




W.A.R.M.

Providing a Hand Up, not a Hand Out.

Westerville Area Resource Ministry

Yolanda's move toward self sufficiency.



What drove **Yolanda Blakey** to seek out resources at Ohio's First Link was an overwhelming need to protect her five children. After years of spousal abuse, Yolanda wanted to try to support her children on her own. First Link referred her

to WARM. "I first talked to Family Services Coordinator Judy Voll about my desire to remove my kids from a disastrous home," explains Yolanda. "I had a job as a housing manager, but it wasn't enough to make the transition to a single-parent household."

The WARM food pantry helped fill some of the holes in Yolanda's budget so she could begin to mentally and physically prepare for a life outside of her dysfunctional marriage. "I was spiritually broken," says Yolanda. "But everybody at WARM – even the volunteers – seemed to offer kindness and support. They even let me be angry at God for a while and work through my spiritual growth."

Eventually, Yolanda was emotionally and financially able to take the next step, "I found a home to rent in the Westerville school district which was so important to me. I wanted to

minimize the disruption in my kids' lives," she says. Always good at budgeting, Yolanda had most of the deposit saved when she stumbled upon that perfect house. WARM provided the rest so she could finally make the move she and her children needed.

But this was just Yolanda's first big move. Next, she worked on finalizing a divorce. And then she set her sights on a college degree. She is currently taking online classes through the University of Phoenix and hopes to earn a Foundation of Business Arts degree. And her plans after that? "I want to start a company to help match people in search of housing – like me – with appropriate properties," she explains, "Sort of like a dating service for people in need." And she's well on her way. Already, Yolanda's work as a property manager has put her in a position to help other WARM clients secure affordable housing. "I can't even begin to pay back what WARM has done for me," she says, "But I am willing to try."

When you reach into your pocket or pantry for WARM, please remember Yolanda and how far your donation goes to help families like hers. A pledge card is included in this newsletter for your convenience or you can make a donation online at www.warmwesterville.org.



WARM is Tops in Class

WARM has received the **2009-2010 Otterbein Citizens Award for Community Engagement** for "exemplary contributions of service to the community". The award singles out WARM as an organization that commendably performs and displays "the values that lie in Otterbein's mission". Students, staff, faculty, alumni and community partners who exhibit a high level of social conscience, a willingness to commit time and energy to enhance the human condition and other qualities are considered for the annual award. The WARM partnership with Otterbein continues to grow and we value this important association.



Run (or Walk) 4 the Health of It

Labor Day Monday, September 6

7:45 am – Reg • 9:00 am

4 mi Run • 9:05 am – 4 mi Walk • 10:00 am – Kids Fun Run

Westerville Sports Complex 325 N Cleveland Avenue

Lace 'em up and lap it up. Every step you take with your family and friends benefits your community through WARM. You'll be moving to a live reggae music beat and rubbing elbows with local celebrities – including OSU sports legends and performers. Dozens of special merchant exhibits promise finger-lickin' food and fun. This is a great warm-up event for the Columbus marathon in October, but non-athletes will love it too!

For more information, contact cheryl@warmwesterville.org

Will U Run 4 Food?

Columbus Marathon Sunday, October 17

Some walk all 26.2 miles. Some run it. Some go half-way. Any way you slice it, participating in the Columbus Marathon is a major personal achievement. The WARM Marathon team can help you in your quest by providing valuable camaraderie and special training advice. In addition, team participants who collect WARM pledges can have their entrance fees reimbursed. Training sessions are just now beginning. Get all the support you need to turn this physical challenge into win-win for you and for your neighbors in need.

Contact barbara@warmwesterville.org for pledge packets and join the WARM 'Will Run 4 Food' team as they get fit for a worthy cause.

Westerville Hungers to Help

You hear it all over town: “Westerville cares”. It’s on the lips of seniors with fixed retirement incomes who seek relief in WARM services. It’s in the prayers of worshipers who carry Campbell’s soup cans into churches during Sunday food drives. It’s written in meeting minutes of many civic and corporate groups and announced on public address systems in Westerville City Schools. WARM programs have become a most efficient and popular means by which we can assist struggling neighbors with support and loving encouragement.

