



Miracles on 32nd Street

2019: Volume II



**OHIO CITY
PIZZERIA**
great food. great cause.

A social enterprise owned and operated by the West Side Catholic Center to:

- ★ Train and hire WSCC clients
- ★ Build greater awareness of WSCC
- ★ Financially support WSCC

**COMING
SUMMER
2019!**

ohiocitypizzeria.org

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DIRECTOR'S DIALOGUE: *Great Cause*



We are looking forward to the re-opening of the Ohio City Pizzeria as a program of the West Side Catholic Center! I often say (to myself if no one else) that as a center, we must honor our past while assuring our future. I would augment this to say that we must honor our present as well. I make a conscious effort daily to be faithful to all that our center continues to do every day to help people, while also looking forward to the possibilities that this pizzeria offers to our clients and our center as a whole. I know that this has been an idea here for a long time, and extending our mission in this way is very exciting. We remain aware of the gift of what we already are as well.

To be mindful of who we are, we designed the pizzeria logo with the same typefaces that are used in the WSCC logo. There is a subtle reminder of our center's sponsorship. Because the theme of the restaurant will be our beloved Ohio City neighborhood, the pizza shape is meant to symbolize the Ohio City street signs that adorn most street corners in the community. The tagline "Great Food. Great Cause." stands as an added reminder of why we're doing this. The three stars are also intentional. Each star represents a goal we have for the pizzeria. Those goals are:

1. To use the pizzeria to train and hire WSCC clients and offer a spring board for self-sufficiency
2. To use the pizzeria to build greater awareness of WSCC and all of the services it provides
3. To be profitable enough to financially support the center's operating expenses

We conducted a survey of the neighborhood and noted that the old version of the pizzeria thrived on delivery and carry-out business (over 90%!). Our hope is to capitalize on that existing business while also enhancing the dine-in option substantially. We feel that it can be a worthwhile destination. Since my childhood, I have always enjoyed going out to eat with family and friends far more so than eating at home, and while this is both a budgetary and waistline battle I face on a weekly basis, we know that offering a welcoming space is important. This has meant keeping menu items that the community loved, while adding some great Italian favorites like calzones, pastas, salads and desserts, along with wine and beer. An added benefit of continuing old favorites in this way is that OCP can remain an affordable option for neighborhood families.

We also have a very successful partner in Edwins, who specializes in reentry, but also understands the restaurant business very well. They are uniquely positioned to help us on both the restaurant and training fronts, and we have enjoyed this relationship. I am particularly drawn to their attitude of looking forward for people. They view the employees they are helping, and focus the entirety of how they talk about their employees, in terms of their future. This is all about looking forward with people rather than dwelling on the past.

So stay tuned for an opening date as we enter into the summer. Your support in both word and patronage will be essential to the success of each of our three goals. And speaking of the present, our existing center and its needs remain as well, so please consider joining us for the June 1st Pancake Run through our beautiful neighborhood!

*In a spirit of service,
John Litten, Executive Director*

HEROES FOR HOPE

Sr. Rosemarie Carfagna, Volunteer

On Tuesdays and Fridays, I help out in the kitchen, preparing the noon meal. I love the hands-on experience of working with food, especially knowing where the food is going and why I am making it. Our nutritionist, Kaitlyn Kesner, is gradually introducing healthier options into our menus, and the clients like them better than ever. Yesterday we made sautéed apples with a little butter and brown sugar for dessert, and the aroma wafted out into the Resource Center. So many people asked what the wonderful smell was. They really appreciated the special, healthy dessert.

One day after lunch I was going to my car and I saw a family - mom, dad and three children - who were turning away because they had been told we were finished serving for the day. They looked so distressed, and I could tell the kids were hungry. I approached them and said I would be happy to go back inside and find something for them. The father, whose pride had been hurt, turned away and pulled his family with him.

Just then, Mike [Bernot, WSCC Advancement Director] pulled up to the center. He could see that something was going on, so I told him what had happened. Coincidentally, he had bags of sandwiches in his car, which he was delivering to the center. I called out to the family, who by this time had crossed the street, to wait. The father didn't want to stop, but the mom and kids stood still. Mike ran after them across the street and down the block to give them some sandwiches and to tell them to come back to the center to see if we could be of more help. I get chills just thinking about it.

As I hear bits and pieces of the clients' stories, I get glimpses into their struggles and their sheer determination to go on. One woman who I see regularly showed up one day and mentioned casually that someone had broken into her tent the night before and stolen "all her stuff." At that point it was a throwaway line for her, par for the course for a streetwise homeless woman. We served her lunch and she moved on.

When I saw her the next week, I asked how she was doing. She told me that the volunteers in Clothing and Housewares had set her up with "all new stuff." She was smiling and happy. I think she felt really cared for. Because she was one of our regular clients, she seemed to have received the gold star treatment. But I must say, honestly, that every single one of our clients gets the gold star treatment every day.

