



WEST SIDE CATHOLIC CENTER

Vol. 7 Issue 2

Summer 2011

Miracles on 32nd Street

Grounded in faith, hope, love and respect
for those we serve, we assist all who come
in need of food, clothing, shelter and advocacy.

www.helpCleveland.org

WSCC Nurtures the Soul and Feeds the Body with Community Garden



**Kathy, Kathy, always happy,
How does your garden grow?
With coffee grounds and egg white
shells, and wheelbarrows of water on
Sundays when the Center's closed.**

Kathy Miller may not use silver bells and cockle shells to nourish her soil, but as one of the committed core members of the West Side Catholic Center's Earth Connection Community Garden, she makes sure the plants are watered every day – and that includes Sundays, when she can be seen walking from her home one block away to the gardens, a wheelbarrow filled with gallons of water in tow to make sure the plants get watered when the Center is closed.

"Kathy is testimony to the commitment our core gardeners have to this project," said Barbara Taylor, Drop-In Center Supervisor. "She has taken such responsibility for the garden, spending at least an hour a day watering, weeding, and tying up tomato plants – whatever needs to be done."

Earth Connection Community Gardens is part of the Expressive Arts programming of the Drop-In Center. Barbara became interested in therapeutic horticulture several years ago and in January of 2010, decided she wanted to add it to the Center's repertoire of arts programs.

Gardening promotes wellness

"Therapeutic horticulture is the use of

gardening to promote wellness," Barbara explained. "This is accomplished with peaceful gardens promoting stillness for traumatized individuals, providing a connection to the natural rhythm of the earth, promoting socialization and teamwork with other gardeners, and increasing physical activity."

When Barbara learned she was too late to apply for Ohio State University Extension's (OSUE) Summer Sprout program last year, she and the Center staff decided to move forward with the garden on their own. With their nominal budget of \$300 quickly spent to purchase soil and fertilizer, Barbara was able to get the plants donated and recruited a master gardener, John Winchester as a volunteer advisor.

While the community garden is open to everyone, the initial group of gardeners were clients and staff of the Center. This small but committed group took great pride in their first year's harvest that included tomatoes, peppers, herbs and collard greens. Unfortunately, the gardeners did not get to enjoy the fruits of their labor after the unprotected garden was raided.

Summer Sprout Program Provides Support

Disappointed for the gardeners but determined to build on what was learned the first year, then CFO Anita Cook (now Interim Executive Director) sent an email to Barbara in the fall of 2010 with an application to the OSUE Summer Sprout Program and a promise to build a fence if we were selected to participate. WSCC applied, was accepted, and the wheels were in motion for the bigger, better garden.

The first step of the OSUE program required Barbara to attend workshops that included everything from how to find a plot to garden design and pest control. Barbara created a plan for the garden with criteria for goals, budget, rules, timelines, and members.

OSUE added its expertise and resources: Lumber donated by Cleveland Lumber was used for the raised garden beds constructed by volunteers from Hands On Ohio; Three-Z Landscaping delivered humus and soil; OSUE delivered the plants; and in a most pleasant twist of fate, the OSUE appointed master gardener turned out to be none other than the volunteer from the previous year – John Winchester.

The Garden is Planted and Tended With Care

Since creating and planting the garden this past Memorial Day weekend, beds of rich soil planted at the end of the WSCC driveway are lush with the leafy greenery of produce to come. Between five and ten core gardeners tend to the care and watering of the garden every day, which this year promises to produce a plethora of produce worthy of our own farmers market, ranging from tomatoes to egg plant to watermelon to hops.

Kathy Miller, arguably the most devout gardener of the bunch, gets particularly excited when showing off the sprouting tomatoes and peppers. She talks with enthusiasm for her love of gardening, and pleasantly surprises Barbara when she announces that she is putting in applications for jobs in greenhouses. The yield from the garden may not be ready to harvest for several more weeks. But it is clearly already nourishing the souls of those who tend to it today.

WSCC Wish List:

Food Items:

Coffee, sugar, dried beverages



Toiletries:

Soap, shampoo, deodorant, lotion, toothpaste, toothbrushes, disposable razors, foot powder



Clothing:

All family underwear, socks, rain gear and umbrellas, sweatshirts / shirts/light jackets

Functional Household Goods:

Tableware, pots and pans, can openers, alarm clocks, toasters, radios, telephones, blankets and comforters, bedding, towels, small TVs, microwave ovens



Baby Items:

Bedding, diapers, formula and wipes

Miscellaneous Items:

Used eyeglasses, duffle bags and backpacks, sleeping bags, large garbage bags, and air mattresses



Pack 'n Plays are especially needed.