Two recent events illustrate the impact our “hand-up” mission is having on tomorrow’s leaders both here in Westerville and in such far-flung cities as Denver and Boston.

The first event illustrates compassion, creativity and entrepreneurial energy - from a child of just eight. **Audrey McPhaden** is on summer break from St. Paul School where she’ll enter the third grade soon. She says, “It was a really hot day and my friend Sophie and I decided to sell lemonade. My big brother Ian has volunteered for WARM so we decided to use the money we’d earn to buy food for the pantry.” When



asked how her customers responded to the idea, Audrey recalls they said, “Keep the change!” Another interesting development, by the time the girls closed shop, they had attracted the interest and help of three more friends willing to spend a hot summer afternoon in the service of others.

Another inspiring WARM event occurred recently when some 5,000 students and leaders convened in Columbus for the Evangelical Free Church's national youth conference. For the first time, the conference offered a multi-day urban ministry track - using materials developed by Urban Entry of Denver, CO. **Scott Lundeen** of **Mile High Ministries** directed the urban ministry tracks and brought 200 students to WARM for a first-hand look at “The Suburbanization of Poverty in America”. The WARM staff coordinated a rotating

experience that allowed students to tour facilities and discuss the ministry and critical statistics and stories – both helping and challenging students to recognize the pockets of poverty in their own communities.

“As we were putting this track together, it was important for us to find a suburban ministry that sought to empower, serve, and give dignity to those in poverty,” explained Scott Lundeen, “The WARM staff was gracious in offering their time and resources - and eager to help open the students' eyes to the needs of their own communities. They even helped map out a route for the buses that allowed students to see different neighborhoods in Columbus. In addition to service, one of our leaders also noted all of WARM's partnerships - observing how crucial collaboration was in this kind of ministry.”

As an added benefit, engaging youth in the WARM mission renews and re-energizes staff, volunteers and donors alike. Our next generation is not only watching and learning – they are embracing community challenges. This is the Westerville legacy – it is your legacy. Thank you for your continued support.



Online Giving – Easy Peas-y!

What could be easier than dropping off cans of veggies at our 24-hour food Donation Station?

Try logging on to

www.warmwesterville.org and donate to WARM using your credit or debit card with our new secure Pay Pal system. Plus, your financial offering provides maximum buying power for bulk purchases. **Try it today!**



WARM by the Numbers

In the first half of 2010:

2,021 Families helped

6333 People served

113,994 Meals provided

29 Job placements achieved

4,256 Volunteer hours logged

Numbers like these show there's great need in Westerville but also, great compassion. Thank you for your partnership in bettering our community.

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 asked members of St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church at 313 North State Street to tell us what they value most about the presence of WARM in their church community.

“We live in a community that appears to be secure and affluent. WARM keeps us aware of our neighbors' hidden needs. The WARM mission to serve the soul as well as the body helps us live the Golden Rule.” - Dr. Ted and Vinny Herwick

“We truly believe WARM is a hand up, not a hand out. The counseling that each client receives is tremendously important. Clients can get so much more than a basket of food. It's a happy place to volunteer, too!” - Bob and Veronica Searles

“As public servants we both work hard to identify and then fill the needs of our community to insure a safe, healthy and prosperous Westerville. It's comforting to know that our church community shares and supports this vision through its commitment to WARM.” - Adam and Jayme Maxwell

“As a member of St. Paul Catholic Church and the Westerville Area Resource Ministry Board, I reflect upon what Paul said in 2 Corinthians, chapter 1 versus 3-4 ‘God who gives every possible encouragement; he supports us in every hardship, so that we are able to come to the support of others’. This is the foundation of what WARM is to me, people working together, supporting each other, giving of their time, their treasure and their talent to help the community be a better place.” - Jean Halpin

Jean is Director of Operations of the **OhioHealth Westerville Medical Campus** and one of the newest members of the **WARM Board of Directors**. We are delighted that she has chosen to lend her talents to our mission.