



**WEST SIDE
CATHOLIC
CENTER**



Miracles on 32nd Street WINTER/SPRING 2016

RESOURCE CENTER - WHERE THE MIRACLES HAPPEN:

Turning a life around to pay it forward

"It is not whether you get knocked down, it's whether you get up."

~ Vince Lombardi

There was a time when Fred White was homeless and dealing with addiction. He came to the WSCC for meals, showers and clothing for many years. Fred has seen many changes here over the years, and even remembers when the WSCC consisted only of a small storefront on the other side of Lorain Avenue from which volunteers handed out food. "I never dreamed I'd be working through this organization," Fred says.

His introduction to the WSCC came through Al Yunis, WSCC's Outreach Worker. Both Al and Fred are members of Narcotics Anonymous,



boxing at the age of eight, and now shares his love of the sport with kids ages 8-15 at the Earle B. Turner Recreation Center on Miles Avenue. He was guided to the rec center by Robert White of the Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority when he was looking for a facility with enough space for boxing. The Police Athletic League also supports the boxers.

Aside from the obvious benefits to his boxers' physical health, Fred also helps keep kids out of trouble and makes sure they do well in school. "You get a certain age and they hand you drugs," he says, explaining his concerns about the challenges kids may face as they grow up.

Fred keeps his young charges busy after school four days a week as they train as official members of USA Boxing. He insists there are no bad grades allowed among his team members, and is pleased to report they're all A or B students.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- March 6** Friends Annual Benefit
- March 25** Resource Center/ Admin. Office Closes @ 12 PM
- April** Volunteer Appreciation Event
- May 30** Resource Center/ Admin. Office Closed
- June 4** WSCC 5K Race
- July 7** Expressive Art Program

For more calendar information visit the West Side Catholic Center's website!

and Fred was lucky enough to have Al as his grand-sponsor. He credits Al with changing his life.

These days, Fred has housing which he secured with the help of the WSCC. He is now a staff member here, and can regularly be found at the front desk in the Resource Center arranging assistance for clients in need of showers and making sure that all clients are aware of the services available to them at the WSCC. "I keep the peace," he explains.

But peacekeeper isn't Fred's only role. He's also a beloved boxing coach to Cleveland youth. "I've always loved boxing," he says. He first started

"I keep the peace."

Fred's current group of 20 kids only started two years ago, but they're already winning at the state and regional levels and smashing records. At the Ohio State Fair in 2015, his team counted six champions among them, breaking a 40-year record for the "winningest team".

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DIRECTOR'S DIALOGUE: *Wrestling Results*



Leading with Evaluations & Outcomes

Evaluation and outcomes! If you've read anything in the nonprofit/philanthropy world over the past few years you'll know the hot topic is all about evaluation of programs in the context of nonprofits achieving their mission. It is no longer enough to provide a meal, house people, expand horizons through arts programming or distribute a bag of clothes. We are asked to quantitatively measure and describe how much and in what ways we have changed people's lives. We want to ensure donors know their gifts are used successfully for the purposes intended and in a way that will concretely improve the lives of those we serve.

For some of our programs this is a relatively simple exercise. For instance, I know that in 2015 we served 90 families in our ZHS program. Of these families 87% left the program with stable, permanent housing. Until recently, we were unable to report on the stability of those families three or six months after leaving the program. Through the generosity of the St. Luke's Foundation we now have funding that allowed us to hire an Outcomes Coordinator. This person is building relationships with our families in an effort to stay engaged with them once they leave our program. We hope to discover what differentiates families that do not return to homelessness from a family that might find themselves once again in dire straits.

The Outcomes Coordinator is also working with clients that have obtained employment through our economic opportunities programming. We believe these efforts will yield valuable information as to what programming works for our clients.

