



Winter 2018

“For everything there is a season,
and a time for every matter under heaven.”

Ecclesiastes 3:1

**WCM - DEDICATED TO ADDRESSING
HUMAN SERVICE NEEDS IN OUR COMMUNITY**



Since 1968, WCM has provided a variety of services to the community, responding to the most imperative needs of the time. For the past ten years, WCM has focused on the nutrition needs of Wilkinsburg residents. WCM operates a food pantry for families and provides holiday food baskets for Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter. In addition, WCM provides meals for youth in a school for autistic students, as well as for at-risk children in after-school and weekend programs throughout the community. During the summer, when free school lunches are unavailable, WCM provides week-day lunches, snacks, and suppers. It also partners with local schools and businesses to provide hygiene necessities and school supplies for elementary school children.

Our recently updated mission statement says it all:

Wilkinsburg Community Ministry, a non-profit organization supported by area residents and congregations, responds to persistent needs of people of all faiths, addressing the human service crises in our community.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends,

Last week I visited one of our “at-risk” sites. At-risk is a social services term meaning the children are in danger of dropping out of school, not being fed, engaging in destructive behavior, in short, of falling through the network of social services designed to help those kids become productive members of society. At these sites, children participate in structured activities and games, usually get some help with reading or homework, work on their socialization skills and get a decent hot meal. This particular site operates on Saturdays only, and is one of our oldest continuing sites.

The weather was chilly and wet, and attendance was low - usually there are 15-20 kids, but that night there were 12. Intentionally I got there at meal time, and had the opportunity to talk to them about their meals. One and all they assured me that Ms. Marette’s oven BBQ chicken was superb. That would be my word, not theirs; most of them had their mouths full of chicken and knew better than to try to talk. In addition to the tasty chicken, the kids had oven roasted potatoes, green beans, braised apples with cinnamon, pudding, and milk. There is always enough left over for them to take home another serving, possibly for themselves, or a sibling, or even a parent. If anything is left over, Mr. Frank takes it to his job on the North Side on Monday. Nothing is wasted.

A few weeks ago, I visited another one of our at-risk sites, this one at another local church and operating two evenings a week. Specifically this program focuses on reading and games. By the time I got there, they were playing some complicated but structured game that caused them to run from here to there. The ratio of children (11) to adults (7) was more even than the Saturday site; clearly each child could have had one on one academic help with reading and homework. That night, the children had spaghetti and meatballs, peas, salad, jello and milk.

This is what we do. Those two dozen children had a hot meal, academic support and supervised play for several hours on an afternoon and evening. Multiply this number of children times 5 sites. Over a week, we reach 150-200 children. In this way we serve the least among us.

We’ve included in this issue of the Well a list of our donors for 2017. Our work would not be possible without your generosity!

Cheers and joy!

Ruth Kittner
Executive Director, WCM

WCM PROVIDES FOOD FOR HUNGRY FAMILIES

Food Bank Statistics for 2017

	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Emergency Food	28	37	46	97	65	55	66	52	35	66	135	175	857
Snap HH	3	8	16	22	24	21	16	52	21	13	33	32	261
Veterans	2	2	0	8	6	8	6	8	6	6	10	9	62
Disabled	4	4	15	20	27	23	14	37	14	18	20	24	220
New	11	11	9	8	28	31	21	40	28	24	80	60	351
Walk Thru Shop	129	113	92	124	144	125	120	148	110	133	144	110	1492

Food Program Statistics for 2017

At Risk/ Summer	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Snack	63	128	147	137	116	0	499	0	188	567	402	582	2829
Meal	132	128	147	137	116	782	1402	426	188	567	402	582	5009
PLEA school year													
Breakfast	482	506	740	264	0	0	0	0	0	96	166	115	2369
Snack	482	1	749	0	0	0	0	0	0	68	213	0	1513
Lunch	482	507	749	267	605	254	0	49	391	591	303	460	4658
Totals	1446	1014	2238	531	605	254	0	49	391	755	682	575	8540

VOLUNTEERS ARE THE BACKBONE OF WCM - CURRENT NEEDS

Where would we be without our volunteers? As this article is being written, Jerome and Ms. Marette, our head cook, are at Restaurant Depot picking up groceries and paper supplies for the next two weeks. RD is a big warehouse, with food and supplies stacked to the ceiling. The steel carts weigh close to 60 pounds; they are not easy to steer, either! So Jerome will push and they both will lift. Yesterday, LeBron helped Bob rearrange the office furniture, bringing up a desk from cellar storage, and reorganizing our pantry and office space; today he removed a big ugly spot off the carpet! Every other week, either Jerome or LeBron accompany Bob to the Food Bank to pick up 500-900 pounds of food. Once a month, a class from PLEA helps us organize and clean the food pantry.

WCM is currently seeking 3 volunteers (minimum). All our in-house volunteers must take the food pantry's online civil rights training and must have the Pennsylvania Act 153 child abuse clearance.

