

Wilksburg Community Ministry
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Pittsburgh, PA 15221

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Wilksburg Community Ministry Churches United - Serving Together

The Well – Autumn 2010

Wilksburg Community Ministry

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Meals on Wheels Volunteer Coordinator
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Robert Johnson
Sharon Walker
Ed Moore
Tonya Latimore



Autumn 2010

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

Ecclesiastes 3:1

WCM RECEIVES \$5,000 MEALS ON WHEELS GRANT

Wilkinsburg Community Ministry has been awarded a \$5,000 grant from the Meals on Wheels Association of America (MOWAA) and the Bank of America Charitable Foundation. The grant will be used to add extra meals to delivery service so that seniors will have meals for Saturday and Sunday. This grant will allow WCM to provide extra meals to the seniors who request them for the next year. The money will allow the Wilkinsburg Community Ministry to add approximately 1440 meals for the year, or 30 additional meals per week. This is in addition to over 16,000 meals WCM delivers annually to Wilkinsburg seniors.

WCM currently delivers meals to seniors Monday through Friday. However, many of the seniors do not have caregivers or anyone to prepare meals for them on Saturday or Sunday. As it is difficult for seniors to prepare food for themselves, many go hungry. Adding extra meals to Friday's delivery service will help to tide over the seniors for the weekend, addressing basic food necessities and making seniors more comfortable during what could be their last weeks.

This grant from Bank of America Charitable Foundation is paying for the added cost of food, food preparation, and delivery of meals to seniors. Over the past year, many Meals on Wheels programs were forced to change or reduce their services, but the Bank of America Charitable Foundation has come forward to help restore those meals. The foundation has provided a \$500,000 grant to MOWAA, half of which is helping Meals on Wheels programs across the U.S. bring back meal services that were cut.

(Continued on page 4)

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Sometimes life can seem a mountain,
Looming steeply, cold and grey,
Yet it need not be so daunting
If we guide each other's way.
Just as climbers, roped together
Work to gain the goal they seek

So can we assist our fellows
Safely cross each trough and peak.
Helped by willing hands of friendship
Each may find a strength anew
Till at last, in breathless wonder
All may see God's perfect view.

M.J. Brison, UK

I hope that you all had a wonderful summer and now its time to look forward to the fall, my favorite time of the year. I can truly see God's work when I look at all the lovely colors that fall brings.

We have had a good year so far here at WCM. Our "March For Meals" campaign was a success. Not only did Mayor Thompson deliver meals for us, but we were able to persuade the Fire Chief, Owen McAfee to assist as well. And also our police chief Ophelia 'Cookie' Coleman gave her permission for a police officer to deliver. We won the Silver Award from the Meals on Wheels Association of America, which was \$1,500, in addition to the \$5,000 grant described in this issue.

Our Summer Food Partnership Program was also a great success. Special thanks go to our loyal cooks, Sharon, Ed and Tonya. They prepared at least 200 meals per day for the following sites: PLEA, FROGS, Youth Places, Youth Police Academy and the Boys and Girls Club of America. We were lucky enough to have a summer Intern, Darae Colloway from Juniata College. She worked well with us throughout the summer and we will all miss her.

I would like to say a **BIG THANK YOU** to everyone concerned with keeping our wonderful agency floating this year.

Blessings,

Ann

YOUTH MEAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM PROVIDES MEALS FOR AT-RISK YOUTH

WCM partners with several local agencies throughout the year to provide meals to at-risk youth and youth with developmental challenges in after-school, summer, and developmental health programs. WCM purchases the food and employs a part-time cook and a cook's assistant to plan, prepare and deliver nutritional meals. WCM also employs a worker from AARP, who assists in the kitchen 18 hours per week. South Avenue United Methodist Church generously provides the use of their kitchen facilities for meal preparation and we are especially thankful for their support.

Partner agencies include the Boys and Girls Club of Wilkinsburg summer and after-school program, the FROG (Friends, Reading, and Other Great Stuff) program at the First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood, and PLEA (Programs for Living, Education and Advocacy) School, which is a school and partial hospital for children with developmental disabilities. In addition, the Wilkinsburg Youth Police Academy is a two-week program for which WCM provides meals.

Nearly 300 youth received well-balanced, nutritional meals through this program between Fall of 2009 and end of Summer 2010. Nearly 25,000 meals were prepared.