We have a long list of those waiting for a portable crib.



2011 Wish List for School Supplies

Backpacks, Pencils, Crayons/Markers, Pens, Rulers, Notebook paper, 8x11 Spiral Notebooks, Glue sticks, PencilCase, Pocket folders, Scissors



Donations accepted at

3135 Lorain Avenue
side door on W. 32nd Street,
Mon- Fri 9-4:30

Wade Wallace: WSCC Art Student

Wade Wallace, an art student at the West Side Catholic Center, has produced some remarkable drawings that he has sketched from real life. He has been known to sit quietly, observing others in his area, and sketch the scene. Some of his work rests on the Art Board in the Drop-In Center.

Since third grade Wade has been interested in art. His father, an artist, introduced him to colored pencils. When he attended John Marshall, Miss Lucky helped him become a



Wade Wallace practices his art at the Center.



watercolorist. When his family moved to the east side, an exchange teacher from India, Mr. Lee was influential in his artistic growth. He says that his goal was to play basketball. By taking two of Mr. Lee's classes in a row, he knew he could get A's and then qualify for the team.

He has won the "Golden Key" award at Halle's and Joe Cimperman's "Black Box" Award. His work will be presented at The Bishop Cosgrove Art Show in August and was presented at the WSCC Show on July 20th at the St. Ignatius Breen Center.

WSCC Awarded 2011 Multi-Service Program of the Year by Cleveland Foodbank



Pictured from left to right - Barbara Taylor, WSCC Drop-In Center Supervisor; Lou Keim, Cleveland Foodbank Board Member; Anne Goodman, Cleveland Foodbank President & CEO; Rhonda Daniels, WSCC Coordinator of Shelter Operations.

The West Side Catholic Center was again recognized in the community for our outstanding work. The Center was awarded the 2011 Multi-Service Program of the Year at the Cleveland Foodbank's annual Agency Services Recognition Ceremony on June 27 at Windows on the River.

Drop-In Center Supervisor Barbara Taylor and Coordinator of Shelter Operations Rhonda Daniels accepted the award on behalf of all the hardworking, dedicated staff of the Center.

The Cleveland Foodbank provides food and non-food items to nearly 600 member programs. The Center

was among six agencies recognized this year for their exceptional efforts in feeding their guests as well as for their dedication to the community.

Thank you to the staff and volunteers in the Drop-In Center and Shelter whose commitment to our mission and motivation to serve keeps the Center a blessing in our community.

Friends Helping Those in Need Are Friends to the WSCC Indeed



Dorothy Day Award Winner Jim Carey

Friends don't let friends drive away from an opportunity to volunteer at the West Side Catholic Center.

And friends are the common link that blessedly led Polly Barrett and Jim Carey to our doors when they each were seeking a place to give of their time and talents.

Polly Barrett and Jim Carey have a lot in common. They both are giving. They both are unassuming. They both wish to serve. And they both have meant more to the West Side Catholic Center over the years than we can possibly express.

But in our humble attempt to try, WSCC was proud to recognize Polly and Jim with the 2011 Dorothy Day Humanitarian Award at the annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on April 29.

When asked what "drove" them to become involved with the Center, they both said they were referred by friends.

"I had retired from teaching and wanted to do some service," said Polly. "I was praying about it, knowing that I belonged somewhere."

Polly's prayers led her to the Center after a friend told her she could drop off a donation of clothes here. She was taken with the bustle of activity around her and charmed by the winning smile and enthusiasm exuded by long time Drop-In Center staffer Ken "The Dogman" Davis.

"It's all good," Ken characteristically greeted her.

Polly could see that. "Do you accept volunteers here?" she asked.

About five minutes later, Polly was folding clothes. That was more than seven years ago, and since then she has become referred to as WSCC's "ball of fire." Some days Polly meets and greets all who come into the Drop-In Center. Other days she rounds up clothing and household goods for families, sketches and paints WSCC's Christmas Cards, or picks up drum kits for the children in our shelter to make and play.

But there's more...

Polly facilitates the Art in Action Program initiating area artists to instruct in various classes on a monthly basis, from pottery and chalk to collage and acrylic and she herself often teaches many of these. Because of her outreach the class is flourishing with many of our adult clients becoming immersed in art for the first time.

