

# W.A.R.M.

*Providing a Hand Up, not a Hand Out.*

Westerville Area Resource Ministry



The *W.A.R.M.* Spot  
**draw**

A VIDEO PRODUCTION COMPANY

**Draw Productions adds artistic flavor to the breakfast.**

On May 7th, as your taste buds awaken to the food set before you at the Annual Westerville Community Prayer Breakfast, your eyes will have a treat, too. Thanks to the ingenuity and talents of Draw Productions. This video production company located at 248 East College Ave in Westerville has been serving up video delights at our breakfast for years now.

Draw Production founding partners **John and Kate Ward** became involved with WARM three years ago when they moved to Westerville. "We were looking for ways to get involved with a local charity," they explain. "WARM is a great organization - caring about people by first meeting their needs. As Christians, we want to love and help people meet their physical needs, that is what Jesus did and that is what he is about."

Draw Productions has produced video projects all over the world. They have done work for national organizations, local nonprofit charities, international mission agencies, and a variety of area schools. From idea conception, to scripting, to shooting, to editing, they produce video to effectively communicate your message.

The Wards explain, "We believe that video should be inspirational, innovative and imaginative. We want to DRAW on your insights, your experiences, and your passions to produce a product that connects with your audience on both an intellectual and emotional level."

Each year, Draw Productions does just that for the hundreds who attend the annual Community Breakfast. Interviews with clients and donors, graphics and sound are presented with creativity, sensitivity and spirituality befitting the occasion. WARM offers thanks to Draw Productions; a most dynamic Prayer Breakfast Partner. For more information and inspiration, visit [www.drawproductions.com](http://www.drawproductions.com)

*You, too, could put your company in the WARM Spot this year. 2009 Prayer Breakfast Partnerships are currently being contracted. Watch for your annual invitation in the mail or contact Diana today at 899-0196.*

## A Turning Point for Two; Lillie's Story



**Lillie Teeters** is an Otterbein college student studying for her BA in creative writing, "Thanks", she says, "to the love, patience, trust and compassion I received from WARM."

Lillie's is just one success story of the Steps to Overcome Poverty Program, funded by WARM support.

When Lillie came to WARM, she was mid-way through a very long physical and spiritual recovery. Once a typical young Midwest college student, poor grades and life choices had derailed Lillie's pursuit of a college degree. In time, chemical dependency would deteriorate both her physical and financial wellbeing.

Then, nine years ago, Lillie found twelve step recovery, stopped using and began a life-long recovery process. As hard as the physical recovery has been, it was the pain and despair of her financial health that brought her to WARM. "No matter how hard I tried, I couldn't keep up with my debts," says Lillie. "I had school loans and car payments that I just couldn't meet on my salary as an administrative assistant for a local food chain.

A turning point for Lillie came about five years ago when she voluntarily assumed legal guardianship of young man entering the eighth grade. He needed her and Lillie was determined to provide a loving home for him. After several years of struggling, Lillie contacted FIRSTLINK and they connected her with WARM.

"WARM not only provided me with groceries, they helped me develop a budget and a spending plan," she remembers. "WARM volunteer **Bob Yopko** even went down to the Consumer Credit Counseling Services with me. With encouragement from Bob and WARM, I continued to search for ways to improve my financial situation and I found Debtors Anonymous. Having successfully utilized a 12-step program in the past, I found this group tremendously helpful."

"The confidence WARM instilled in me, bolstered the confidence I had in myself," says Lillie. "I had always wanted to earn my living as a writer. I suddenly became focused on this quest. The more I dug for information on college classes, the more doors were opened to me. Otterbein College provided me with opportunities I never thought possible and now my company has a college tuition program to support my dream."

The young man Lillie has had guardianship of recently turned 18 and he is now eyeing college opportunities. Does Lillie think she's been an inspiration to him? "Having someone believe in you, who is open to your needs for growth is essential. When someone believes in your potential and is willing to help you, it empowers you. WARM did this for me. I hope it is something that I am doing for him. I definitely want to pass that hope on to others."

*Donated dollars to WARM provide S.T.O.P. resources to assist neighbors like Lillie attain financial stability. If you'd like to give a hand up - contact Scott Marier at [scott@warmwesterville.org](mailto:scott@warmwesterville.org)*

## Save the Date

**May 7** - Westerville Community Prayer Breakfast - All proceeds benefit WARM. Contact Scott at 899-0196 for Partnership Opportunities.