Our challenge at the WSCC is measuring the outcomes for the clients that come to the Resource Center. We have never tracked our clients in the Resource Center. While we know anecdotally that we have assisted many clients with food, housing, clothing and other basic needs we don't know how many have moved to self-sufficiency. Our goal is that client tracking software, which we hope to implement in 2017 will provide this valuable information while maintaining the respect we have for clients' privacy and dignity.

It is important that we are asking "Are the programs we provide really changing lives and helping people on a path to self-sufficiency?" In any strong organization leaders constantly evaluate their work and are prepared to change programming for the times and those we serve and consistently push programming to evolve in order to meet the challenges that face their target population. We should regularly ask why we do what do. The answer should be that it applies to our mission and assists people on a path to self-sufficiency. If the answer is "well, we've always done it that way," we are missing the point.

While I know that we have helped many people in the past 39 years I am looking forward to our continued journey in evaluating our programs and outcomes. In 2017 we will be celebrating the 40th anniversary of the founding of the WSCC. I assure you we will continue to be "grounded in faith, hope, love and respect for those we serve." Most importantly, we will continue to strive to serve our clients more effectively and efficiently.

Anita Cook, Executive Director



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1:

And Fred isn't just coaching boys—his team has three girls as well. These young ladies will be headed to an all-female tournament this July in Florida. Fred and his girlfriend Patricia Green, who is also a boxing coach, pay for all team travel, including food and hotels. They also cover the cost of the mandatory USA Boxing books each member must study. Two of Fred's boxers even continued on to the professional level. One maintained a 4-0 record under Fred's tutelage with two knockouts, and even had the privilege of fighting in



Images of the kids Fred works with.

a televised match at the age of just 18.

Fred is proud of all his young boxers, but he especially enjoys coaching his grandsons, ArShaun Carter, age 10, and Darius Sitgraves, age 11. The team, including ArShaun and Darius, will head to Kansas City, Missouri in February for their national tournament. "I expect to win! We're bringing the title back!" Fred declares.

WSSC is proud of Fred. He is a champion in our hearts. As Muhammad Ali said, "A champion is someone who gets up when he can't."



WANT TO BE CURRENT ON WSSC NEWS?

WSSC always has new information to share regarding programs, upcoming dates, news stories and links to local media reporting on WSSC's work in the community. To stay in touch be sure to like, read and click often.

To see calendars, donate or volunteer go to www.wscenter.org.

To Friend us on Facebook go to facebook.com/westsidecatholiccenter.

To tweet about us use [@wscenter](https://twitter.com/wscenter).

To watch our latest videos visit youtube.com/user/wscenter.

Improving Workforce Quality

WSSC's Economic Opportunities Program has a new tool to assist clients entering the workforce gain access to jobs they might not otherwise be considered eligible for. ACT WorkKeys is a first step toward closing skills gaps and improving workforce quality.

Supported by data from more than 20,000 job skills profiles and rooted in decades of workplace research, WorkKeys assessments are based on situations in the everyday working world. The assessments measure foundational and soft skills, providing clients with valuable skills credentialing. Successful completion of three WorkKeys assessments—Applied Mathematics, Locating Information, and Reading for Information—can help an individual earn the National Career Readiness Certificate. Clients use WorkKeys to learn more about their strengths and weaknesses and gain a valid way to demonstrate their abilities to employers. Employers then use the test results to help take the guesswork out of determining employee qualifications.

WSSC is excited to participate in this new Cleveland program, as the first westside site for WorkKeys assessments. The Economic Opportunities staff are certain that it will increase the number of individuals in the WSSC Employment Program who locate sustainable employment.

GOODBYES ARE NEVER EASY

Farewell to Terrie Garr

December 24th is a special day around the world when families and friends gather to share in the warmth and joy of the holiday season. At WSCC, the clients said their farewells to Terrie Garr, Volunteer and In-Kind Donations Manager, who has been a vital part of WSCC for 23 years.

How do you prepare for the departure for someone who has dedicated their life to your organization? You don't.

