

Wilkinsburg Community Ministry

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Meals on Wheels Volunteer Coordinator

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Wilkinsburg Community Ministry

Churches United - Serving Together

The Well – Spring/Summer 2010

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

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The
WELL
of Wilkinsburg Community Ministry

Spring/Summer 2010

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

Ecclesiastes 3:1

MEALS ON WHEELS RECEIVES NEW VAN



Ann Greider, WCM Executive Director, Ryan Copeland, LifeCare Dietary Manager
and Shaneeka Dyer show off the new Meals on Wheels van

(Story on p. 3)

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



“Well done, thou good and faithful servant.... Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.”

Matthew 25:21

This verse always comes to mind when I think of our beloved James Garner who passed away earlier this year. I know he is missed, not only by his family and friends, but also his church home the Christian Church of Wilkinsburg, here at the ministry, the Veterans Hospital where he volunteered and the Wilkinsburg community as a whole. I know that I miss him; he had been a loyal volunteer with me since 1998 when I first met James at the Christian Church of Wilkinsburg. I am sure that when the Lord met James he said, “Well done thou good and faithful servant”. I hope that we can be good and faithful servants here at the ministry when we are working with the community at large.

Earlier this year in March we gave up our second floor offices at 708 Wood Street to cut costs. The move meant losing quite a bit of office and meeting space, but we’ve been able to make the best use possible of the remaining space on the ground floor at 702 and 704 Wood Street. Despite our misgivings at the beginning about moving, it has worked out well for us. Being located together all on one floor has actually helped us work better as a team. It has also given me a chance to meet the individuals/families that come through here and they have a chance to meet me.

We have recently taken on a new member of staff, Jennifer Matich, who is taking over the in the position of Volunteer Coordinator. Jennifer interned with us for the year from Carlow University and she has now graduated with a BSW. We would like to welcome Jennifer to our team.

I am lucky enough to have a new Social Work intern who started on Monday May 24th. Her name is Darea Calloway and she is from Juniata College in Huntingdon, PA. Darea’s mother is an active member of the Christian Church of Wilkinsburg.

I want to express my continued thanks to our staff and volunteers and everyone from the community who generously supports WCM. I am looking forward to a wonder summer this year as my son is getting married. I hope that all of you have a blessed summer with your families as well.

Blessings,

Ann

MEALS ON WHEELS RECEIVES NEW VAN **Wilkinsburg Celebrates “March for Meals”**

The WCM Meals on Wheels program got off to exciting start early this year. Wednesday, March 24, 2010 was national “Mayors for Meals Day”, which is part of the Meals on Wheels Association of America (MOWAA) annual “March for Meals” program. During the month of March, WCM went out into the community to give the people an awareness of the plight of Senior Hunger in Wilkinsburg. On March 24, Mayor John Thompson delivered meals for us. On two subsequent days the Police Department and the Fire Department delivered meals for us. We would like to thank Chief of Police Olivia Coleman and Fire Chief Owen McAfee and their staff members for their generous support.



Wilkinsburg Police and Fire Department personnel assist WCM Meals on Wheels by delivering meals to shut-in seniors at the end of March

Meals on Wheels Association of America will be awarding WCM a grant for taking part in the “March on Meals” campaign. WCM was able to purchase a new van to deliver meals (see photo on page 1) through MOWAA. Walmart partners with MOWAA to help fight senior hunger and they awarded us \$15,000 to purchase this van. In addition to being used for food delivery, the van is also being used to pick up food at the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank and for the Angel Food Ministry.

Meals on Wheels has been active in Wilkinsburg since the early 1970’s. Meals are delivered Monday through Friday, including weekday holidays. One hot lunch is provided along with a bag, which includes milk and bread. Not only is food provided, but this daily personal contact makes a real difference in the lives of the recipients. A volunteer was recently told, “If it wasn’t for MOW delivery, days would go by without me being able to speak to anyone”. Hearing this makes a volunteer’s job more rewarding. Since the beginning of 2010, 31 volunteers have served 3,602 meals to Wilkinsburg residents on four local routes. On average about 60 meals are distributed each weekday.

