



SPRING 2017

WEST SIDE CATHOLIC CENTER'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY 1977-2017: *Looking Back to the Future*

Like any good story, the most important part of the tale of the West Side Catholic Center is the characters. Characters bring a story to life and create the heart of the narrative, inviting the reader to make a connection. So too have our founders, staff members, clients, volunteers and donors invited community members, friends and families to connect with our mission over the years, from our humble beginnings to our latest venture through our current Campaign for the Future.

In 1977, Father Bob Begin wrote the first page of our story when he asked 19 parishes in the Central West Deanery to sponsor the creation of an organization that would provide



Sr. Kathleen Kilbane

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

April 14	Resource Center/Admin. Offices Closed 1/2 Day
April 20	Volunteer Appreciation Event
May 18	Associate Board Recruitment Social @ Masthead Brewery
May 29	Resource Center/ Admin. Office Closed
May 31	City Club Speaker Vikram Patel @ Global Center
June 3	WSCC 5K Race
July 4	Resource Center/ Admin. Office Closed
July 10	Expressive Art Program @ SIHS

Visit WSCC's website for more info!

for the needs of those experiencing poverty and homelessness. Joining him to found WSCC were Father Paul Hritz of St. Malachi, Father John Lavelle of St. Colman, Sister Mary Hurley, Sister Kathleen Kilbane, Sister Loretta Schulte, Barbara Miller, and Donna Rego.

Father Bob envisioned a program that would "minister to the needs of the people of the near West Side area and to share their burden by giving a strong Catholic witness to God's love for them and to evidence love for Jesus Christ and his children." Sister Mary put this vision in place as the first director and brought Sister Kathleen aboard as well.

When the founders first began operating, they worked out of a building across Lorain Avenue from our current site in a small storefront loaned to them by St. Ignatius High School. "It was very primitive," shared Sister Kathleen. In the past, the building had been a horse barn, a home ambulance service, a livery and a funeral home. Its newest tenants were discouraged when their first three months serving peanut butter and jelly sandwiches were slower than they'd hoped, but when Sister Kathleen put shoes for donation in the window with a sign that said "Free Shoes", clients started to come out in droves.

In 1980, Sister Loretta saw a need for an emergency shelter for women, as there were none in the area at the time. "There was no hope for them," Sister Loretta explained, but before long Sister Kathleen had agreed they could establish a shelter in the second floor of their building. Sister Loretta was frustrated to find the upstairs restroom was in poor condition. She hung a picture of Saint Joseph in the restroom and advised him that if he wanted to help women, he'd better do something about it! Lo and behold, shortly thereafter, their Jesuit Volunteer offered to renovate the restroom if Sister Kathleen could take up his duties downstairs while he did so. She gladly agreed.

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WEST SIDE CATHOLIC CENTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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* deceased

DIRECTOR'S DIALOGUE: *New Era*



Standing on the Shoulders of Giants

As we work through the construction phase of the capital campaign, *Campaign for the Future*, I have been grateful for a few quiet moments of reflection amidst all the hustle and bustle. New beginnings are often a time to look to the future, but as I do so, it brings to mind the rich history that precedes us. From our founders, our earliest volunteers, the parishes that have supported us from day one, and the foundations and donors who have made it possible to keep our doors open, we stand on the shoulders of giants as we move forward into this new era.

It often seems to me that some of the most impactful supporters are the humblest, and work quietly and consistently to ensure we can continue our mission to assist all who come in need of food, clothing, shelter, advocacy and a path to self-sufficiency. One such group is the Friends of the West Side Catholic Center. Since 1988, they have worked tirelessly under their energetic leader, Evelyn Allen, to raise over \$1,000,000 through their annual luncheon and boutique in support of Moriah House.

The Friends also support families moving out of Moriah House and into their new homes by providing cleaning supplies to make their new spaces clean, comfortable and inviting. Without the help of these thoughtful and generous women, Moriah House would not have the capacity it does to serve those in need in the Greater Cleveland area.

Moriah House, in fact, was the starting place for our renovations for the *Campaign For The Future*. The windows in the women's rooms have been replaced, the deck behind the building has been renovated and the kitchen has received much-needed updates. The lower level spaces that serve children and teens have undergone a complete overhaul. The walls which previously separated these spaces into rooms are gone; they have been replaced with room partitions which enable staff members to separate the space into smaller areas to make programming more age-appropriate, or use the entire space as one large room to accommodate higher-volume programs.

Moriah House has housed overflow space for the Cleveland/Cuyahoga County Continuum of Care for roughly one year, and families who utilize this component of our service now have a comfortable dedicated space in the lower level where they can enjoy more privacy and quiet. This space tends to be needed most nights in any given week. Families usually stay either one weeknight or the whole weekend, and return to Central Intake the next day to be placed in a shelter that has room for them for a longer period of time.