Past and current volunteers, staff, clients and community leaders gathered on January 22nd to wish Terrie well. Stories were shared and laughed over and sighs were heard as guests reminisced about those who are no longer with us. Overall, guests rejoiced in remembering special moments with Terrie at the WSCC.



Terrie Garr with her City of Cleveland Proclamation

While there seems to be little anyone can give in return to someone who has given so much of themselves, WSCC managed. Joe Cimperman blessed her with well wishes and a proclamation from the city of Cleveland. Eric Haddad recalled his time as Board President working with Terrie on the needs of WSCC. Anita Cook assured all that while WSCC would be different with Terrie no longer around, we would do our best to keep her spirit memorialized.

Terrie did not want fanfare, gifts, or sadness at her departure. She simply wanted to ensure that all the hard work done by the founders and longtime volunteers continued for another two decades and beyond, and if the enthusiasm at this gathering was any indication, we are well on our way.



NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK, April 12-18, is about inspiring, recognizing, and encouraging people to seek out imaginative ways to engage in their communities. It's about demonstrating that in working together, we have the fortitude to meet our challenges and accomplish great things.

At WSCC, volunteers faithfully serve with love and respect for our clients. As some of our long-time volunteers have retired, new volunteers have stepped up to take their places. We are blessed with dedicated volunteers who have a well-deserved reputation for going

the extra mile to assist our clients. **WSCC will be celebrating and recognizing the exceptional efforts of the volunteers on April 21.** The annual Dorothy Day Humanitarian Award will be presented, along with recognition of milestones awards.



CURRENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Administrative Receptionists are needed in the Administrative offices of the WSCC. These volunteer positions serve as important information resources for our clients, donors and volunteers. This volunteer position is 3.5 hours shift, either in the mornings or afternoons, Monday through Friday.

Art Instructors are needed in the Expressive Arts Program. If you have a talent for painting, crafting, jewelry making, etc., consider sharing your talents with the clients.

If you are interested contact Volunteer Manager, Allison Morford, at 216-631-4741 ext. 122.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT:

New Faces

WSCC is pleased to announce that we have selected a new Advancement Manager to manage the responsibilities of the Volunteer and In-Kind Donations Programs.

Allison Morford was originally hired into the Advancement Department in July, 2015 as Advancement Coordinator. Her role was to manage the fundraising events of WSCC, assist in the marketing and communication needs for the organization and support all other philanthropic efforts for WSCC.

While she enjoyed working with the Associate Board and various event committees, she discovered she had an interest in working with volunteers and donors to further our mission.



As the search for a replacement began, Allison came forward to express interest in the position. After much consideration the Executive Team agreed that she was an excellent candidate.

Allison's social service and nonprofit experience is an invaluable asset to the organization. Her capacity to develop and serve within the Volunteer Program as well as the In-Kind Donations program will be a great help as the programs of the WSCC continue to evolve to meet the needs of the clients and our community. Congratulations Allison, and best wishes in your work at WSCC.

CLEVELAND FOUNDATION

WSCC is pleased to announce that the Cleveland Foundation has awarded us a grant of \$75,000 to maintain shelter services for homeless families at our Moriah House Women and Children's Shelter. We are grateful to receive support from the Cleveland Foundation once again.



GIVING COMES IN ALL FORMS

Special In-Kind Requests

In an effort to meet all the needs of our clients and programs, we ask for in-kind donations from you and the community.

The In-Kind Donations program focuses its efforts on monthly special requests. These items will be something needed especially that month. We will be asking for a specific number of items in order to meet the needs.

WSCC also is on AmazonSmiles. You can purchase items for yourself and a portion of your purchase goes to help WSCC. You can also ship items from WSCC's Amazon wishlist directly to WSCC.