Executive Director Ann Greider supervised the preparation and serving of a delicious luncheon on Wednesday, April 14 at the Christian Church of Wilkinsburg to honor and thank twenty Meals-on-Wheels drivers and helpers for the excellent volunteer work they had done in the past year. She presented achievement certificates to the volunteers, and a special one to Mrs. Nancy Richard who is retiring after 35 years as a volunteer driver.

**If you’d like to volunteer to make a difference in someone’s life,
please contact Anita McKeithen at 412-241-8072.**

SOCIAL SERVICE PROGRAMS HELP MEET ON-GOING LOCAL NEEDS

It has been a good year so far for the WCM Food Pantry with help from the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank and dedicated churches. The ministry has been and is prepared to handle most emergencies within the designated service area. Since the beginning of the year, our walk-through area has been stocked with clothes, canned soups, fresh bread and some non-food and hygiene products. WCM usually serves eight or more clients each day.

Food Pantry Statistics from Raymond Tolbert

	January 2010	February 2010	March 2010	April 2010
Households served:	4	6	16	8
Individuals served:	15	9	35	19
Age of individuals:				
0-17	9	2	15	6
18-34	1	1	7	4
35-59	5	5	11	8
60+	0	1	2	1

Angel Food Ministries Program:

	January 2010	February 2010	March 2010	April 2010
Individuals served:	14	8	10	14

The “menu” for each month generally includes 15 items for the low cost of just \$30.00. Angel Food Ministries has added 2 new specials for the summer – they are called Just for Me after school. One is an assortment of child friendly snacks, which are a great treat for after school. The other is an assortment of healthy veggie snacks especially for kids. Hopefully this will improve the order list.

Dollar Energy Program:

With help from the Dollar Energy Fund, 363 applications were processed by WCM. The total amount of grant money paid for this agency was \$71,200.00. Applications processed were for the following Utility Companies:

Duquesne Light – off only. Equitable Gas – closed. Columbia Gas – open. Peoples Gas – open.

Applications received: 277. Applications processed: 276 (1 pending). Average process time: 1.61 days

EXTRA, EXTRA, READ ALL ABOUT IT!

- Church World Service recently sent a check for \$1979.65 as WCM’s share of the proceeds from the Pittsburgh East CROP Hunger Walk that was held in October 2009. Funds will be used to purchase food for the WCM food bank and other food-related projects.
- WCM extends a special welcome to Jennifer Matich, who became a new staff member following her recent graduation from Carlow University with a BSA degree. Jennifer began working with WCM in September 2009 as an intern and she will now be taking over the position of Volunteer Coordinator.
- Prayers go out to the family of WCM Board Secretary, Laura Lou Struthers, whose husband Thomas passed away in April after a brief illness. He was a very active member of the East Liberty Presbyterian Church.
- On May 2, 2010 eight choirs from Wilksburg churches presented their fourth annual “Spring Sing” at Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church. A free-will offering of over three hundred dollars was collected. Wren Price of Wilksburg Church of Christ, Scientist did her usual excellent job of organizing and implementing this event. Make plans now to attend or send a choir to WCM’s “Wilksburg Sings at Christmas” on December 5, 2010 at Saint Stephen’s Episcopal Church.
- Following negotiations with our landlord, WCM has moved all of its offices into 702 Wood Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15221, the first floor of the location we first occupied in 2008. We greatly appreciate the help and cooperation afforded by our landlords, Alice Sapienza Donnelly and her sons, Frank and James Sapienza. Special thanks also go to Roger Schneider and John Walter for their help in reconfiguring our computer network and all those who carried the multitude of boxes!
- At its meeting on May 8, 2010, the WCM Board approved modifications in the Bylaws presented by the Executive Committee. The changes are intended to improve and streamline the way the Board functions in carrying out its policies and procedures.

YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED AGAIN THIS YEAR

Please consider making a new or additional contribution to WCM at this time. Please use the form below and send your tax-deductible contribution to WCM, 702 Wood 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.**

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 is needed

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ _____ Please consider this

Email Address _____ gift to be anonymous.

Telephone _____