In addition, a grant from the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Northeastern Ohio enabled us to fully furnish the Family Services space in the lower level of Moriah House with age-appropriate equipment and toys that support recovery from the trauma of homelessness and development of skills and knowledge. As we move forward, we are confident that these updates, made possible only by the generous contributions of our loyal supporters, will enable us to serve families for years to come.

Anita Cook, Executive Director



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Later that year, operations moved across the street to 3135 Lorain, which used to be a bar and bowling alley- they even had to tear out the old lanes. The team started to grow into their new space and expand their offerings. "There were people who came and saw and had ideas, and I just let them roll with it," said Sister Kathleen.

In 1998, during Aggie Hoskin's time as Executive Director, WSCC was lucky enough to be able to purchase the building across W. 32nd Street from 3135 Lorain, and this building became the Women and Children's Shelter, now known as Moriah House. It has been since this building was renovated in 2001 that we undertook a capital campaign. Aggie had served as a volunteer from the very beginning of WSCC, bringing her youngest child with her along with her playpen. Her children grew up as part of the WSCC family, spending time with clients and making sandwiches, and we feel truly blessed to have Aggie and her family as supporters to this day.

WSCC assumed leadership of the programming formerly run by Family Transitional Housing in 2008, expanding our mission to offer rental assistance and case

management services to families transitioning out of homelessness. FTH became Zacchaeus Housing Solutions, and as hundreds of families moved toward self-sufficiency over the years, it became clear employment preparation was a vital piece of this puzzle. One of the Case Managers created our newest program area, the Economic Opportunities Program, which assists clients reentering the workforce with soft skills instruction, resume help, financial literacy programming and adult education services.

Today, that building on the north side of Lorain Avenue where we had our humble start is gone, but in its place is now Saint Mary's Chapel, part of Saint Ignatius High

School, which is why we held our 40th anniversary Mass there in February. It was a joy to celebrate this milestone in a location that is so important to our history, surrounded by so many of the people who were instrumental in the founding of WSCC as well as volunteers, clients, and staff members. Sister Kathleen described this best in remembering her favorite thing about WSCC: "What I really experienced there was the experience of community... it was all-inclusive, and the love and care that brought about."

As we move toward WSCC's future, we carry this message with us daily and hope for many more years of bringing faith, hope, love and respect to those who need us most.



Front of WSCC's Resource Center when moved to 3135 Lorain Avenue location in late 1970's.



CELEBRATING 40 YEARS:

In celebration of 40 years of service to those in need in Cuyahoga County, WSCC will be infusing celebrations throughout the year. Those below are the remaining public events we encourage our supporters to participate in.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31 :: CITY CLUB SPEAKER VIKRAM PATEL WSCC is a community partner for this important speaker on mental health issues. (*see enclosed article*)

SUMMER (DATE TBD) :: POVERTY SIMULATION Guests will be invited to a Poverty Simulation; a tool to motivate and inspire participants to take action. It is one of the best tools we have found to begin the conversation regarding poverty and ways to take action.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11 :: WARM HEARTS WINTER NIGHTS 40TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

RETIREMENT ANNOUNCEMENT:

Farewell to Executive Director

The WSCC Board announces that Executive Director Anita Cook will retire in September 2017.

Chris Koehler, Board President, notes: "Anita's leadership has strengthened programming, created connections inside and outside of WSCC, and built a strong financial foundation for WSCC. It is difficult to say goodbye to such a talented Executive Director." Koehler says a search process will begin in April with the plan to have a new Executive Director in place by September.

In sharing her news with the Board, Anita stated: "I have been transformed by the experiences I have had these past eight and a half years. The people who make up WSCC as friends, board members, and clients are truly faithful and fabulous. I will leave feeling confident that West Side

Catholic Center is healthy, adaptable, and ready for new leadership."

Cook's tenure at WSCC has been a time of unprecedented growth and change for the organization. She has overseen the expansion of WSCC's three programs, spearheaded the creation of the new Economic Opportunities program, strengthened and expanded connections with donors and supporters, and has worked closely within the community to advocate for the needs of the organization and the clients.

The Board is formulating a Search Committee to identify a new Executive Director. During this transition period, it is their priority to find the best individual to lead the organization into the future and build upon the good work of Anita and the



staff and volunteers of WSCC.

WSCC gives thanks for a gifted leader who has given her heart and soul to the work of West Side Catholic Center.



NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK, April 23-29, is an opportunity to recognize and thank volunteers who lend their time, talent, voice and support to causes they care about in their community. Their stories can serve to inspire others to find ways to take action that creates change.

At WSCC, volunteers faithfully serve with love and respect for our clients. This week captures the power of changemakers to come together to build stronger, more vibrant programs through service. WSCC is blessed to have caring 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 20 at St. Ignatius High School's Atrium.

