



Spring 2019

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

Ecclesiastes 3:1

**WCM TO PARTICIPATE IN MAY 7  
CRITICAL NEEDS ALERT GIVING EVENT**



On Tuesday, May 7, The Pittsburgh Foundation will host a Critical Needs Alert online giving event to support basic needs and the safety net of essential human services that is provided by more than 190 organizations in Allegheny and Westmoreland counties. This year's Critical Needs Alert will take place online at [www.pittsburghgives.org](http://www.pittsburghgives.org) on May 7, 2019 from 8:00 AM to 11:59 PM. Last year WCM raised \$3,414.00 on this day of giving. A small credit card and processing fee was deducted from this total, and then the balance was matched with \$1.37 per dollar from a matching pool provided by the Pittsburgh Foundation.

As a food pantry, we qualify for the #ONEDAY program, which puts WCM into a special pool of organizations that participate in the spring Day of Giving. Other non-profits (such as the PSO and the Carnegie) participate at a date later in the year. Donors may also log into their Pittsburgh Foundation accounts and schedule a gift ahead of time. Please join us on May 7 by selecting WCM as one of your recipient organizations and by giving generously to the #ONEDAY Critical Needs Alert.

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends,

Last month, WCM received a grant of a new pantry freezer from the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. In part, this grant was necessitated by the failure of one of our old freezers, but also by the increased food insecurity in our area. During the government shut-down, we expanded our services to include neighboring zip codes and needs for services doubled.

In March 2019, the Wilkinsburg Community Ministry began testing an expanded service program to include the 15218 zip code. This includes Edgewood, Swissvale, and parts of Forest Hills and North Braddock. These additional areas are under-served by existing food pantries, which are open only once or twice a month. We receive support already from several churches in Edgewood and Swissvale, and this expanded service will reach their congregations as well. We received a grant for \$1,000 from the Junior League to help with this project.

WCM offers two kinds of food assistance: Food Pantry and Walk-Through Shop. Food Pantry provides enough food for the family for a week and includes at least 2 meats, canned goods, breads, pasta, soups, cereals. The Walk-Through Shop offers assistance for one or two days: soups, canned or boxed meals, etc. Tuesday-Thursday we distribute fresh produce; on Wednesdays-Fridays, we usually have breads, sweets, occasionally left over pizza from one of the chains. (Please see the Food Services table on the next page.) We periodically offer holiday meal boxes: turkey coupons, trimmings for meals, etc. at Christmas and Thanksgiving, and a ham plus trimmings at Easter.

The two zip code catchment areas are similar in demographics. There are comparable percentages of married/unmarried, divorced, widowed, male/ female, etc. The median age is slightly younger in 15218. A chart comparing the demographics of the proposed expansion with 15221 is attached in Appendix B. Zip code 15218 includes Swissvale and Edgewood, and parts of Pittsburgh, Wilkinsburg, Munhall, Rankin, Braddock Hills, North Braddock.

We'll keep you posted on the results of this service expansion test in upcoming months.

Included in this issue of the Well is a listing of our donors for 2018. Our work would not be possible without your generosity. Thank you very much!

Cheers and joy!

*Ruth Kittner*

## WCM PROVIDES FOOD FOR HUNGRY FAMILIES

WCM offers food assistance in two ways: the Food Pantry and the Walk-Through Shop. The Food Pantry provides enough food for a family for a week, while the Walk-Through Shop provides food for one or two days.

*(Note: SNAP = Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Recipients must meet certain eligibility requirements.)*

### Food Pantry and Walk-Through Statistics

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
<b>Emergency Food 2019</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>113</b>										422
SNAP Households	47	97	55										199
Veterans	22	46	15										83
Disabled	11	28	19										58
New Households	55	111	90										256
<b>Emergency Food 2018</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>1036</b>
SNAP Households	23	16	31	30	31	27	19	34	23	28	45	100	407
Veterans	6	3	6	7	7	7	6	7	11	11	15	52	138
Disabled	13	16	15	15	16	16	14	9	13	13	19	38	197
New Households	35	21	45	40	27	15	29	28	33	32	78	100	483
<b>Walk-Thru 2019</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>321</b>										<b>833</b>
<b>Walk-Thru 2018</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>2313</b>
<b>Walk-Thru 2017</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>1492</b>

## OPEN MARKET (aka FARMERS' MARKET) TO BEGIN IN JUNE

The 2019 season of the Wilkinsburg Thursday Open Market begins June 13 in the LifeCare Hospital parking lot at the corner of Penn & South Trenton Avenue. The Market will be open every Thursday from 3:00 – 6:30 p.m.

Just Harvest is working with the Market again this year expanding access to fresh, healthy food through the Fresh Access program. This program enables shoppers to use their food stamps – as well as credit and debit cards - to buy fresh food at the Market.

Fresh Access Food Bucks give food stamp shoppers an extra \$2.00 to spend of fruits and vegetables for every \$5.00 they spend in food stamps at the Wilkinsburg Thursday Open Market.

## WCM FINANCIAL NEWS

WCM continued to serve the citizens of Wilkinsburg in need with urban survival programs, food, job training and many other services in 2018. Our office is open five days a week and we have a busy walk-in clientele that we serve to the best of our ability. In 2018 we had actual revenues of \$151,388.96 compared to a budget income of \$152,000.00 and actual expenses of \$154,335.90 compared to budgeted expenses of \$152,000.00. The budget for 2019 for income and expenses is \$155,000.00, which includes donations, grants and reimbursement for food from the Food Bank and the Federal food program.

