



WEST SIDE
CATHOLIC
CENTER

Miracles on 32nd Street

THE MANY FACES OF WEST SIDE CATHOLIC CENTER

SUMMER 2018

WEST SIDE CATHOLIC CENTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John Litten, **Executive Director**

Christopher Koehler, **President**
Mary Kapferer, **Vice President**
Christina Schmitz, **Secretary**
Korby Collins, **Treasurer**

George Angelato
Timothy Atkinson
Jack Bedell
Steven Byrne
James Ciocia
Ben Cooke
Robert Fedor
Neil Friery
Vincent Hvizda
Rich Jerdonek
Laura Kelleher
Dennis Kucler
Kevin Lenhard
Richard Manson
Joe Morford
Ron Patton
Steven Rini
Joyce Robinson
Julia Sieck
Mike Solecki
Scott Sumser
Sharon Tufts
Marc Walrod
T.J. Wichmann
Kellie Work

ADVISORY BOARD

Jess* & Julie Bell
Peter & Rita Carfagna
Rev. Thomas Fanta
Bishop Roger W. Gries, O.S.B.
Jim* & Joan Livingston
George & Mary Lu Wasmer
Rev. Robert J. Welsh, S.J.*

FOUNDERS

Rev. Robert Begin
Kay Eaton
Sr. Brigid Griffin*
Sr. Donna Hawk, CSJ*
Aggie Hoskin
Rev. Paul Hritz*
Sr. Mary Hurley, HM
Sr. Kathleen Kilbane, CSJ
Barbara Miller
Donna Kelly Rego*
Sr. Loretta Schulte, CSJ
* deceased



Presence is a Gift

Because I often spend my days explaining to donors and foundations about numbers, outcomes and budgets (all of which are important), or because I'm often more worried about the "next thing" that needs to be done or worked on, I can lose sight of the many faces that make up the West Side Catholic Center. When we look past the face of a co-worker, volunteer, or someone we are privileged to serve, we fail to be present to them. I can even get caught up in worrying about work when I'm at home, and home stuff when I'm at work, to the point where my failure to be present extends throughout my day.

For this reason, I am thankful that my office is as far from our entry door as possible. I use this as my opportunity to delay the budget, emerging issue or "next thing" and, even if only for a few brief moments, give the people I meet my full presence. This work can be challenging, and when we're all singularly worried about our own problems, we also fail to be there for each other.

I so appreciate the "faces" theme of our summer newsletter, because it is a reminder of that which we may pass right by if we're not careful. For many of the people we serve, they have grown somewhat accustomed to being passed by; to feeling like they are invisible. I've loved coming to this place for the way it celebrates and meets people as they are, where they are. Even as I walk up our stairs, to where I might see less clients, I enjoy an office space which has placed our clients on such a pedestal as to have paintings and photographs of them throughout. Our halls of fame are reserved for those we serve. Their faces have been lovingly painted by volunteer Polly Barrett.

One face of this place that I never met in person was Fr. Robert Welsh, SJ. He was president at St. Ignatius High School from 1979 to 2000 and a member of our Advisory Board. He passed away on August 30th at age 82. Much has been said in recent weeks about how he brought St. Ignatius to the prominence it realizes today, and I would add that this is also the case for the West Side Catholic Center and the surrounding neighborhood. He was committed to being a good neighbor, to helping our center wherever he could and to aligning our respective missions wherever possible. He was truly a man for others, and our clients and center were beneficiaries.

We'd love to see your beautiful face here at our center (my office door is usually open), or at an upcoming event like Warm Hearts, Winter Nights on November 2nd. Thank you for all you do to make our center what it is and what it strives to be.

In a spirit of service,

John Litten, Executive Director



Angela Maher, Outcomes Coordinator



Hiram House Camper



David, Resource Center Client



Mary Ann Kuhn, Volunteer



Family, Food & Fun Summer Program Participants



Expressive Arts Program Participants w/ Jesuit Volunteer, Katie Perkoski

TERRIE GARR

Dedicated to Service

Say the words “West Side Catholic Center” in Cleveland and you will be met with an exclamation: “I know Terrie Garr!”

Terrie frequently describes WSCC as “**Cleveland’s best kept secret**,”—a place not many in the city know of, but where miracles happen each day. Terrie has been with WSCC for over 25 years, selflessly serving Clevelanders in need. She has worked under 7 Executive Directors and with countless staff members, while witnessing the generosity of thousands of volunteers. Those who meet Terrie describe her as vivacious and her work unparalleled. Her bright smile and compassion shine, making her care for the clients of West Side Catholic Center evident. Anyone who has ever stepped foot inside WSCC’s doors remembers Terrie by name and considers her a dear friend.