It is an honor for me to join the line of thoughtful, generous people who have been serving the neighborhood for so long. I hope to continue to dish up lots of good food for the struggling, hungry, but most importantly, hopeful people that we serve.



Sr. Rosemarie preparing a meal for our clients

Marie Tables, Family Coach

I've worked at WSCC for 23 years. I can remember back when I first started, a mother had left and moved into her own place shortly before being diagnosed with breast cancer. She took her son to Providence House while undergoing treatment, but stopped by to thank me and the WSCC staff for all that we had done for her family. During that conversation, she looked and sounded so good, talking about her plans for the future with her five-year-old and how excited they both were.

What she didn't mention is that she had been placed into hospice. A week later, she passed away. Many of our WSCC staff members attended her funeral. It was a heartbreaking occasion for us after witnessing her recent success and her excitement for the new chapter of life for her and her son. I will always remember her loving disposition and the way in which she always thought about others, despite the pain she was in herself. Even though she was going through battles of her own, she wanted us to know how thankful she was that we were there for her family.

This experience taught me a lot. Through it, I was able to see the importance of reaching out and offering a helping hand, even if only in a small way. The families I feel like I'm not helping usually are the ones that remind me that I am!

Being a great listener and remembering the small things helps me to connect. It makes them feel like I am really in the conversation, and that I am invested in providing them with resources and referrals to help with their needs. And truly, I am invested. I believe this is my calling, and I really enjoy coming to work knowing that I can make an impact each day.



Marie Tables (bottom row, center) and the Family Engagement team had their hands full with the amount of Easter basket donations we received!

SUMMER MEET & GREET AT WSCC

The WSCC Board will be hosting a series of casual meet-and-greet opportunities this summer 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.

2019 MEET-AND-GREET DATES:

Thursday, June 20
 Thursday, July 18
 Thursday, Aug. 15
 Thursday, Sept. 19

See wsccenter.org or our Facebook page for event times.

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



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14TH ANNUAL PANCAKE RUN

PRESENTED BY Hyland

14TH ANNUAL PANCAKE RUN
 5K RUN, 1 MILE WALK & PANCAKE BREAKFAST
 SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 2019

Pre-Registration By May 31

Individual [\$25]

Group of 4 [\$80]

12 and Under [\$15]

Day-of Registration for All [\$30]

Register online at

hermescleveland.com

or contact Hermes Cleveland

with questions at

(216) 623-9933.



FOUNDATION SPOTLIGHT

Highlighting the Incredible Organizations that Support Our Family Engagement Programs

West Side Catholic Center's Family Engagement team (formerly Family Services) offers family-centered programs to build relationships and promote family well-being.

The Strengthening Families initiative, now in its third year, is committed to serving the evolving needs of the whole family. Family coaches work to engage families, assess and address their needs, and invite them to participate in programs that strengthen family bonds and encourage familial well-being. This program is funded by St. Luke's and United Way of Greater Cleveland.

Our newest Family Engagement program, the Family FUN-damentals series, is a six-week program that strengthens relationships and enhances child development through the teaching of fundamental skills derived from the key protective factors essential for building strong families. This program is funded by CareSource, St. Luke's, and United Way.

The Family, Food & Fun Summer Program (formerly the Summer Backpack Program), now in its sixth year, is a ten-week program that addresses food insecurity experienced by children and youth in our community during the summer months. According to the United States Department of Agriculture, 16 million children in America have inconsistent access to adequate food, especially in the summer months when school is not in session.

Each week of the Family, Food & Fun Summer Program includes dinner provided and served by a community group, a family activity, and a distribution of food bags containing two days of meals for children, as well as food supplies, healthy recipes, and wellness tips for the entire family. This program is supported by Dominion and Thatcher Family Fund.



Thatcher Family Fund



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.

UPCOMING REQUESTS TO BENEFIT OUR FAMILY, FOOD & FUN SUMMER PROGRAM:

- Jars of peanut butter and jelly
- Canned soup
- Cereal

To organize a donation drive or large donation drop-off, contact the Advancement Department at 216-631-4741 extension 122.

DONATE TO WSCC VIA AMAZON
WSCC is an **AmazonSmile** nonprofit partner. Purchase items for yourself at bit.ly/WSCCAmazonSmile and Amazon will donate a portion of your purchase to WSCC.

If you would like to donate a specific item to WSCC, visit our Wish List at bit.ly/WSCCAmazonWishList and ship items directly to WSCC.