WCM had a successful financial review for 2017 and copies can be emailed to any donor by emailing our Executive Director Ruth Kittner. Each year we get a Financial Review, a Compilation or an Audit as voted on by the full Board. In 2019 we will have a Compilation of income and expense financial transactions. WCM has only a small portion of expenses that are 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

### Treasurer's Report for 2017, 2018 and 2019 Budget

	2017	2018		2019
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
<b>INCOME</b>				
Individual Gifts	74,809	35,000	44,875	43,000
Church Gifts	42,018	43,000	45,124	40,000
Foundation Gifts	31,916	25,000	7,344	20,000
Business and Organization Gifts	5,856	5,000	1,126	4,000
Fundraising Income	325	4,000	8,759	3,000
Miscellaneous Income	0	0	1,015	0
Fees for Food Programs	40,294	40,000	43,145	45,000
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$195,219</b>	<b>\$152,000</b>	<b>\$151,389</b>	<b>\$155,000</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
Wages: Admin. & Urban Survival	35,793	37,000	39,136	38,500
Wages: Food Programs	21,638	27,000	26,291	28,000
Taxes & Workman's Comp	7,444	4,900	5,025	5,100
Liability & Other Insurance	9,408	8,000	9,093	8,300
Bank & Payroll Fees	1,573	1,000	678	700
Rent, Security & Trash	12,356	12,000	12,206	12,500
Utilities	2,269	2,400	2,715	2,600
Office Expenses	7,875	5,000	8,185	7,000
Equipment Maintenance & Repair	1,080	2,000	967	1,000
Van Expenses	1,481	1,100	3,248	2,200
Supplies for Urban Survival	3,152	2,600	1,903	2,000
Food & Supplies	40,744	35,000	40,625	40,000
Loan Repayment	39,100	0	0	3,000
Financial Audit	3,400	1,600	1,507	3,400
Fundraising Expenses	3,524	0	775	0
Neighborhood Allies	0	0	1,015	0
Miscellaneous & New Programs	0	200	3,500	700
Capital Equipment	5,031	0	1,700	0
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$195,969</b>	<b>\$152,000</b>	<b>\$154,236</b>	<b>\$155,000</b>

## **THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!**

*Many thanks to the following individuals, businesses and organizations that made contributions to support WCM in 2018. (Please forgive us if we have inadvertently omitted any names.)*

### **Individuals**

Barry & Jan Alfonso	Frances Hardic	Joan Maser
Rhonda Apossos	Mary Hartley	Mrs. Rick Masten
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## MORE THANKS

### *Individual Contributors, cont'd.*

Rev. Paul Schradung	Diane Startari	Cathy Wilkie
Minette Seate	Frederick Steinberg	Thomas Williams
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John Stanton	Mary Wasiko	Peggy Young

### **Community Partners**

Amazon Smile	Pittsburgh Learning Commons
Biddle's Escape	Pittsburgh Presbytery Treasury Service
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Emmanuel Family Practice Associates, P.C.	John Stanton Holdings, Stanton LLC
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Longwood at Oakmont	Wilkinsburg Community Ministry Board
Network for Good	Wilkinsburg Rotary Club
Pittsburgh Dry Cleaners & Furriers, Inc.	Wilkinsburg Supper Club
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### **Congregational Partners**

Christian Church of Wilkinsburg	Sixth Presbyterian Church
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First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood	Swissvale Presbyterian Women's Association
Hamilton Presbyterian Church	Third Presbyterian Church
Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church	Waverly United Presbyterian Church
New Testament Missionary Baptist Church	Western PA. Annual Conference (United Methodist)
Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church - Murrysville	Women of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

## GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

**Summer food** for children: we always try to serve fresh fruit and veggies. We have to document the source of food we use, so we have to purchase it ourselves, but you can send a check to WCM and note that it is for fresh fruit and veggies for the children. Please see the form on page 7.

**AmazonSmile** is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation donates 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice. Every item available for purchase on [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) is also available on AmazonSmile at the same price. You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail pages. 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 AmazonSmile.

## **EXTRA, EXTRA, READ ALL ABOUT IT!**

- Highmark will be sponsoring the “Walk for a Healthy Community” on May 11 beginning near the Point. This event raises money for food pantry purchase accounts at the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank such as what WCM uses. WCM is seeking walkers and sponsors. Reverend Michael Rucker from the First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood will be the team captain.

### ***WCM Directors are out and about in the community:***

- Jane Opgard made a presentation to the Longwood at Oakmont nursing unit residents about her bicycle trip through Siberia last summer. Jack and Marge Peffer attended.
- The Edgewood Symphony will have its season finale concert at Jewish Community Center, 7:30 PM 11 May; Kim Viehland plays cello with them. She will also be the “Science Lady” Vacation Bible School at Mifflin Avenue the five mornings in July, for children ages pre-K to 6<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Ruth Kittner presented a program entitled “Faith at Work” at the Third Presbyterian Church’s Speaker series. (5<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Negley) on 3 April 2019. On 10 April, KLOVE 98.8, a Christian rock station, interviewed her for features on their Sunday night program. The program will air 3 or 4 times in the next 12 months.

## **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. It’s easy to sign up for an electronic copy of the WELL: 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. You can also update your contact information online at [www.wcm15221.org](http://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 Wilkinsburg Community Ministry, 702/704 Wood Street, Wilkinsburg, 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**.

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

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

- \$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
- Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Please use my contribution where it is most needed

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

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PLEASE EXPEDITE**

***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 - Spring 2019**



**Wilkinsburg Community Ministry**

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

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

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