



## Westerville ministry plans May 3 prayer breakfast

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ThisWeek Staff Writer

The Westerville Area Resource Ministry (WARM) is preparing to feed the masses as part of its largest fund-raiser of the year.

WARM will host its annual community prayer breakfast from 7 to 8:30 a.m. May 3 at the Westerville Community Center, 350 N. Cleveland Ave. Breakfast will be served in the center's three Maple Rooms and is open to the public, said WARM executive director Scott Marier.

"Our primary goal with this is fund-raising, along with in-kind sponsorships, which all go toward supporting (WARM's) work throughout the year," Marier said.

The breakfast is scheduled to coincide with the National Day of Prayer, which was established in 1952 by Congressional resolution and now serves to mobilize the Christian community to intercede for America and its leadership, according to the NDP task force Web site.

Tickets for the prayer breakfast are \$25. In past years, the event has raised anywhere from \$17,000 to \$29,000 to benefit WARM, Marier said, and the organization has set a goal of \$30,000 for this year's breakfast.

"Those funds are raised primarily through sponsorships, which we are still looking for to provide in-kind donations of food, etc. for the event," he said.

WARM has secured NBC4 anchor Cabot Rea to emcee the event, Marier said, and the breakfast will also include special music and possibly remarks from Westerville Mayor Diane Fosselman. Serving the breakfast will be volunteers from the Sunrise Rotary Club. Marier said the keynote speaker for the day will be Jacob Kesling, a children's pastor at Quest Community Church.

"(Kesling) is a veteran who recently served in Iraq, and he's going to share his story of being called up, and talk about the difficulty his family went through, asking for help and support," Marier said.

He said the Keslings' story resonates with the National Day of Prayer by reminding people to pray daily, not only when times are hard.

"One of the things we talk about is that everybody seems to know how to talk to God when someone dies or we're having a crisis," Marier said. "The rest of the time, when there's no crisis, is when we really need to remember to talk to God. (Kesling's) story ties into the work we do here with offering people in need a hand up, not a hand out."

Marier said WARM will be sending formal invitations for the event to its donor base later this month. Anyone interested in attending the prayer breakfast should RSVP by calling 614-899-0196.