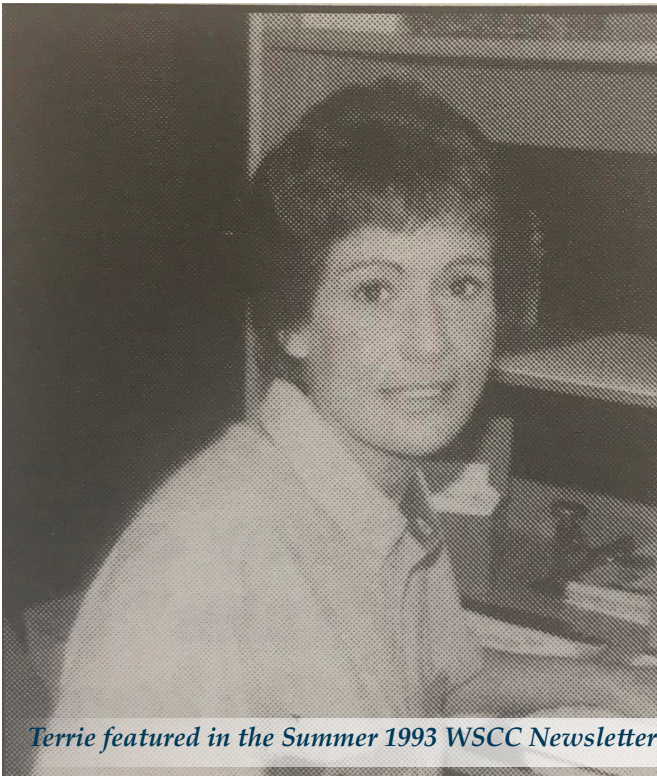
It all started in June of 1993. Terrie joined the WSCC staff as the Program and Volunteer Manager after spending several years at home with her three children. She previously worked with the Golden Age Centers of Greater Cleveland, serving over 500 seniors in public housing. Though she loved working with seniors, Terrie always kept West Side Catholic Center in the back of her mind. Sister Kathleen Kilbane, a founder of WSCC, was Terrie’s fourth grade teacher at St. Angela Merici School. She remembers Sister Kathleen’s kindheartedness as she took time each day to help with her math work. Terrie knew WSCC must be a wonderful place if Sister Kathleen was a part of it.

When Terrie arrived at the Resource Center for her interview, the first thing she noticed was the Christ in the Breadline mural. She then looked around and saw the vast number of people eating a warm meal and knew just how great the need for a place like WSCC was in Cleveland. “I prayed and prayed and prayed I would get the job. I knew this was the place for me,” Terrie said.

Over the years, Terrie focused on managing volunteers and in-kind donations and worked to establish a vibrant and sustainable volunteer program at WSCC. Thanks to her leadership, volunteers come to serve and return for years. WSCC welcomes over 30 volunteer groups each month and at least 150 individual volunteers each week, culminating in over 25,000 hours served each year. Terrie describes volunteers as the foundation of West Side Catholic Center: “Our volunteers are amazing; they’re humble and giving. Because of them, we have been able to grow and better serve Cleveland.”

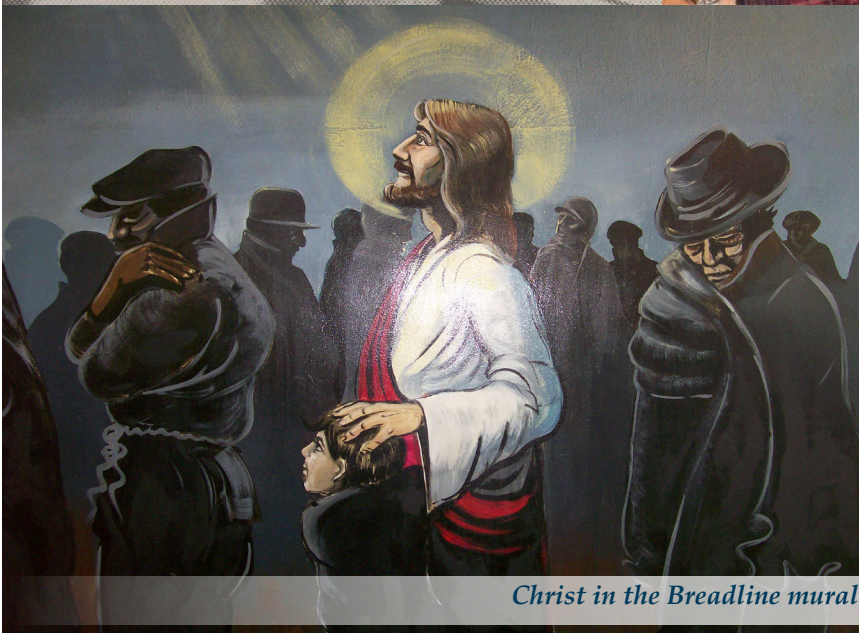
Terrie’s greatest goal was ensuring each and every volunteer had a positive experience while at WSCC. “Whether a volunteer is 10 years old or 50, here for one day or returning every week, I strive to give them a rewarding experience that allows them to understand the ministry of West Side Catholic Center, while having a good time.” Based on the retention rate and praises sang by volunteers, Terrie exceeded this goal.