The annual Dorothy Day Humanitarian Award will be presented to Sharon Tufts, Cornell "Pittsburgh" McCray and St. Francis de Sales Social Concerns Committee, along with recognition of milestone awards.

We look forward to seeing our volunteers at this event to celebrate the impact of changemakers in our community, and hope it inspires others to serve.

CURRENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Economic Opportunities Educators will teach a given workforce development curriculum and work one-on-one with clients. Class time is 10am to 12pm once a week. The classes would be taught at the Eastside location, 308 E. 152nd St.

Clothing & Household Program Afternoon Sorters are needed in the Resource Center. This position requires someone who can pay attention to details.

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

30 YEARS OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT:

Friends of WSCC

For nearly 30 years, the Friends of WSCC have hosted an annual March event which has generated over \$1,000,000 to benefit the WSCC.

Each year the membership of the Friends work tirelessly to put together a comprehensive fundraiser. Guests who attend enjoy a large boutique filled with vintage items, jewelry, bead items, linens, theme baskets, garden arrangements, homemade bakery items, and additional pantry items. There is also a silent auction, Chinese auction, 50/50 raffle and much more.

Every woman in attendance knows that her donations and purchases benefit women who are less fortunate in their community, as the proceeds



Friends founder, Evelyn Allen, and Friends member

are restricted to support Moriah House. Guests come away with many packages and a full heart.

In addition to their annual event, the Friends of the WSCC create "Friends Coming" packages for the women entering Moriah House, which include towels, pillows and toiletries. It is a comforting welcome

for the women and their families, especially since many arrive with only a garbage bag filled with a few personal items.

When a family is prepared to leave Moriah House, the Friends have a "Friends Going" package that contains important household items, such as dishes and pans to help her start her new home. These comforts not only help the women and children with new necessities, but provide them with a sense that there is a community of women that care about their well-being.

For more information on this event, or to join the Friends membership, please call 440-871-6681. New Friends are always welcome year-round.

RONALD McDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES

WSCC is deeply grateful to the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Northeastern Ohio, which has awarded a grant to fund equipment for our Family Services program space in Moriah House and a grant to resurface the Moriah House playground with synthetic grass. Thank you for caring for our kids, RMHC-NEO!



Ronald McDonald House Charities®

Keeping families close

GIVING COMES IN ALL FORMS:

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, program requests and a general wishlist.

UPCOMING REQUESTS:

April - Baby Shower

New baby equipment,
diapers, wipes, toiletries, etc.

May - 50 Cleaning Supply Buckets

June - 300 socks/200 underwear

July - 500 complete school backpacks

WSCC is also an AmazonSmile nonprofit. 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 wish list directly to WSCC.



To do a donation drive, or for more information, contact the Advancement Manager, Allison Morford at 216-631-4741 extension 122.

NEW IN-KIND DONATION BIN PROGRAM

Are you looking for a fun, easy way for your office, school or organization to do something good for our community?

WSCC's new program provides a donation bin and marketing materials to collect agreed upon items to be distributed at WSCC. Your group can accept donations from 2 weeks to 1 year. The donation bin program offers a free way for you to provide countless dollars of in-kind goods to WSCC.

For more information, or to get started, contact the Advancement Department at info@wsccenter.org or ext. 132.

NEWS BRIEFS

EYE ON MENTAL HEALTH:

City Club Speaker Vikram Patel

In addition to unemployment, hunger, physical illness, and homelessness, one of the most common challenges our clients face is mental illness. Whether their mental health was one of the reasons they became homeless or the traumas of poverty and homelessness caused their mental health to deteriorate, this issue is extremely prevalent among our clients and can be difficult to resolve.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), one in four people will be affected by a mental illness during their lifetime. Currently, more than 450 million people worldwide suffer from a mental illness.

Join us for a conversation with Vikram Patel, Ph.D., international mental health advocate on how the community can address the stigma associated with mental illness. WSCC is co-sponsoring this City Club talk at the Global Center for Health Innovation on May 31.

We are proud to be co-sponsoring Dr. Patel's speech, and we are excited to learn the implications his work may have for the efforts we make on behalf of our clients.



IMPORTANT FUNDING UPDATE: Cleveland Foundation Award

The WSCC has received a \$90,000 grant from the Cleveland Foundation to purchase and implement two new software programs at WSCC. The first is an integrated system of client case management (Apricot) and the second is a volunteer management system (CERVIS).

Apricot is equipped to handle clients in the Resource Center, whose management is often relatively straightforward, all the way to the complex systems of moving pieces that our Economic Opportunities and housing clients utilize. Apricot will enable our staff to better coordinate services both between our different program areas, as well as between WSCC and our community partners.

