

Wilkinsburg Community Ministry  
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*Wilkinsburg Community Ministry      Churches United - Serving Together*

## **The Well – Spring/Summer 2011**

### **Wilkinsburg Community Ministry**

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Treasurer  
Financial Secretary

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Roger Schneider

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Social Service Director  
Office Coordinator/Receptionist  
Meals on Wheels Manager  
Meals on Wheels Volunteer Coordinator  
Meals on Wheels Van Driver  
After School Food Program Coordinator/Cook  
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Bertha Hopson  
Anita McKeithen  
Marcia Haley  
Robert Johnson  
Sharon Walker  
LaShea Davis  
Aaron Green  
Tonya Latimore



Spring/Summer 2011

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

Ecclesiastes 3:1

**WILKINSBURG CELEBRATES “MARCH FOR MEALS”**



WCM Executive Director Ann Greider with Wilkinsburg Mayor, John Thompson who holds a meal to be delivered to a senior citizen. Meal bags were decorated by students from Forbes Road, which is based in Hosanna House.

*(Story on page 3)*

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



What is it about kindness? Receiving it can brighten the darkest of days, giving it can bring a warm glow to the heart and simply seeing it happen can put a smile where a frown was previously.

It is springtime once more and our minds go to spring-cleaning our homes. Perhaps we should be doing some spiritual spring-cleaning as well. You know, as a child one of my favorite stories was “The Water Babies” by Rev. Charles Kingsley. One of the characters was called Mrs. Doasyouwouldbedoneby. She was there to remind everyone to treat people kindly, as they would like to be treated themselves. Perhaps we all need a Mrs. Doasyouwouldbedoneby in our daily lives to remind us to be kinder to people we meet and maybe there would be more LOVE instead of FEAR/HATE in the world. In this issue we’ll be taking the opportunity to thank those generous individuals and organizations in the community who have supported WCM in the past year and helped us spread love and caring to those in need.

The end of the year 2010 was a busy time and we had a good turnout for the distribution of Thanksgiving and Christmas bags. After the hustle and bustle of the holidays, we started 2011 slowly, but have picked up the pace and are running at full speed ahead once more. WCM has become the umbrella agency for the Ministerium’s new venture called “The Sanctuary Project”. This is an outreach program for at-risk youth in our community. Our kick-off event was held on Saturday, May 21 and it was a big success. We gave away free refreshments, and free photographs with games and prizes. Information was also provided to the youth and their families regarding what activities/events will be available for youth to participate in this summer. We are now preparing for our Summer Program, which will feed the youth during the summer months.

While spring and summer bring green grass and the blossoms of beautiful flowers for most of us, it has also brought horrendous tornadoes and flooding to many parts of this country. I urge everyone to remember the victims of these natural disasters in your daily prayers.

I would like to say THANK YOU to all involved with the agency – The Board, Staff, volunteers and donors for a job WELL DONE!!

Blessings,

*Ann*

## **HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR ‘SERVICES FOR SENIORS’ PROGRAM** **WCM participates in “Mayors for Meals Day”**

March was national Senior Hunger Awareness month, which is sponsored by the Meals On Wheels Association of America (MOWAA). As part of this effort to make communities aware of senior hunger, Mayor John Thompson, along with Fire Chief Owen Macafee, Eric Fithyan (Board member), students from Forbes Road GED program who decorated our meal bags and our wonderful MOW volunteers all met at Life Care hospital’s new coffee shop before delivering meals on Wednesday, March 23. We thank our local leaders for stepping up to the plate and joining our mission to end senior hunger and to MOWAA for giving us this opportunity.



Wilkinsburg Fire Chief Owen McAfee and WCM Board Member Eric Fithyan delivering meals.

Meals on Wheels volunteers enjoying lunch and conversation at the recent Volunteer Appreciation luncheon

### **Volunteers honored at Special Luncheon**

Thanks to our dedicated volunteers, we have delivered 4,025 meals so far this year, and a total of 12,336 meals in 2010. We held a Volunteer Appreciation Lunch on Wednesday, April 27 at Panera Bread in Wilkins Township. Door prizes and certificates were given out along with our THANKS for a job well done. Thanks to Marcia Haley, our Meals on Wheels volunteer coordinator for planning a great day.

The WCM Meals on Wheels (MOW) Program provides a hot meal to more than 60 Wilkinsburg residents who aren’t able to prepare a meal on their own. Every weekday of the year, 30+ volunteers deliver meals – and a warm greeting – to very grateful consumers. And every once in a while, they are called upon to do even more.

Last month a volunteer encountered an “even more” situation. When she rang the doorbell and then knocked on the door, a weak voice said: “come in. “ The voice came from the consumer, who was lying on the floor. She had fallen at 5AM and was unable to summon help. So six plus hours later, help, in the form of our volunteer arrived.

The woman just wanted to be picked up, but the volunteer explained that she couldn’t assist in that way. She might injure either or both of them. Instead, the volunteer called 911, got water for her and made her comfortable. After the EMS arrived, the volunteer contacted Anita McKeithen, Meals on Wheels Manager, who, on learning of the accident, immediately contacted the consumer’s family. They were so appreciative of the assistance that WCM – MOW program had provided.

From throwing salt on icy steps, picking up and handing in newspapers or mail, retrieving a dropped item, or chatting a moment about the latest news, MOW Volunteers daily provide a kind, smiling face, a hot meal, and, on some occasions, even more! 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**

WCM's walk-through program continues to be very busy on Wednesdays and Friday. The food pantry provides bread, sweets and cans of soup to an average of 15 to 20 families each day. The WCM Food Bank will service the East Hills, Swissvale and Homewood with approval of the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. They can be reached at 412-460-3663.