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 memory of the following:

IN MEMORIAM:

Regina Charvat
Regina Cundey
John Dessoffy
Christine Hach
Michael McMorro

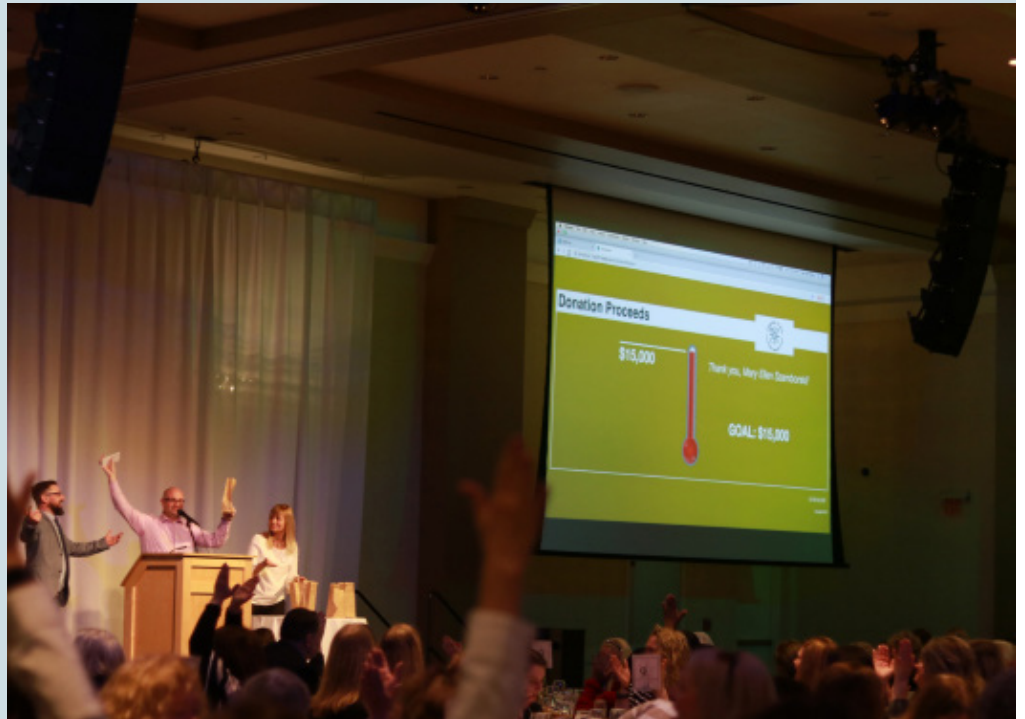
To learn more about giving, contact the Advancement Department at info@wsccenter.org or ext. 132.

ADVANCEMENT CENTRAL

FRIENDS SUPPORTING FAMILIES: *Friends of WSCC 31st Annual Luncheon*

For over 30 years, the Friends of WSCC have hosted an annual March event, which has generated over \$1,000,000 to benefit WSCC's family shelter, Moriah House. The 31st Annual Friends of WSCC Shop for the Shelter was held on Sunday, March 3rd at LaCentre in Westlake. The event raised \$51,500 for the West Side Catholic Center! As always, WSCC is so grateful to these wonderful ladies for all of their generous support of our mission.

Moriah House provides a full range of transitional services that assist families in moving from homelessness to stable housing and employment through interim housing, case management, and trauma-specific interventions.



The moment the \$15,000 fundraising goal for the Fund the Mission portion of the event was reached

2019 EVENT DATES

June 1	WSCC Pancake Run @ WSCC through Ohio City
June 20	WSCC Meet & Greet @ WSCC Gibbons Garden
July 18	WSCC Meet & Greet @ WSCC Gibbons Garden
August 15	WSCC Meet & Greet @ WSCC Gibbons Garden
September 7	Sips & Swigs @ The Madison
September 14	SOUL Race @ St. Joseph Catholic Church
September 19	WSCC Meet & Greet @ WSCC Gibbons Garden
November 8	Warm Hearts Winter Nights @ Marriott Downtown Cleveland

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

SAVE THE DATE:



Please join us in bringing hope to those in need by attending our Warm Hearts Winter Nights gala on Friday, November 8th, 2019 at The Cleveland Marriott Downtown @ Key Center.

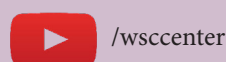
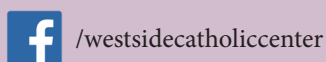
ADVANCEMENT CENTRAL

Sips & Swigs, hosted by our Associate Board, brings together Midwest craft breweries, food, music, and an atmosphere of excitement and goodwill, all in support of the programs of the WSCC. All attendees receive admission to the beer festival, a souvenir tasting glass for samples, entertainment, tasty food, exciting raffles, and more. This year, Sips & Swigs will be at The Madison, one of Cleveland's newest venues!

Visit wsccenter.org/sipsandswigs to register. Take advantage of early bird pricing before it ends on July 31st!



Progress on the Ohio City Pizzeria is coming along nicely, and the restaurant is slated for a summer opening. As we get closer to our grand opening, follow along on social media for updates including menu releases, staff hirings, and much, much more!





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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 have been helped many times in many ways by West Side Catholic Center. After sleeping outside, I was able to get food, clothes, medical help. I may not have survived without the help of volunteers and unselfish donors."

~ WSCC Client



If you would like to receive this newsletter electronically, please email info@wsccenter.org.