To learn more about *The Campaign for the Future*, please contact Jennifer Highfield, Director of Advancement, at jhighfield@wsccenter.org.



YES, I WANT TO SUPPORT THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE FUTURE!

Name, as you would like to be publicly recognized:

WSCC may publicly acknowledge my gift: Yes No

I would like to make a one-time gift of \$ _____

I would like to make a pledge (*payable from 1-3 years*) of \$ _____

No. of payments: _____ Beginning on: _____

Payment frequency: Annual Monthly Quarterly

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM IN THE REMITTANCE ENVELOPE INCLUDED IN THIS NEWSLETTER. YOU CAN INCLUDE PAYMENTS OF CHECK (MADE PAYABLE TO WSCC) OR CREDIT CARD INFORMATION.

For any further information, payment options, or questions please contact the WSCC Advancement Department at ext. 132.

2017 VOLUNTEER AWARDS CEREMONY:

Honoring those on the front line

The annual Volunteer Appreciation event in April was full of great blessings and recognition of volunteers with decades of service to be proud of. The 2016 Dorothy Day Humanitarian Award was given to:

- Sharon Lynn Tufts
- Cornell "Pittsburgh" McCray
- St. Francis de Sales Social Concerns Committee

The Dorothy Day award is presented to a volunteer or group whose service exemplifies the spirit of Dorothy Day and her mission to serve the homeless and forgotten of our society. These volunteers have dedicated a great deal of time and energy to ensure our clients feel safe and healthy.

In addition, Shirley Libbey was honored for twenty years of service to WSCC and Sue Katigbak and Norelle Gress were recognized for 30 years of service. Kay Parrent, Diane Kenschak and Elaine Betz were among volunteers recognized for having over 300 hours of service.

WSCC could not be more proud to celebrate this group's spirit of humility, kindness and empathy. WSCC truly could not be the remarkable social service agency that it is without its volunteers.



BIG NEWS!:

WSCC is CARF Accredited

WSCC was recently awarded a 3-year accreditation from the Commission of Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF).

Founded in 1966, CARF International is an independent, nonprofit accreditor of health and human services in the following areas:

- Aging Services
- Behavioral Health
- Business and Services Management Networks
- Child and Youth Services
- Employment and Community Services
- Medical Rehabilitation

Achieving accreditation requires a service provider to commit to quality improvement, focus on the unique needs of each person the provider serves, and monitor the results of services.

A service provider begins the accreditation process with an internal examination of its program and business practices. Then the provider requests an on-site survey that will be conducted by a team of expert practitioners selected by CARF. During the survey, the provider must demonstrate that it conforms to a series of rigorous and internationally recognized CARF standards.



**Three Year
Accreditation**

Based on the results of the survey, CARF prepares a written report of the provider's strengths and areas for improvement. If a provider has sufficiently demonstrated its conformance to the standards, it earns a 1-year or 3-year CARF accreditation.

WSCC received accreditation for the following programs through July 2020:

- Child and Youth Services
- Community Employment Services: Job Development
- Mentor Services
- Rapid Rehousing and Homeless Prevention Programs
- Service Coordination

Congratulations to the WSCC staff for a job well done.

DONOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT



At Giant Eagle, they believe every neighborhood they serve is their community. Every year, Giant Eagle contributes millions of dollars, tons of food and countless hours of employee time to numerous organizations in the community.

Giant Eagle is committed to enriching the lives of their customers, neighbors and employees who live in these neighborhoods we serve. Giant Eagle works diligently to strengthen communities by providing financial and labor resources for myriad

community and cultural initiatives, including: food banks; blood banks; children's hospitals; and educational initiatives.

WSSC is proud to have Giant Eagle as a supporter of our programs since 2008. Their critical support has allowed for growth in our Resource Center, Moriah House and Zacchaeus Housing Solutions program.

In 2016, Giant Eagle supported the *Campaign for the Future* initiative to ensure WSSC's Resource Center can meet the ongoing needs of our clients.

Thank you to the Giant Eagle Foundation for their support of WSSC!

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

In Honor:

Fr. Robert Begin
Anita Cook
Terrie Garr
Fr. Thomas Gilles
Christine Hach
Karen Kuczynski
Jim Mazzella
Kerry McCormack
Barb Miller
Sheila Scanlon
Fr. Robert Stec
Lillian Tovtin
WSSC's 40th Anniversary

In Memoriam:

Philomena Dessoiffy
Eleanor Janoch
Anthony Skoch
Hugh Thurnauer
Ruth Vinson

MONTH'S MOST NEEDED ITEMS In-Kind Donations

In an effort to meet all the needs of our clients and programs of the WSSC, we ask for in-kind donations from you and the community. The In-Kind Donation program will focus its efforts monthly on a special request.

MONTHLY REQUESTS

July
360 Back-to-School Backpacks
WSSC provides each child residing in Moriah House or participating in our Zacchaeus Housing Solutions Program and Summer Backpack Program necessary school supplies.

August
50 sets of dishes and silverware.
Many times we can only give clients one or two pieces of dishes or silverware for an entire family to use.

September
200 toiletries

October
50 inflatable mattresses. As cooler weather approaches adults and children who are sleeping on the floor with blankets and pillows appreciate having a mattress to keep them off the cold floor during the long winter months.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

SUGGESTED COMPLETED BACKPACK:

Backpack
Pens
Pencils
Erasers
Crayons
Markers
Colored Pencils
Lined Paper
Notebooks
Pocket Folders
Pencil Pouches
Glue Sticks

Please be assured these supplies will be in the hands of children in need before the first day of school.