During the school year, WCM prepares lunch for the PLEA school, and dinner for the Boys and Girls Club of Wilkinsburg. Dinner is also prepared for the FROGS program at the First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood. During the summer, meals were prepared for all three programs, plus other programs such as Youth Places and the Wilkinsburg Youth Police Academy. This past summer, WCM also prepared breakfast for participants of the Boys and Girls Club of Wilkinsburg.

The Youth Meal Partnership program provides a way for partner agencies to provide low-cost, nutritional meals to youth in their programs, thus allowing their programs to benefit the community by keeping children fed and providing them with educational activities and adult supervision. Many of the children in these programs, especially at-risk youth, would not receive proper nutrition otherwise, and they would be left unsupervised and without these vital youth programs. The Department of Education covers some of the program expenses, but not enough to cover all food and food preparation costs. WCM was able to expand this program through grants from corporate foundations, such as the Dominion Foundation and Citizens Bank Foundation over the past year.

WCM Youth Meal Partnerships - 2010

	Wilkinsburg Youth Police Academy	FROGS at FPC of Edgewood	PLEA - Summer	PLEA - Fall/Winter / Spring	Youth Place	Boys & Girls Club - Lunch	Boys & Girls Club - Breakfast	Totals
Youth Served	31	19	80	30	60	35	40	295
Time Period	2 weeks	Year round	12 weeks	36 weeks	8 weeks	Year Round	8 weeks	
Days of Week	M-F	T&T	M-F	M-F	M-F	M-F	M-F	
Total Avg # Meals Served Annually	310	1824	4800	5400	2400	8400	1600	24734

**Numbers are averages- some programs fluctuate*

WCM Receives \$5,000 Grant (continued from page 1)

“As an increasing number of seniors and families are experiencing hardship, we are proud to partner with Wilkinsburg Community Ministry to help put meals on the table in homes across our community,” said Deborah O'Brien of Bank of America. “With this support, we hope to set in motion opportunities to help individuals, families and entire neighborhoods thrive while helping end senior hunger.”

The Wilkinsburg Meals on Wheels program is vital to the Wilkinsburg community. Delivering meals to seniors is a rewarding experience that can make a volunteer's life fuller, while helping neighbors in need live healthier, longer lives. Since the beginning of 2010, our dedicated volunteers delivered 7,680 meals to Wilkinsburg residents. Keeping our food delivery routes staffed and organized is no small task, and we are fortunate to have recently hired Marcia Haley as the Meals on Wheels Volunteer Coordinator.

Earlier in the year we were blessed with a grant from Walmart in conjunction with the Meals on Wheels Association of America for \$15,000, which was used to purchase a new van for delivery. We also were able to find a driver from AARP to drive the van on a daily basis. The van is able to deliver 2 routes, but we are still in need of volunteers to deliver the rest of the meals on 2 routes. If you'd like to volunteer to make a difference in someone's life, please contact the WCM office at 412-241-8072, or email Marcia at volunteers@wcm15221.org.

PEPSI “REFRESH PROGRAM” PROVIDES FUNDS FOR NEW STOVE



WCM Executive Director, Ann Greider, was recently presented with a check for \$1,000 from the “Pepsi Refresh” Employee Program at the Pepsi Bottling Group (PBG) in McKees Rocks. The money was used to help with the cost of a new oven at the South Avenue United Methodist Church where the WCM Food Partnership meals are prepared. Ann's husband Ralph, a Pepsi employee, initiated the request and the presentation was made by Dean McVicker, PGB Unit Manager and Taylor Rickenberg from the Pepsi HR department. Many thanks to Ralph and to Pepsi.

IN MEMORIAM

WCM mourns the death of one of its long-time volunteers, Ralph Yearick. He and his wife Marjorie served on the WCM Board for several years, first representing the First Presbyterian Church of Wilkinsburg and then the First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood. Ralph served at least one term as Treasurer and was active in many WCM activities. His family, now members of Beulah United Presbyterian Church, asks that contributions in his memory be designated for the Wilkinsburg Community Ministry. Ralph will be missed.

WCM also extends its sympathy to Josie Bryant, the social worker at St. James' Roman Catholic Church, and her family upon the unexpected death of her son, Glenard Bryant, Jr.