"I love the clients," Polly said. "Amidst the often sad circumstances that bring them here, we experience joy in coming together at the Center - clients and volunteers alike. My personal feeling is that everyone should be getting this award."

Jim Carey is a man of action and few words. Like Polly, he too was referred to the Center by a friend in his parish when he wanted to do volunteer work six years ago. Since then, he has served faithfully every Tuesday and Thursday registering our clients patiently and respectfully, and was instrumental in creating the Center's computerized system of tracking clients.

Jim also attended and helped with monthly masses at the Center. At Christmas time he took the lead in organizing and packaging the 1,000 toiletry bags that were distributed each year. And each November Jim's entire family was present at WSCC's Warm Hearts fundraiser.

"What brought me to the Center and kept me here is pretty nondescript," Jim humbly stated. "I was looking for some volunteer work. A friend in the same parish suggested this place. The people were nice. I continued on. That's it."

That's enough. The eloquence of Jim Carey and Polly Barrett lie not in their words, but in their actions, their good deeds. Their devotion to faith, love of the Center and humble and giving hearts truly reflect what the Dorothy Day Award symbolizes.



Dorothy Day Award Winner Polly Barrett

Would you prefer the on-line version?

You can help to save a tree as well as to save the West Side Catholic Center both printing and postage costs. Let us know if you would prefer to receive your newsletter on-line. Contact Joyce Humel at jhumel@helpcleveland.org

Creative Writing Provides Expressive Outlets

A small but dedicated group of clients have been meeting since spring to try their hand, pun intended, at writing. The purpose of the writing group is to give each member a chance to write his or her personal story and to share it with others in a supportive environment.

Like all of the expressive arts programs at the Center, the writing group has a therapeutic component because it allows participants space to get in touch with what is happening inside.

It is a common human experience to try to rush through life without taking notice of one's emotions and mental well-being. Naturally, for some clients who have experienced traumas such as homelessness or addiction taking time to address and share these stories can be extremely cathartic. All of the members, and especially the three volunteers, Chris Targoss, Joanne LaPlaca, and Brenna Davis, who help facilitate the group, are learning and growing as the result of writing, listening and sharing personal stories.

The meetings led to a performance at the St. Ignatius Breen Center on July 20th. Writing group members had the opportunity to share their pieces with a wider audience of the community. In addition to the readings, the drumming circle played and works from the WSCC Art in Action class were on display.

The participants in the writing group have shown dedication, enthusiasm and a boundless amount of creativity and courage. The honesty in each of the pieces is astounding and the manner in which the group members praise and support one another leaves everyone feeling uplifted at the end of each session.

One of the most rewarding parts of the program is how the members have been surprised by the quality of their own work. Many were hesitant to participate because they believed that they did not know how to write; however, through their involvement each week, they have learned that you don't have to be Shakespeare or necessarily even have to know how to spell to create a beautiful and moving piece. You just have to do what this group of clients has done so well: be honest and write what you know from the heart.

The Creative Writing program at the Drop-In Center has been

meeting weekly since March. Clients are offered the opportunity to use the writing process to express their emotions and their life experiences.

Other Expressive Arts programs include Art, Drumming and Yoga. They are part of the commitment to a Trauma Informed Environment at the Center. Each program is committed to recognizing a trauma survivor's need to feel respected, informed, and hopeful regarding their recovery and connected to others in a positive way.

The following are sample pieces from the writing class:

Today

Today is a purpose to live
A breeze of joy
A ray of hope
A desire of happiness
A moment to breathe and know you are alive.
Live life to remember God, love, hope
"Today"

- George Gonzalez

I love working with the kids
And I love going to NA meetings, CA meetings
And AA meetings because it keeps me clean.
I love life as it is today.

- Casper

One Wish

A perfect close relationship
To close an on and off casual closeness;
the warm conversation with an old friend,
a perfect day for a visit,
to seal a connection left to get a little closer,
for a picnic, a swim to relieve a muggy, hot sunny day;
or to enjoy some old movies,
a perfect ending of a stressful mood.

- Milton Mitchell



St. Barnabas' Youth Group heard from Ken Davis, of WSCC, and got another taste of the homeless experience as they spent the night in cardboard boxes during their "Cardboard Campout."



St. Barnabas Students "Cardboard Campout"

Terrie Garr Named “Lady of the Year” by K of C

Terrie Anter Garr received the Knights of Columbus “Lady of the Year” award this spring. Terrie has been a treasured member of the West Side Catholic Center Staff since 1992, directing the volunteer and in-kind giving program of the Center with love, grace, a deep faith and genuine care and concern for the marginalized of our region.



