

## Wilkinsburg Community Ministry

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*Wilkinsburg Community Ministry*

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## The Well – Autumn 2005

Wilkinsburg Community Ministry  
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**Autumn 2005**

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

Ecclesiastes 3:1

I'd like to take this opportunity to give you an update on important happenings at WCM.

The first topic that I want to focus on today concerns the strategic plan for WCM. After several false starts, we finally organized a series of "stakeholder" meetings to get input from our clients, our staff, and the community. Approximately six meetings were held during several months in late 2004, and additional input was received from three different surveys. We received a special grant that allowed us to employ an outside consultant to survey community leaders. All of this information was discussed at length by the Executive Committee and synthesized into a strategic plan that focuses on six things for WCM to focus on in the very near future. This plan was brought to the full board at its meeting on September 10, where it was decided to have a special board meeting on October 8 devoted exclusively to this topic. I'm writing this in late September, so if you read it before the meeting, please make every effort to come to the meeting at 9:30 a.m. at 710 Mulberry Street. Otherwise, we will include a full presentation of the plan in the next edition of *The Well*.

The second topic is a general presentation about our financial situation. After several rough months in the spring, our situation stabilized over the summer, due to increased enrollment in the child care center and an increase in the number of meals we provide to our children and to a number of other affiliated programs. We recently received a grant to support our administrative costs for Meals on Wheels, while the food costs associated with delivering approximately 75 meals every weekday continue to be covered by the Area Agency on Aging. However, our long-term debt remains at more than \$15,000 and we must begin to repay it even while the needs of those suffering from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita loom so large in our thoughts. Your help in meeting needs both here in the Wilkinsburg area and in the southern U.S. will be greatly appreciated.

Larry A. Viehland, WCM Board President

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends:

How can you make the most of any of your volunteer experience? **GIVE!** Giving your time and service to others is the greatest experience one can receive.

Everyone needs to be able to connect with people and make a difference in their lives by giving of their time.

Experiences within the Ministry range from giving one (1) to two (2) days per week delivering Meals on Wheels, delivering CFSP boxes one Saturday per month, packing holiday food bags, organizing a food, clothing, or furniture drive or helping with databases. Plus we are always in need of volunteers to help type, answer phones or provide marketing expertise. We can truly benefit from your special skills.

You can gain personal satisfaction and experience that will benefit you in ways you never thought possible, all while improving our Ministry. If you can help, please call us at **412-241-8072**.

Many blessings and please keep us in your prayers.

*Aaron*

## SPECIAL THANKS TO TWO VERY SPECIAL PEOPLE

We want to take this opportunity to thank two individuals who have made significant contributions to WCM as former members of our staff. Beth Mulvaney has been our Social Worker for Seniors for many years and most recently has been our Assistant Director. Shona Brown has served as our Child Care Center Director. We are extremely fortunate that both Beth and Shona are continuing to be involved with WCM as consultants in their respective areas of expertise.

## PITTSBURGH EAST CROP WALK TO RAISE FUNDS FOR WCM



As you read this newsletter, over 100 Crop Walkers from 16 congregations are busy collecting pledges from their sponsors. This year's walk will be held on **Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup>** over a 10K course through the East End of Pittsburgh. Funds raised in the Crop Walk go to help fight hunger around the world and 15% of the money raised locally will come to WCM to help support our local hunger-fighting programs. Last year 117 walkers raised \$11,346 and we're hoping to exceed that total this year. Thanks to all who walked and pledged!

## WCM KIDS ENJOY EXCITING SUMMER

**WCM's Childcare Center** moved on June 30 from Mulberry Presbyterian Church to a wonderful new facility across the street at South Avenue United Methodist Church. Average daily attendance is about fourteen children ranging from zero to five years of age. Hot lunches are cooked each day in the church kitchen by Naomi Harris and Bert Hopson and provided to childcare center children. Lunches are also cooked for the PLEA program located in South Avenue Church, for the Edgewood Presbyterian Church Day Care Center and for the Waverly Presbyterian Church Day Care Center. Sources of tuition are Child Care Partnerships (CCP), Department of Public Welfare grants, and private payment.



**Lots of smiling faces**

**Patricia and staff with little ones**

**Youngsters ready for fun**

**The WCM Childcare Center Summer Program** was in session for ten weeks from June 20 to August 26. It started with an enrollment of 35 youngsters six to twelve years old, and the average daily attendance was about twenty. There were several day trips to facilities such as the Pittsburgh Aviary, Sand Castle, Pittsburgh Zoo, Phipps Conservatory, Robert Morris Sports Center, Carnegie Museum and Frick Park. Many youngsters received breakfast and all were supplied with lunches prepared in the kitchen at South Avenue United Methodist Church. They also got plenty of supervised exercise time.