Highlighting her dedication to West Side Catholic Center and those in need of support, Terrie returned in 2018 after retiring in 2016 to assist as WSCC underwent several transitions. As Terrie once again departs, her legacy will continue with each volunteer hour served. Through her never-ending hard work, Terrie has made the successes of West Side Catholic Center possible—*and it’s no secret*.



Terrie featured in the Summer 1993 WSCC Newsletter

Terrie and her husband, Chris Garr



Christ in the Breadline mural



Accepting Christmastime donations



Terrie and the St. Mary Seminarians.



Sorting clothing with Gilmour Academy Principal, Brian Horgan



Angels with Dirty Faces, a volunteer group made up of retired Cleveland police officers, recently landscaped and provided outdoor furniture for the Zacchaeus Courtyard and the Moriah House Family Shelter backyard. They also hosted a much-appreciated luncheon for WSCC staff.

Ridgecliff FOUNDATION

WSCC recently received a grant from the **Ridgecliff Foundation** to fund the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Collaborative, which has helped hundreds of clients take the first step toward sobriety and mental wellness through on-site services from Signature Health since 2008. We are grateful for the Ridgecliff Foundation's history of support in providing this invaluable resource to our community.



*Loretta Gerhardt, Intake/Assessment Counselor
Signature Health*



This summer, **Ryan Cook** and **Josie Wessler** joined the WSCC team as part of the **University of Notre Dame Summer Service Learning Program**. This program offers an immersive service experience to address questions of social justice in light of the Catholic social tradition. Ryan, an incoming sophomore in the Mendoza School of Business, said the opportunity allowed him "to become a constructive member of this neighborhood community." Josie, an incoming sophomore studying Applied and Computational Mathematics and Statistics, aimed to learn more about nonprofit organizations and do "invaluable work". We are thankful for their hard work and hope they will return to WSCC in the future.

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT CLEVELANDERS IN NEED



- Make a monetary contribution at wsccenter.org.
- Purchase items from our Amazon Wish List at bit.ly/WSCCAmazonWishList
 - Attend an event!
- Drop off gently used clothing or household items Monday-Friday 8:30AM-2:30PM.
 - Volunteer!
- Organize a collection at your workplace or parish.

Contact the Advancement Department at
(216) 631-4741 ext. 132 for details.

2018 EVENT DATES

Saturday, October 20
St. Joseph 5K

@ St. Joseph in Strongsville

Friday, November 2

Warm Hearts Winter Nights
@ Marriott Downtown Cleveland



Warm Hearts

WINTER NIGHTS

**NEW NIGHT
NEW FORMAT
IN SUPPORT OF THE SAME MISSION**

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND
CLEVELAND MARRIOTT DOWNTOWN AT KEY CENTER

Event Information:

www.wsccenter.org/warmhearts

For information regarding sponsorships, donations, or attendance, contact WSCC's Advancement Dept. at (216) 631-4741 ext. 132 or info@wsccenter.org.



3135 LORAIN AVENUE
CLEVELAND, OHIO 44113
PHONE: 216.631.4741
FAX: 216.631.2379
WWW.WSCCENTER.ORG

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Cleveland, OH
Permit No. 4374

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.

"[The West Side Catholic Center is] on the front lines in dealing with the poorest of the poor. May God bless all who reach out to help the least of our brothers and sisters."

~ Bishop Nelson J. Perez



Bishop Perez celebrated Mass at WSCC on July 11, 2018