Terrie Garr is honored with Knights of Columbus “Lady of the Year” award

The Center is blessed with over 500 volunteers who work with Terrie each year. Terrie has the ability to engage people of diverse ages and backgrounds in many meaningful ways to our mission. She provides a warm, caring environment where volunteers are made to feel welcome, special and part of an

integrated team.

The many extra touches that Terrie provides in remembering each birthday, each life event and providing comfort to those who need is just one aspect of what makes her so special to the West Side Catholic Center. Terrie works tirelessly to secure

donations of clothing and household items. In addition, she has the nonstop job of recruiting, training and supervising the volunteers needed to assist with the Center’s programs.

Terrie has achieved all of this in addition to her role as a daughter, wife, mother and grandmother. Terrie and her husband, Chris reside in Fairview Park where they raised their three children. They are members of St. Angela’s parish community, but Terrie also is a frequent visitor to St. Elias Melkite Church, where she attends liturgy with her extended family. Terrie’s grandfather, Joseph Kalill was a 4th degree Knight of Columbus.

Warm Hearts Winter Nights: A New England Holiday to Honor St. Christopher Parish and Vince Hvizda

By Theresa Francis,
Victoria Marinelli and
Gale Mazzella
Warm Hearts Winter Nights
Co-Chairs

West Side Catholic Center is planning the annual Warm Hearts Winter Nights gala to be held on Saturday, November 12, at The Marriott Key Center. We are excited to announce our theme for 2011: A New England Holiday. Our grand prize will be a trip for two to New England!

The Sr. Kathleen Kilbane, Walk in Faith award will be presented to St. Christopher Parish for all of their

hard work and dedication to WSCC. Vince Hvizda, Admiral Products, Inc. will be honored with the Giving Hope Award for unfailing generosity for many years.

This gala is the major fund raising event of the year. Last year we raised over \$100,000 for food, shelter, and clothing for those most in need on Cleveland’s Near West Side.

The fundraiser is successful year after year because of the overwhelming generosity of donors. We need help again this year to ensure success! We are in great need of raffle donations including:

- ◆ Tickets to major sporting or cultural events in Cleveland
- ◆ Weeks in vacation condos or homes
- ◆ Gift certificates
- ◆ Gift baskets or items for gift baskets
- ◆ Bottles of wine for gift baskets

In addition, we will soon be offering table sponsorships and individual ticket sales. With dining, dancing to a live band and a chance to win great prizes, a great time for all is promised.

Lastly, we would like to ask for your prayers for the success of this event which helps further the mission of the West Side Catholic Center.

Hyland Software Sponsors Annual Golf Outing and 5K Run



Clients Become “Queen for a Day”

On Saturday, May 21, women from the Zacchaeus Housing Solutions Program and the Women and Children’s Shelter were treated to an afternoon of pampering at our first Queen for a Day event, hosted by Angela Spring, Zacchaeus Youth Case Manager, Cassandra Bennett, Zacchaeus Life Skills Specialist, and Lana Hughes, Relationship Specialist. Childcare was provided so that all of the women could relax and enjoy a buffet of delicious foods, soft music, gifts & prizes, and a variety of empowerment workshops.

The most anticipated highlights of the day included beautiful hair and make-up transformations created by licensed cosmetologist Marquetta Jones and a serene photography session done by professional photographer Cherina Jones. Photos were taken of the women by themselves and with their children. The cosmetologist and photographer donated their time and supplies to this event. Each woman received a set of pictures as a cherished souvenir.

More than just a luxury, the Queen for a Day event was a spirit-lifting experience that helped all of our women look and feel like queens.

Two New Staff Members Join WSCC Team



Cheryl Helden joined West Side Catholic Center development team to help expand the base of foundation and corporate support and manage the grant process.

She has a strong history of experience in fund development which began in Charlotte, NC where Cheryl worked as a campaigner with United Way of Central Carolinas, Director of Foundation and Government Grants with the Charlotte Symphony and Director of Development with Charlotte Community School of the Arts.

A native Clevelander, Cheryl moved back to her hometown in 2007 where she has since worked in fundraising for the Cleveland Chapter of the Anti-Defamation League and The City Club of Cleveland.

Referring to herself as a “reformed East Sider,” Cheryl now resides in Ohio City and is excited to now work and live in her adopted neighborhood, applying her skills and

energy toward expanding financial support for an organization that does so much good for the greater community.