**May 9** - Post Office Canned Food Drive  
A bag of non-perishable groceries left by your rural mailbox will be collected by a Westerville U.S. postal carrier.

**May 9** - Walk 4 Faith at the Columbus Zoo to raise awareness and funding for your designated church or mission. Details at [www.walk4faith.org](http://www.walk4faith.org)



*By Otterbein student*

*Emily Martin*

Westerville students learn early on about the threat of hunger. Schools around Westerville have shown support and commitment to WARM through local school food drives. Recently, students from **Hanby Elementary** and **Otterbein College** sponsored events to assist WARM.



Students at Hanby Elementary held a “Wacky Wednesday” food drive. They were able to collect 369 pounds of food, which was donated to WARM. This will help feed 5 families for an entire week.

Hanby fifth grade students held a bake sale at their recent Italian dinner night. This bake sale resulted in \$308.85 for WARM.

Five Otterbein students recently sponsored “Be a Hero Day” at the Westerville Division of Fire. Student organizers included: **Emily Martin, Katelin Davis, Jena Hallahan, Breanna Watzka** and **Mandy Lee**. This food drive was part of their Public Relations campaign for helping reduce hunger in Westerville. The students collected 346 pounds of food and \$188.

## *The Pantry Lady*

**Beverly Coventry** started collecting food door-to-door in her neighborhood last summer when she heard WARM supplies were perilously low. Her neighbors dubbed her “The Pantry Lady”. She doesn’t care. She says people can call her whatever they want as long as they give her food.

And give they do. In 2008, Beverly single-handedly collected 1934 pounds of food for WARM. “I went around my block, told my neighbors what I was doing and said WARM needs food,” she explains. “During the school year, kids are able to get breakfast and lunch. But in the summer, they can’t benefit from these services. Plus, there isn’t much food being collected and I am worried about the children not eating.”

After Beverly retired, she says she found she could be retired and be bored or do something valuable with her time. She chose to collect food. And she’s having the time of her life. Beverly is so passionate about collecting food for WARM that she has set an important goal for herself in 2009 – to take her collection efforts citywide. She would like to enlist enough volunteers to be able to canvas every section of the city.

“Going door to door is the best way to get food,” she reveals. It’s very effective when you talk to people one on one. When they ask what to give, that’s when I know I have hooked them,” she confides. “I find out



what the pantry is short on, and I tell the people whatever the pantry is short, that’s what they should donate.”

Beverly has a calendar that she marks every month with how many pounds of food she collected and what streets she has been to because she doesn’t want to hit the same street twice.

“If I can collect close to 2,000 pounds of food myself, imagine what 2 or 4 people can do,” she concludes.

*WARM has ideas and materials to help you initiate a door-to-door food collection program in your neighborhood. For more information, contact Denise at [denise@warmwesterville.org](mailto:denise@warmwesterville.org).*

## **The Heart of our Mission** *Christian Life Church*

*Begun as Paul’s Pantry in 1972, WARM nurtures partnerships with dozens of member churches throughout the area. This month, we give special thanks to the members of our partner Christian Life Church.*



Christian Life Church was founded in Columbus in 1976. The congregation

later relocated to Westerville and now conducts weekly services at 425 North Spring Road. **Pastor Thomas McKee** began his ministerial career in 1985 as the Assistant Pastor at Lakeview Christian Life Church. He has been with Christian Life Church of Westerville for almost 18 years.

A large focus of the church is its Christian Life Church Academy. This private school offers Kindergarten through 12th grade studies in classrooms on the church property. Students are all members of the church and each grade level participate in WARM service activities all year round.

At the church, there is a food shelf where people can put food they would like to have donated. When the shelf is full, the students and members of the youth group bring the food to WARM. The food collections happen about once a month. Christian Life Church

also regularly donates money as well as office supplies and equipment to WARM.

“I believe in the ministry of WARM and the job WARM does with the community,” says Pastor McKee. “When people ask for help, I know I can suggest WARM as a resource. It is always nice to know that I can help lead people in the right direction.”

*WARM wishes to thank the leaders and congregation of Christian Life Church for their continued devotion to the community and this ministry.*