



# W.A.R.M.

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

Westerville Area Resource Ministry

## WARM receives HIGHEST HONOR from the Ohio Association of Non-profit Organizations

At a recent Statehouse Luncheon, the **WARM Steps to Overcome Poverty (STOP) program** was recognized with an **Excellence Award** from the **Ohio Association of Non-profit Organizations (OANO)**. STOP is a multi-faceted program designed to return clients to self-sufficiency. The program garnered the attention of OANO for its creativity, execution, achievement and overall excellence.

OANO is comprised of 600 nonprofit organizations representing the breadth and diversity of Ohio's charitable nonprofit sector. OANO's mission is to provide leadership, education, and advocacy to enhance the ability of Ohio's nonprofit organizations to serve their communities.

The WARM STOP program is a unique self-sufficiency program designed to "help people to help themselves." STOP assists economically disadvantaged Westerville School District residents gain the confidence and skills needed to secure and retain full-time employment.



*From left to right: Felicia Harper (WARM Board Member), Barbara Johnson, Diana Kalassay (back), Denise Firman, Steven Fields (Huntington Bank), Marian Hicks, Lynda Chambers (back), Judy Voll, Scott Marier and Diane Koehler.*

The OANO award marks the first time WARM has received statewide recognition for one of its programs. "While the award does not provide immediate financial assistance, it does bring a tremendous amount of credibility to our organization," says **Executive Director Scott Marier**. "Our hope is that the prestige of this award will attract the attention of donors who wish to make community investments in an organization with demonstrated stability and sustainability."

Rest assured, when you give to WARM you are supporting the Westerville community through an award-winning non-profit organization that utilizes best business practices to maximize the reach of your generosity.



### WARM Pantry goes green...

And purple, orange, paisley and striped, too! Thanks to **Jo Runnels** and her nifty sewing skills WARM clients are taking groceries home in fashionable and re-usable cloth totes. The colorful grocery sacks are as emotionally uplifting as they are practical. "I want clients to feel special – because they are. They are deserving of a creative and useful gift as a reminder that the people in this community support them while they strive to get back on their feet financially."

To date, Jo has crafted 229 fabric totes for WARM pantry clients. Each one is as unique as the person who ultimately carries it home filled with donated food. Thanks Jo for giving new meaning to the WARM mission. Your creative 'hand-up' puts unexpected joy into the hands of those who need it most.

*Perhaps you have a crafty idea or a God-given talent to share.  
Contact [Karan@warmwesterville.org](mailto:Karan@warmwesterville.org). We'd love to hear from you.*



*Marcia Flaherty (shown here with Executive Director **Scott Marier**) was recently presented with the WARM "Hand-Up" Award for her exemplary commitment and service to helping others.*

*We're making a difference*



## *In Marjorie's Own Words*

Several years ago, I was approached by a friend and asked to help an organization I had never heard of before. So I wrote a check to WARM. At the time, I earned good money and thought my future was secure and wanted to help others. Little did I know that the bottom of our economy would soon fall out and take my secure future with it.

A 15-year veteran in software sales, I have now been laid-off twice since 2005. Most recently I was unemployed for 19 months. Due to lay-offs and unemployment, I exhausted all of my savings and assets very quickly. I sold personal items just to stay afloat. The only money I had was my weekly unemployment benefits. I was even in jeopardy of losing my home. I put out resumes, phone calls and emails daily trying to find another job. The problem was, at my age and with my experience I felt employers wouldn't take a chance on hiring me. At almost 59 years of age, I had lost almost everything and was now becoming a senior citizen starting over from scratch.

Although I had food on the shelf and in the freezer, I knew it wasn't going to last forever. My main priority was to try to keep my house so I resisted putting money out on anything – even utilities and food. My house payment took most of my unemployment check each month and left little for anything else.

Finally, that same friend who'd asked me to give to WARM years ago suggested I ask WARM for help. At first I felt odd about accepting help from WARM but there comes a time when you have to put pride aside. I called and made an appointment. Although I wasn't looking forward to my initial visit, I would soon learn to enjoy my visits to WARM and the blessings that resulted.

My advisor **Lynda Chambers** was so delightful and understanding that she made me feel like a valued individual instead of an unimportant lump of clay. She really made a difference – as did all the wonderful people at WARM – in helping me feel less depressed and better about myself. I know God has blessed me with Lynda's friendship. That is an asset more important than any possession that I may have lost during this educational journey I have been on.

Last week I started a new job. It's with a small company and the majority of the pay will come from commissions so I'm not "out of the woods" yet. Still, with my unemployment benefits expiring, this job was truly God sent. And I can guarantee you one thing. Once I am back on my feet I will do everything within my power to make sure WARM is there for anyone who needs it now and in the future. WARM truly made a difference in my life when I needed it most and I want to make sure they are able to continue providing their special "gifts" to anyone who may be in need.

Sincerely, Marjorie A. Dickerson



## *The Heart of our Mission*

*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 the American Baptist Church of Westerville.*

The **American Baptist Church of Westerville (ABC-USA)** at 401 East Schrock Road aims to be characterized by the "agape" love of God; a love that seeks the best for the other and which never ends.

This family-sized congregation (average attendance in the 60s) enjoys its site among the woods on Oak Hill. Its size permits all ages to get to know each other in some depth and to learn to bring out the best in each other.

**Pastor Mark and Jean Farmer** grew up in Worthington. (When in junior high school, Mark and a friend used to ride their bikes up the two-lanes Schrock Road to visit Westerville.) After 23 years as missionaries to France, Mark and Jean came to "ABCW" in 2007.

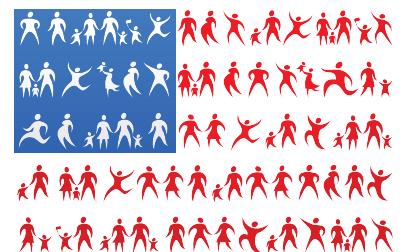
The pastor's blog and web-posted sermons seek to keep members in touch with each other and with the wider world and its challenges.

ABCW appreciates WARM's ministry, not least because members of the church have been blessed by it. Its members love to contribute to WARM in various ways and are aiming to increase their participation.

WARM and the Westerville community benefits from the generosity of the pretty little church on the hill and from numerous faith based partnerships. *If your church has an idea for a fundraiser – or if they need a new idea – give WARM Pantry Services Coordinator Denise a call at 899-0196.*



*WARM Volunteer **Rodney Daniel** on a recent mission trip reaches across the miles with a hand-up to Haitian children.*



## **VOLUNTEERS WANTED!**

Volunteer for the July 4th  
Parade Food Drive.

Contact at [Karan@warmwesterville.org](mailto:Karan@warmwesterville.org).

*"What do we live for, if it is not to make life less difficult for each other."*

— **George Eliot**