Donna McCrory is the Center’s new Executive Assistant/Human Resources Generalist.

Donna comes to WSCC with over 12 years Human Resources experience and over 20 years of administrative and office management expertise working in both large and small companies. She is married with one daughter and resides in Eastlake. In her spare time, Donna enjoys camping, reading, spending time with friends & family and traveling.

She is a member of the National Association of Professional Women (NAPW) and supports the Special Olympics and other local charities as well as volunteering for the community association where she resides.

Donna commented on her first impressions of working at WSCC: “ Everyone at WSCC gave me a nice warm welcome and has made me feel right at home. You can certainly tell that everyone who works here is proud of the mission of WSCC! I am excited for my new career here and look forward to what lies ahead.”



Two Convenient Ways to Give

1. Visit Our WEBSITE

www.helpCleveland.org Use the convenient online giving form. Simply by clicking “DONATE”

2. AUTOMATIC DONATIONS

You can make your contributions easy and automatic by periodic withdrawals from your checking account or charges to your credit card.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

I would like to help by donating \$_____ each month each quarter

_____ Please withdraw from my checking account (Enclose a voided check)

_____ Please charge my credit card

_____ A/C Number _____ Expiration Date

_____ Signature

Questions? Call 216.631.4741 x127. Mail in the attached envelope to:
West Side Catholic Center, 3135 Lorain Ave., Cleveland, OH 44113

SEPTEMBER ANGEL MATCH

Our Annual September Angel Match will begin September 1st. We have “Angels” who have pledged once again this year to match every individual and corporate donation we receive in September.

Just like last year, your \$25 gift is worth \$50, your \$50 gift is worth \$100, and so on. Each donor’s gift will be matched up to \$1,000.

This drive is essential to meeting our commitments to the neediest in our community. You truly will be part of the solution with your generosity... and your gift will have **DOUBLE** the impact during September.



WEST SIDE CATHOLIC CENTER

3135 Lorain Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44113
Phone: 216.631.4741
Fax: 216.631.2379
www.helpCleveland.org

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

Board of Directors

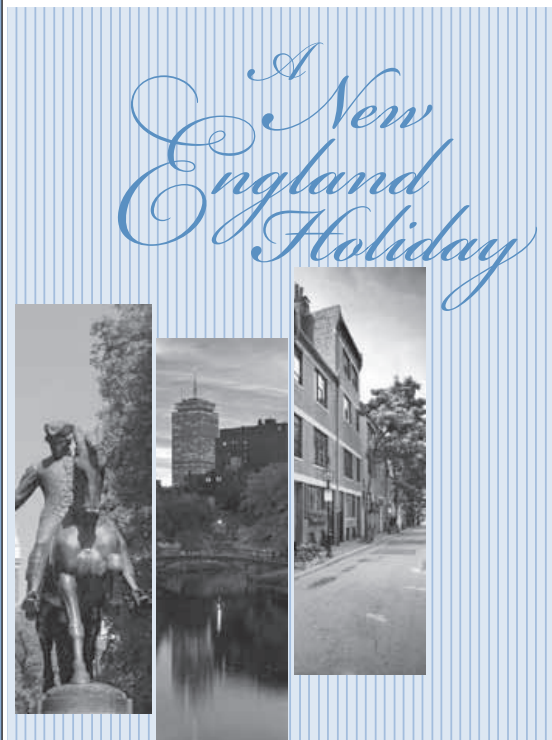
Aaron Marinelli, President
Rick Kirk, Vice President
Robin Ratliff, Secretary
James Gulick, Treasurer

Barbara Arison
Joseph Arnold
Timothy Atkinson
Jack Bedell
Nicholas Borchers
Robert Drusendahl
William Forester
Colette Gibbons
Eric Haddad
Christina Hein
Vincent Hvizda
Robert Kushman
Gale Mazzella
Joseph Morford
Kevin Ryan
Alfonso Sanchez
Michael Solecki
Sharon Tufts
Traci Turner

Advisory Board

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

*Deceased



WEST SIDE CATHOLIC CENTER'S ANNUAL GALA

Warm Hearts Winter Nights

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2011

2011 Honoree and Recipient of the
Sr. Kathleen Kilbane, CSJ Walk in Faith Award

St. Christopher Parish

2011 Honoree and Recipient of the Giving Hope Award
Vince Hvizda, Admiral Products Inc.

Honorary Chair

Janice G. Murphy, RN, BSN, MSN, FACHE,
President of Fairview & Lakewood Hospitals