Pantry volunteer: 2-3 hours a week, rotating between Food Pantry at 702 Wood Street and South Avenue United Methodist Church kitchen. Responsible for inventory list in Food Pantry and Kitchen pantries and for monitoring expiration dates. Possible light cleaning. Must take and pass Food Bank's pantry management online certificate. **Please contact the WCM office.**

Kitchen Volunteer(s): 5-6 hours a week on one day, helping in the kitchen. Help prepare and distribute food, assemble lunches and breakfasts, minor kitchen clean up. In particular, we need one person for Tuesday and one for Thursday—these are the heaviest prep days. **Please contact the WCM office.**

2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTED

The 2018 Board of Directors was elected at the November 11 meeting. WCM is actively seeking new talent for the Board of Directors, and has 4 open positions for members-at-large. What does it take to be a member of the Board of Directors? First, it requires a commitment to the WCM mission, to serve and to advocate for the poor and hungry of Wilkinsburg. Second, Board members demonstrate their commitment through donation of time, talent and financial support. We seek people who are organized, creative, inspirational or knowledgeable about community projects. Directors don't have to be all of the above, but willing to learn and to actively engage their time and energy to WCM's mission. The Board meets six times a year, usually on a Saturday. The annual meeting is held in November, and attendance is required. The Executive Committee, comprised of the Board's officers and up to two members-at-large, meets monthly. Last summer, with the support of the Forbes Fund of the Pittsburgh Foundation, the WCM Board of Directors completed an evaluation and empowerment program under the leadership of Doreen Boyce.

Officers

Rita Platt, President, Pastor, South Avenue Methodist Church.

Jane Fox, Vice President, Chair of Executive Committee, Sixth Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh

Claudia (Kim) Viehland, Secretary, Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church

Larry Viehland, Treasurer, Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church

Tom Ochs, Financial Secretary, First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood

Congregational Members

Janet Hellner-Burris, Pastor, Christian Church of Wilkinsburg

Marsha Mason, Waverly Presbyterian Church

Michael Rucker, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood, Member-at-Large of Executive Committee

Darlene Thornton, New Testament Missionary Baptist Church

Members-at-Large

Joe Davis, Proprietor, Biddle's Escape

Pat Hausser, Zion Lutheran Church

Emeritus Director and Founder

John (Jack) Peffer, Retired. Christian Church of Wilkinsburg

Treasurer's Report for 2017 and 2018 Budget

	2016	2017		2018
INCOME	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Individual Gifts	33,129	26,000	74,630	35,000
Church Gifts	35,925	38,000	43,905	43,000
Foundation Gifts	2,300	20,000	30,916	25,000
Business and Org. Gifts	1,147	4,500	510	9,000
Fees for Food Programs	55,313	60,000	38,121	40,000
TOTAL BUDGETED INCOME	\$131,114	\$151,800	\$193,322	\$152,000
EXPENDITURE Summaries				
Wages and Payroll	77,684	74,250	73,000	77,900
Office Expenses	23,604	21,800	24,600	22,500
Non-food Supplies	0	1,850	2,580	2,000
Food and Supplies for pantry	0	0	5,800	5,800
Food for Children's programs	27,254	50,000	36,340	30,000
Financial Audit Consultant	0	3,000	3,400	1,600
Program Development	0	200	3,500	11,400
Loan Repayment	0	0	39,100	0
Capital Equipment	0	0	5,000	800
Total Expenditures	\$128,542	\$152,000	\$193,320	\$152,000

WCM operates on a cash basis, but over the last seven years has incurred several debts; these are paid.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

Many thanks to the following individuals, businesses and organizations that made contributions to support WCM in 2017. (Please forgive us if we have inadvertently omitted any names.)

Individuals

Harry J. Andrews	Mary I. Hart	Neve Mel
Harry Back **	Mary Judith Hartley	Michael A. Messina
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** Denotes May 2017 Day of Giving Contributor ** Denotes Regular Donor and May 2017 Day of Giving Contributor*

MORE THANKS

Individual Contributors, cont'd.

William R. & Ann A. Taymans	Larry & Claudia Viehland **	Harry C. III & Lois M. Winslow
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* Denotes May 2017 Day of Giving Contributor ** Denotes Regular Donor and May 2017 Day of Giving Contributor

Businesses and Organizations

Amazon Smile	Network for Good
Biddle's Escape	Pittsburgh Dry Cleaners & Furriers, Inc.
Burgher Truck, LLC DBA	Pizza Hut - Saltsburg Road, Penn Hills
Emmanuel Family Practice PC	Rotary Club of Wilkinsburg-Regent Square
First Giving	United Way of Allegheny County
James Floral & Gift Shoppe	Wilkinsburg AA Group
KeyBank	Wilkinsburg Chamber of Commerce

Gifts-in-Kind:

412 Food Rescue and Giant Eagle Market District, Baum Boulevard

Foundations

The Forbes Fund of the Pittsburgh Foundation	The Pittsburgh Foundation
The Heinz Endowments	The Frederick W. Steinberg Charitable Foundation
Kiwanis Foundation of Wilkinsburg	