Patricia Jones was the Program Supervisor. Her staff was comprised of Tearra Fitzgerald (summer), Gerald Lee (summer), Deaina Rosemond, Andre Scott, Danielle Williams, and Stephanie Wolford. India Harris and Breanne Patterson were volunteers.



**Patricia & friends ready for field trip**

**Large group visits the aviary**

**Preparing treat bags for the final day**

**Church Camps:** Eighteen Wilksburg children spent a week at one of three area church camps this summer. The camps were Camp Crestfield (Pittsburgh Presbytery), Camp Agape (Lutheran) and Camp Laurelview (Disciples of Christ). WCM is deeply grateful for the scholarship aid which these camps and private individuals provided and for the volunteers who provided transportation.

## SOCIAL SERVICE PROGRAMS HELP MEET ON-GOING LOCAL NEEDS

<b>Food Pantry Statistics</b>	<b>March</b>	<b>April</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>June</b>	<b>July</b>	<b>August</b>
<b>From Raymond Tolbert</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2005</b>
<b>Number Served:</b>						
Families served:	9	14	22	7	15	14
Individuals served:	26	40	61	12	38	29
<b>Ages of Individuals:</b>						
Children 0 - 17 years old:	16	23	36	4	21	13
Adults 18-59 years old:	9	17	25	7	16	15
Adults: 60 yrs. and over	1	0	0	1	1	1
<b>Demographic information:</b>						
Male	11	14	26	5	10	8
Female	15	26	35	7	28	21
African-American	25	40	60	6	38	28
Caucasian	1	0	1	6	0	1
Families using Food Stamps	7	11	14	3	9	5
<b>Commodity Supplemental Food Program</b>	32	32	32	32	32	32
Number of boxes distributed						
(Through Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank)						

The WCM Food Pantry offers assistance to the needy in three important ways: Emergency, Walk-Thru and Special Holiday Food Programs. Referrals are needed for emergency distribution. Commodities needed for emergency donations include fish, meats, poultry, cereals, pasta, soups, grains, juice and fruits. This program serves between 25 to 65 families a month. Walk-Thru commodities include breads, candy, canned goods, dry food products and fresh vegetables. An average of 20 to 30 people are served each day.

### ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM RESUMES IN OCTOBER

WCM has started processing applications for this season's **Dollar Energy Fund**. This year assistance will be provided not only to those whose service has been terminated, but also to those who have received active termination notices.

### SHIRLEY SIMMONS JOINS THE WCM STAFF



Shirley Simmons joined the WCM Staff in April as Coordinator of the Meals on Wheels Program. Her extensive clerical experience enables her to make out and assign the route schedules and interview applicants or their families for entry into the Meals on Wheels Program. She also handles emergency situations as they arise, including serving as a driver or route helper.

Her part-time assistant is Marilyn Green, who has been helping WCM for several months, both as a driver and in many other ways.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR 'SERVICES FOR SENIORS' PROGRAM

### **Volunteers delivered 1,691 Meals-on-Wheels in August 2005!**

- Volunteers served over 9400 meals to Wilkinsburg residents in the past 6 months.
- On average, 84 individuals were served each week; the range was 84-90.
- About 70 meals were distributed each weekday.

### **Drivers are still desperately needed for Meals on Wheels Routes.**

We are always looking for new volunteers. Did you know it usually takes 8 volunteers per day to deliver meals? Our 55 volunteers are incredibly dedicated to providing this service, which is a wonderful blessing to all of us. But we are always in need of additional help.

**Please contact Shirley Simmons at 412-241-8072 for more information.**

### **SPECIAL DECEMBER EVENTS COMING UP SOON!**

WCM will sponsor the **thirty-third annual "Wilkinsburg Sings"** Celebration of Advent on Sunday, December 11 at the Ethnan Temple which is located at 1205 Wood Street. Mark the date on your calendar now! "Wilkinsburg Sings" is a tradition that is sure to put you in the true Spirit of Christmas.

**Luminaria Kits** provide a wonderful way to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ and beautify your curb and walks this coming holiday season. Kits will again be available at local churches and at the WCM office for a contribution of \$10. Each kit contents everything you'll need to construct 8 luminaria.

### **YOUR INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTION IS NEEDED NOW**

You have read in this and past issues of "The Well" about the many wonderful things we are doing to help those in need. A large portion of our support comes from area individuals and businesses and we hope you'll consider making a new or additional contribution at this time. Please use the form below and send your tax-deductible contribution to WCM, 710 Mulberry St., Pittsburgh, PA 15221. WCM also participates in the Contributor Choice program of the United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania. To designate WCM at work, simply fill in part D-1 of your pledge form. Our agency code is **242**. Please be sure to check "yes" at the bottom of the form so that your gift can be acknowledged.

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I/We want to join in your efforts to help others and give those who are less fortunate an opportunity to live with dignity, and will subscribe the following amount:

\$25  \$50  \$75  \$ 100  \$200  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

No thank-you necessary.

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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gift to be anonymous.