As a long-time service provider to the people of Greater Cleveland, this new technology will help WSCC continue to honor our commitment to being a premier resource center for those in need. As programming continues to grow and evolve, it is vital that our methods of tracking and analyzing program results do as well. Ultimately, WSCC will be able to strategically plan program growth and bring our clients creative, responsive services. Thank you to the Cleveland Foundation for their generous support.

2017 FUNDRAISING EVENT DATES

June 3	WSCC Pancake Run @ WSCC through Ohio City
September 16	Sips & Swigs @ RedSpace
October 21	St. Joseph 5K @ St. Joseph in Strongsville
November 11	Warm Hearts Winter Nights @ Marriott Downtown Cleveland
November 11	SouperBowl CLE @ Detroit Shoreway

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



12TH ANNUAL PANCAKE RUN 5K RUN, 1 MILE WALK & PANCAKE BREAKFAST SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 2017

Pre-Registration By June 2
Individual \$20
Group of 4 \$70
12 and Under \$10
Race Day Registration for All \$25

Race registrations can be done online at hermescleland.com or contact Hermes Cleveland regarding registration questions at 216.623.9933.

Sponsorship levels start at \$250 and are important to the success of this event. To become a sponsor go online to wsccenter.org/5krun or contact WSCC's Advancement Department at info@wsccenter.org or ext. 132.

DONOR GRATITUDE

You can make donations to WSCC to celebrate a special occasion, to ask “in lieu of gifts” or to honor someone special. WSCC expresses gratitude for the recent donations made in honor/memory of the following:

IN HONOR:

Gerard Berger
Mary Kay Binder
Pete Brennan
Jim and Patricia Cuglewski
Patricia Dorenkott
Wink Easley
Fr. Edward Estok
Bruce and Ellen Fletcher
Terrie Garr
Norelle Gress
Shane Haddad
John and Pat Harknett
Dick and Judy Herman
Aggie Hoskin
Rick and Shelley Mack
George and Mary McBride
Loretta Myers
John and Eileen O'Brien

Tom and Pat O'Malley
Fran Pelcin
Jon and Julia Sieck
Motria Stachur
Pat Strauss
Yolanda Tench
Lillian Tovtin
John Wong and Richelle Bell
WSCC staff and volunteers
Cy and Audrey Zupan

IN MEMORIAM:

Anne Cleary
Sue DiNardo

To learn more about giving, contact the Advancement Department at info@wsccenter.org or ext. 132.

CLEVELAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

WSCC is pleased to announce we were a **Community Partner** for the 41st annual Cleveland International Film Festival. As a **Community Partner**, WSCC supported the film, *I Am Another You*.

When director Nanfu Wang is in Florida she has a chance encounter with a life-changing drifter. Intrigued by his livelihood of chosen homelessness, she accompanies 22-year-old Dylan onto the streets. *I Am Another You* offers a unique perspective of life outside the norm and sheds encouraging light on the power of human connection.

Catch a CIFF film through April 9 at Tower City and other locations.

SUMMER MEET & GREET AT WSCC

For the third summer, the WSCC Board will be hosting a casual series of meet-and-greet opportunities in the Gibbons Garden at WSCC.

These socials are open to parties interested in learning more about WSCC and ways they can become involved in our mission.

These well-attended socials have engaged many new people in the community and raised awareness for WSCC throughout Cleveland.

2017 MEET-AND-GREET DATES:

Thursday, June 22 530-730 PM
Thursday, July 13 530-730 PM
Thursday, Aug. 17 730-930 AM
Thursday, Sept. 14 530-730 PM

For more information or to receive an invitation, contact the Advancement Department at info@wsccenter.org or ext. 132.



WSCC has provided food, clothing, shelter, support services and advocacy to the poor and homeless for forty years. This could not have been possible without support from thousands of donors who believed in WSCC's programs and mission. WSCC takes extra care to use every penny efficiently, spending over 85% of our revenue on program services.

All persons are provided services without regard to ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation or physical ability.

Your support is greatly appreciated! With your help, WSCC works to make our community a better place for all Clevelanders.

WSCC serves meals to 200 people every day who would otherwise go hungry. In 2016, we served over 60,000 meals in the Resource Center. WSCC's Economic Opportunities program assisted over 70 people acquire and maintain sustainable employment. The Zacchaeus and Moriah House programs provided safe sanctuaries for those exiting homelessness.

Will you help those surviving in poverty discover hope, a future and a second chance?

Make a special gift today in the enclosed envelope.

40 YEARS OF RESPECTFUL SERVICE
\$40 A MONTH IS A \$480 ANNUAL GIFT



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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.

"My family has a safe place to call 'home', with staff to help me find housing and get a job. Thank you to all the staff here; they are kind."

~ Client in Moriah House, WSCC Family Shelter