Churches & Church Groups

All Souls Episcopal Church	Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church - Murrysville
Christian Church of Wilkinsburg	Pittsburgh Presbytery
Church World Service, Inc.	Sixth Presbyterian Church
Covenant Church of Pittsburgh	South Avenue United Methodist Church
First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood	South Avenue United Methodist Church Women
Presbyterian Women - First Presbyterian Church Of Edgewood	Third Presbyterian Church
Forest Hills Presbyterian Church	Waverly United Presbyterian Church
Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church	Western PA. Annual Conference (United Methodist)
New Testament Missionary Baptist Church	Women of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

Gifts-in-Kind:

Ethnan Temple: Washer and Dryer First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood: Commercial Refrigerator

OPTIONS TO CONSIDER FOR DONATIONS TO WCM

- **Amazon Smile:** The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible Amazon Smile purchases. Go to <https://smile.amazon.com> and log into your Amazon account. Select WCM as the recipient charity and then make your current and future purchases through smile.amazon.com.
- **Direct contribution:** Please complete the form at the bottom of the next page and mail it to WCM.
- **Monthly gifts:** Set up your bank's BillPay option to send a check to WCM every month. You choose the amount, click repeating payment and WCM receives your monthly support.
- **Network for Good:** This option charges your credit card every month. WCM pays a small processing fee and we get a payment every six to eight weeks. A link is available on the WCM website.
- **RMD Charitable Gifts:** Consider making a Qualified Charitable Deduction (QCD) from your IRA.

WCM FINANCIAL NEWS

WCM's finances improved in 2017 with increases in donations from individuals, businesses and foundations. That is good news! This additional income helped reduce the debt as well as giving encouragement for 2018. The budget for 2018 that is shown on page 4 is balanced, with projected revenues of \$152,000.00 which includes donations, grants and reimbursement for food from the Food Bank and the Federal food program.

WCM had a successful full financial audit for 2016 and copies can be emailed to any donor by emailing our Executive Director Ruth Kittner. In alternate years we get a Financial Review and the year 2017 review is in progress. WCM has only a small portion of expenses that is spent on administration since most of those chores are handled by volunteers, so the Executive Director can concentrate on serving clients and the community. We thank you for your continuing support!

Tom Ochs, Financial Secretary

WOULD YOU PREFER TO RECEIVE THE WELL ELECTRONICALLY?

We have begun offering the WELL electronically in a PDF form by email and on our website, in addition to the paper edition. Funding is an on-going challenge and these new offerings will help save on postage and printing costs. There are two ways you can sign up for an electronic copy of the WELL: (1) Click on the "Info" tab and then the "Contact Us" tab to sign up on the WCM website and future copies of the WELL will be delivered to your email address or (2) you can send us the form at the bottom of this page listing your name, address and email address and then checking the box at the bottom. If you do neither of these, you will continue to receive a paper copy. You can also update your street address, phone number and other contact information online at www.wcm15221.org.

PLEASE USE THIS NEW FORM FOR YOUR MAIL-IN CONTRIBUTION

Please consider making a new or additional contribution to WCM at this time. Contributions may be made at **ANYTIME** by going to <http://www.wcm15221.org> and clicking on the "Donate Now" button, where you can donate by credit card or PayPal. The website also has a special link to "GoFundMe." You may also use the form below. Please send your check to Donations Administrator at Wilksburg Community Ministry, 702/704 Wood Street, Wilksburg, PA, 15221.

WCM also participates in the Contributor Choice program of the United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania. To designate WCM at work, please reference our agency code 242.

- \$10 supports after-school snacks and meals for 3 children
- \$25.00 provides a turkey or ham for a family of 5 at Thanksgiving or Christmas
- \$45.00 is 3 days of emergency food for 2 adults and a child
- \$95.00 is 4 days of food for a family of 5 \$500.00 pays the WCM milk bill for a month
- Other \$_____ Please use my contribution where it is most needed

I/We want to join in your efforts to help others and will subscribe the following amount:

Payable: Enclosed \$_____ Monthly \$_____ Quarterly \$_____ Date: _____

Name (*please print*) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email address _____

- I/We would like to receive the WELL electronically.

Wilkinsburg Community Ministry
702/704 Wood Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15221

Non-Profit Organization
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**DATED MATERIAL -
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Wilkinsburg Community Ministry Churches United - Serving Together

Wilkinsburg Community Ministry, a non-profit organization supported by area residents and congregations, responds to persistent needs of people of all faiths, addressing the human service crises in our community.

The Well - Winter 2018



WILKINSBURG
COMMUNITY MINISTRY

Wilkinsburg Community Ministry

Phone 412-241-8072 FAX 412-241-8315

E-mail: [caring @wcm15221.org](mailto:caring@wcm15221.org) Website: www.wcm15221.org

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