UPCOMING REQUESTS:

- March** - 250 toiletries packs
- April** - 50 sets of pots and pans
- May** - 90 Cleaning Supply Buckets
- June** - 500 socks/200 underwear
- July** - 500 complete school bags
- Aug.** - 50 sets dishes/silverware
- Sept.** - 200 towels
- Oct.** - 75 inflatable mattresses
- Nov.** - 100 feminine hygiene packs

If you are interested in doing a donation drive, or for more information, contact the Advancement Manager, Allison Morford at 216-631-4741 extension 122.



Create a **CLEANING BUCKET**

CLEANING SUPPLY BUCKETS

Families leaving homelessness rarely have money to purchase the necessary items for cleaning and maintaining their home. We are seeking groups to commit to putting together Cleaning Supplies Buckets to welcome them into their new homes.

SUGGESTED LIST OF ITEMS:

Bucket, mop, broom, window cleaner, dish soap, laundry detergent, trash bags, bleach, scrub brushes, washcloths, bath mat, dish rack.

NEWS BRIEFS

BACKPACK FOOD PROGRAM: Feeding Children This Summer

Many of the children in our service area receive free lunches during the school week. The Summer Backpack Program helps us make sure that the kids and families in our area have the food they need over the summer months so they will not go hungry. Since our organization started many years ago, one of the most important parts of our mission has been our Meals Program.

For 10 weeks on Fridays over the summer, the WSCC and its volunteer partners will provide a nutritious family meal, games and activities to promote family bonding, and a bag of healthy food that will provide families with weekend meals.

It is good for the entire community for our children to grow into strong, healthy adults, adults who can contribute to our community and make it a better place.

WSCC is looking for assistance with:

- Summer Backpack Sponsors
- Groups to provide the Friday dinner

If you are interested in supporting this program, contact the Advancement Department at info@wscenter.org or 216-631-4741 extension 132.



FROM THE WSCC KITCHEN:

Enjoy this delicious side dish for Easter.

SLOW COOKER CREAMED CORN

- 3 12 oz. bags frozen whole kernel corn
- 4 3 oz. packages cream cheese, cubed
- 1 cup milk
- 1/2 cup butter, melted
- 2 teaspoons sugar
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper

1. Spread corn over bottom of 3-4 quart slow cooker.
2. Top with cream cheese cubes.
3. In a bowl, stir together remaining ingredients and pour over corn and cream cheese.
4. Cover, cook on high heat for 2 to 3 hours.
5. Stir well before serving.

5 minute prep time

2-3 hour cook time

10 servings

A WINING SOUPERBOWL FOR CLE:

Attendees of the first annual SouperBowl CLE were greeted with a spoon, lanyard pass, and a map of the soup stops in and around Gordon Square. Soup kettles were steaming in old Detroit Shoreway storefronts like Buehner's Office Supply, and pop-ups like Collective Upcycle. A little competition was encouraged, as guests acted as judges, voting for the best soups.

SouperBowl is the brainchild of Detroit Shoreway resident Sandro Galindo, who was interested in the idea of creating an event to showcase the diverse cultural landscape of Cleveland. With the help of event director Lisa Pasquale, 60 volunteers, and various sponsors, the Gordon Square Arts district was teeming with enthusiasm, as full-bellied attendees strolled and slurped their way through nearly 20 soups. Proceeds from SouperBowl benefitted WSCC. As for competition winners, Pastina Rustic Italian's smoked butternut squash bisque took the prize for best soup overall.

We look forward to the return of this delicious event November 12, 2016.



2016 FUNDRAISING EVENT DATES

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| March 6 | Friends Annual Benefit
<i>@ La Centre in Westlake</i> |
| June 4 | WSCC 5K Race
<i>@ WSCC through Ohio City</i> |
| August 13 | Sips & Swigs
<i>@ SIHS Kyle Field</i> |
| September 24 | St. Joseph 5K
<i>@ St. Joseph in Strongsville</i> |
| November 5 | Warm Hearts Winter Nights
<i>@ Marriott Downtown Cleveland</i> |
| November 12 | SouperBowl CLE
<i>@ Detroit Shoreway</i> |

For more information on sponsorships, donations or attendance for these events email info@wscenter.org.