SOCIAL SERVICE PROGRAMS HELP MEET ON-GOING LOCAL NEEDS

The summer months have been a busy time 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 our 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

	May 2010	June 2010	July 2010	August 2010
Households served:	6	8	21	21
Individuals served:	14	11	50	42
Age of individuals:				
0-17	5	3	24	14
18-34	1	1	9	7
35-59	8	6	16	19
60+	0	1	1	2

Angel Food Ministries Program:

	May 2010	June 2010	July 2010	August 2010
Individuals served:	6	11	10	10

Angel food attendance has been down due to summer vacations. Families that did order, often had large orders. Angel Food Ministries has realized that there are families that cannot afford the "Signature Box" at \$31.00, so they have added a new "Bit O' Blessing" box for less money. Since there have been many requests for a larger box that will feed a family of four for a week, they have now added what they refer to as the "Bountiful Blessings Box".

Dollar Energy Program:

With help from the Dollar Energy Fund, 497 applications were processed by WCM. The total amount of grant money paid for this agency, of which the WCM applications were a part, was \$4,543,792.00. Applications processed were for the following utility companies:

Duquesne Light – off only. Equitable Gas – closed. Columbia Gas – open. Peoples Gas – open. Peoples Natural Gas has opened a new program called PNG Pipeline, which is allowing customers to receive an additional \$500 in assistance. This is part of the "Hardship" program.

Applications received: 497. Applications processed: 488 (9 pending). Average process time: 1.61 days

PITTSBURGH EAST CROP HUNGER WALK
SCHEDULED FOR SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2010!!



The Pittsburgh East CROP Hunger Walk is a 10K (6-mile) walk through the neighborhoods of Point Breeze, Squirrel Hill, and Wilkinsburg to raise money for the hunger alleviation and refugee work of Church World Service. In 2009 Pittsburgh East walkers raised more than \$13,000.

Once a year, a large group of Wilkinsburg church members joins with neighbors from other congregations from the East End in support of Church World Service (CWS). You can be a walker, or you can sponsor a walker with your pledge. It's usually a beautiful day in October, and the goal is truly a worthy one. Join us!

Here are a few examples of programs supported through the Walk:

- CWS provides education and basic needs to Afghan children in refugee camps in Pakistan.
- CWS-trained midwives are teaching the women in Sumatran villages how to grow and prepare healthier foods for their undernourished children.
- Part of the funds raised from the Pittsburgh East CROP Hunger Walk are returned to community organizations-- Wilkinsburg Community Ministry (15%) and the East End Cooperative Ministry (10%) --to purchase food for needy people in these areas.

The Walk starts at 2:00 PM from the South Avenue United Methodist Church in Wilkinsburg.

For more information please contact the WCM office at 412-241-8072.

SAVE DECEMBER 5 FOR "WILKINSBURG SINGS AT CHRISTMAS"

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Wilkinsburg will host the 38th annual musical celebration this year at 4:00 PM on Sunday, December 5. Come and join your fellow Christians in song to help celebrate the birth of Jesus. Several local choirs are planning to participate separately, interspersing their anthems with everyone singing our favorite carols. The program will conclude with the combined choirs singing Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus". Following the service, light refreshments will be served. A free will offering will be taken to aid the work of WCM. The church is located at 600 Pitt Street in Wilkinsburg.



PITTSBURGH DAY OF GIVING:
ONE OF MANY WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE TO WCM

On October 13, 2010, all charitable donations made through PittsburghGives.org will receive a portion of The Pittsburgh Foundation's \$500,000 matching pool. Give to Wilksburg Community Ministry at anytime on that day and your gift will make an even greater impact in our community.

Mark your calendar for this year's Day of Giving on October 13

Through PittsburghGives.org, you can make a donation to support the mission of WCM in just a few easy steps:

1. Go to <http://www.pittsburghgives.org> on October 13th.
2. Click on "Day of Giving".
3. Click on "Donate Now".
4. Enter your name, email address and phone number in the appropriate boxes. From the drop down box select **Wilksburg Community Ministry** as the organization you would like to give to. Enter your donation amount. Minimum donation is \$25.
5. Enter in your credit card information on the secure server and click "submit". You will receive a confirmation and an email will be sent to you for tax purposes.

You may also make a new or additional contribution to WCM **ANYTIME** by going to <http://www.wcm15221.org> and clicking on the "Donate Now" button, where you can donate by credit card or PayPal.

Or you may use the form below. Please send your check to Donations Administrator at Wilksburg Community Ministry, 702 Wood Street, Wilksburg, PA, 15221. Your support will go directly towards the programs WCM provides to the community – emergency food, meals on wheels for seniors, meals to at-risk youth programs, food bags for the holidays, and other urban survival programs.

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**. Your donation is tax-deductible.

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 _____