### **Food Pantry Statistics from Raymond Tolbert**

	<b>January 2011</b>	<b>February 2011</b>	<b>March 2011</b>	<b>April 2011</b>
<b>Households served:</b>	9	3	12	19
<b>Individuals served:</b>	10	5	16	14
<b>Age of individuals:</b>				
0-17	2	0	2	21
18-34	4	2	1	7
35-59	6	3	12	16
60+	0	0	1	0

### **Angel Food Ministries Program:**

	<b>January 2011</b>	<b>February 2011</b>	<b>March 2011</b>	<b>April 2011</b>
<b>Individuals served:</b>	25	32	16	18

The menu for each month generally includes the "Bountiful Blessing Box" which has 25 items of food for \$46.00. There is also a "Gluten Free Box" (allergen free) or a "Premium Fresh Fruit and Veggie Box". We also have a box with an assortment of child-friendly snacks. Distribution day is on a Saturday at South Avenue United Methodist Church between 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM. Food Stamps, EBT or cash are accepted. Orders can be placed online at [angelfood@angelfoodministries.com](mailto:angelfood@angelfoodministries.com).

### **Dollar Energy Program:**

With help from the Dollar Energy Fund, 260 applications were processed by WCM. The total amount of grant money paid for this agency was \$96,417.00. Applications processed were for the following utility companies:

Duquesne Light – off only. Equitable Gas – closed. Columbia Gas – open. Peoples Gas – open. Applications received: 270. Applications processed: 268 (2 pending). Average process time: 1.10 days

### **Urban Survival**

WCM networks with the Christian Church of Wilkinsburg to distribute donated clothes and small household items. Bus tickets are available to needy individuals for necessary trips.

## THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

*Many thanks to the following individuals, businesses and organizations  
that made contributions to support WCM within the last 12 months.*

### **Individuals:**

Lois Jean Adam	Melissa L. Mastorovich
Doris Anderson	L. Glenn & Mabel F. Matteson
R.E. & L.C. Andrews	Marvin L. May
Jeffrey L. Arriza and Nancy J. Peffer	John D. McAdoo, Jr.
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Lisa J. Benz	Howard R. & Olga M. McFarland, Jr.
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Harriet Marsham	Frederick Smith
Joyce R. & Edward A. Masessa	Larue Smythe

## **MORE THANKS!**

### ***Individual Contributors, contd.***

John D. Snyder  
David E. Spencer  
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Joseph A. & Vallie A. Strednak  
Thomas P. & Laura Struthers  
Kathleen Sweeney  
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Polly O. Wright  
Ralph M. Yearick  
John F. & Gloria J. Young  
Sandra E. Young

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Diversified Moving Services  
Emmanuel Family Practice PC  
Insurance Brokerage Antitrust Litigation  
James Floral & Gift Shoppe  
Kiwanis Foundation of Wilkinsburg  
LifeCare Hospital  
Nancy's Restaurant  
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Saturday AM AA  
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Wilkinsburg Community Development Corp.  
Wilkinsburg Rotary Club  
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Jewish Community Foundation  
Meals on Wheels Association of America  
Peoples Natural Gas Company

PGB Michigan, LLC  
Howard & Nell E. Miller Foundation  
Helen Ruth Gordon Trust  
PPG Industries Foundation  
The Pittsburgh Foundation  
United Methodist Foundation of  
Western Pennsylvania

### **Churches & Church Groups:**

Beulah United Presbyterian Church  
Christian Church of Wilkinsburg  
Covenant Church of Pittsburgh  
East Liberty Presbyterian Church  
First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood  
Forest Hills Presbyterian Church  
Hebron United Presbyterian Church  
Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church  
New Testament Missionary Baptist Church

Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church  
Oakmont Presbyterian Church  
South Avenue United Methodist Church  
Saint Mark's AME Church  
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church  
Triune Baptist Church  
Waverly United Presbyterian Church  
Wilkinsburg Ministerial Association

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

- Special thanks go out to Jack Peffer who has recently resigned as President of the WCM Board of Directors. Jack was a charter member of WCM since 1968 and was interim Director of WCM for six months in 1990. He is a member and elder of the Christian Church of Wilkinsburg (Disciples of Christ). In 1978 Jack received the Man of the Year Award from Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania for his ecumenical volunteer work. He is retired from PPG Industries. The following words come from the official WCM board minutes: “We accept the resignation of Jack Peffer with great appreciation for his gentle manner and great heart. His tenure on the Board has been productive, enthusiastic and encouraging to us all.” Jack will not be leaving WCM completely, as he will continue to be a Meals on Wheels volunteer and hopefully he will have time to continue as a board member.
- Reverend Michael Wilson, will be the new WCM Board President. Mike is the pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood, PC (USA). He has been on the WCM Board of Directors since 2005 and is an active member of the Wilkinsburg Ministerial Association.
- The Wilkinsburg Spring Sing was held on Sunday, May 22 at St. Mark AME Church. The event featured the St. Mark AME choir and a Christian mime group from the Christian Church of Wilkinsburg. Following the inspiring performances, attendees enjoyed tasty cookies and punch! Many thanks go out to Linda Law and Wren Price for coordinating this wonderful musical event.

**YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED AGAIN THIS YEAR**

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.

You may also use the form below. Please send your check to Donations Administrator at Wilkinsburg Community Ministry, 704 Wood Street, Wilkinsburg, 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.

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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: \_\_\_\_\_

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