11TH ANNUAL 5K RUN 1 MILE WALK & PANCAKE BREAKFAST SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 2016

BENEFITING WEST SIDE CATHOLIC CENTER
WSCC THROUGH OHIO CITY | PARKING AT ST. IGNATIUS HIGH SCHOOL BREEN CENTER

8:00 AM ►► Race Day Registration

9:00 AM ►► 5K Run

9:05 AM ►► 1 Mile Walk

9:30 AM ►► Free Pancake Breakfast

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PRE-REGISTRATION BY JUNE 3

- Individual [\$20]
- Group of 4 [\$70]
- 12 and Under [\$10]

RACE DAY REGISTRATION FOR ALL [\$25]

Online Registration

www.hermescleveland.com

Registration Questions: 216.623.9933

Sponsorship/Donation Questions: 216.631.4741



**CLE
INT'L
FILM
FEST**

CIFF40 WELCOME HOME
TOWER CITY CINEMAS
MARCH 30–APRIL 10, 2016
CLEVELAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

PRESENTED BY DOLLAR BANK

WSCC is pleased to announce we are a **Community Partner** for the 40th annual Cleveland International Film Festival. As a **Community Partner**, WSCC is supporting the film, *God Knows Where I Am*.

The body of a homeless woman is found in an abandoned New Hampshire farmhouse. Beside the body, lies a diary that documents a journey of starvation and the loss of sanity, but told with poignance, beauty, humor, and spirituality. For nearly four months, Linda Bishop survived on apples and rain water, waiting for God to save her, during one of the coldest winters on record. As her story unfolds from different perspectives, including her own, we learn about our systemic failure to protect those who cannot protect themselves. Our support of this film includes the opportunity for WSCC to speak at the start of each showing of *God Knows Where I Am* and have an information table outside the theater. *God Knows Where I Am* will be showing on:

- **Thursday, April 7, 2016 at 4:50PM**
- **Friday, April 8, 2016 at 8:25PM**
- **Saturday, April 9, 2016 at 1:30PM**

If you are interested in purchasing tickets to see this film, or any other film, or for more information regarding the Cleveland International Film Festival you can go to CIFF's website www.clevelandfilm.org. We hope to see you at the movies!

“TO LIVE CHARITABLY MEANS NOT LOOKING OUT FOR OUR INTERESTS,

Many people think of Lent as a time to give up something in the spirit of Jesus' sacrifice. It is a period of self-reflection, fasting, prayer and abstinence. For 40 days Jesus fasted in the wilderness to focus on God and prepare himself for the mission that God sent him to accomplish.

His hunger was self-inflicted.

For many people who live among us in Cleveland, starving is not the result of personal sacrifice, but despair and deprivation. WSCC serves meals to 200 people every day who would otherwise go hungry. In 2015, we served over 60,000 meals in our Resource Center. While we

may choose to fast to identify with Jesus, how much more meaningful would the season be if we instead – or additionally - relieved the hunger of the most vulnerable?

Consider the charge of Pope Francis to “give voice to the poor among us,



who are most in need.” As opposed to giving up, consider giving. Will you set aside a small amount of money each day of Lent for the WSCC – allowing us to feed those lacking the same material things to give up that so many of us enjoy?

Help the poor, discouraged and broken discover hope, a future and a second chance.

Make a special Easter gift today and open hearts by sponsoring hot meals.

You can give online, or come to the West Side Catholic Center to experience the little miracles that happen here each day.

BUT CARRYING THE BURDEN OF THE WEAKEST AND POOREST AMONG US.”

~ POPE FRANCIS

www.wsccenter.org 7





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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.

"Coming to the WSCC is like getting your cellphone recharged, you get a renewed sense of energy. "

~ Maurice, a client in the Employment Program and Expressive Arts Program