Gently used, solid colored school uniforms for both genders and all sizes are also in high demand. Clients struggle to keep their children in uniforms to meet the school requirements.

NEWS BRIEFS

IN-KIND DONATIONS

While the Resource Center is under construction, the Clothing and Household Distribution program has been moved to a temporary trailer on the corner of Lorain and W. 33rd Street.

Clients continue to access this free program to obtain new or nearly new clothing, shoes, toiletries, bedding, dishes and cookware while construction continues. WSCC staff want to ensure client services have zero to little interruptions.

Staff and volunteers greet in-kind donors at the trailers to collect donations of new or nearly new items. These items are sorted and processed for distribution to the clients.

While under construction, WSCC staff and volunteers have been asked to strictly follow the rule of accepting only two bags per donor from 830AM-230PM Monday through Friday. While we appreciate donors' generosity, this is all the temporary site will allow.



ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

Economic Opportunities assisted 72 clients in securing sustainable employment in 2016. The program provided employment services, educational resources and financial literacy to over 450 clients. They are poised to surpass this in 2017.

Classes to improve clients' computer skills will soon be added to the Economic Opportunities program. This is critical for any employment placement today. DigitalC, through its ReStart technology skills building program, will offer basic computer classes at WSCC. The three-week program will be held twice a week.

FROM THE WSCC KITCHEN

WSCC bid a sad farewell and happy retirement to Barb Miller. Barb has been the Resource Center Kitchen Manager for many years. Barb, a Founding Member of West Side Catholic Center, ensured community groups and volunteers always felt welcome in the kitchen. She oversaw the meal planning, food ordering and deliveries of donated and purchased goods. Barb served with dedication and great purpose to meeting the needs of the clients in the Resource Center. While she enjoys retirement with her family, the clients, volunteers and staff will miss her greatly.

Tanisha Jackson, previous Kitchen Manager for Moriah House, will now oversee the operations of both kitchens and meal service programs for the WSCC. While working in the Moriah House kitchen she provides a variety of healthy choices relevant to the clients served there. We look forward to Tanisha's efforts in the Resource Center Kitchen.

40TH ANNIVERSARY GALA - WARM HEARTS WINTER NIGHTS:

Join the Celebration

Over the past 40 years, thousands of volunteers and staff have provided a warm meal, comforting support, safe shelter, and advocacy for self-sufficiency to tens of thousands of our Cleveland neighbors.

On **Saturday, November 11**, we will gather to honor these accomplishments and raise a glass to 40 more years of premier social services being provided to the poor and needy. *Will you be there?*

That evening, two important WSCC supporters will be recognized for



W I N T E R N I G H T S

their decades of support to WSCC: Saint Ignatius High School and the Mazzella Companies.

In addition, the committee is working on unique new auction

items. A winner will be drawn for the Grand Prize Raffle of a trip for two to Ireland.

Those who cannot attend can still purchase the Ireland trip raffle tickets in advance or bid on auction items via the WSCC website that evening.

To purchase tickets, raffle tickets or become a sponsor:

- Go to wsccenter.org/warmhearts
- Call 216-631-4741 ext. 132
- Email info@wsccenter.org

EVENTS BENEFITTING WSCC

WSCC has many fundraising opportunities for you to enjoy. **Each event has opportunities for sponsorships, marketing, and in-kind donations.** For more information contact Jennie Highfield, Director of Advancement, at JHighfield@wsccenter.org or extension 132.



RedSpace Saturday, September 16, 2017

A fun evening with our Associate Board sampling over 100 types of craft beer, liquor and local food. Bring cash to get in on the cornhole tournament and raffle action. Note new location this year!

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

5th Annual S.O.U.L. Race St. Joseph Catholic Church Saturday, October 21, 2017

The S.O.U.L. Race is a 5k Run-1-mile walk that is fun for the entire family. St. Joseph Catholic Church in Strongsville created this event to raise awareness about healthy living and to raise funds for local charities.

Go online to register today!
sjohio.org/soul

Gordon Square Arts District Saturday, November 11, 2017

Stroll through the Gordon Square Arts District while enjoying a wide variety of soups from Cleveland's favorite restaurants. Your vote will help select the Souperbowl CLE 2017 winners!

Tickets \$25

Event and ticket information:
souperbowlCLE.com

Meet Joe. Along with his mother and older sister he is calling Moriah House home until they find a safe living situation. While at Moriah House, they receive three meals a day, a safe place to sleep, family support and case management to aid them in moving on to stable housing with income.

Could you turn Joe away if he asked you for a warm meal? A safe place to sleep? Help for his mother? Neither can West Side Catholic Center.

The mission of the WSCC is to support our clients' goals of obtaining self-sufficiency, while providing basic services. WSCC knows firsthand that families have never needed the help more than they do today.

In honor of our 40th Anniversary will you consider a gift?

\$40 a month can equate to an annual gift of \$480. This could provide a family shelter in Moriah House, educational resources in our Employment Program, meals in the Resource Center, or case management support in Zachaeus Housing Solutions program.

Please consider a special gift of any size - small, medium and large - to make certain the essential safety net WSCC provides remains strong. You can utilize the enclosed envelope to make a sustainer gift (monthly donation), or any other gift type to WSCC.

Thank you. We could not do this without you.





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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.

"I enjoy learning to make things that are pretty, and sometimes even useful, in Expressive Arts classes."

- Mary

