



Providing a Hand Up, not a Hand Out.

February/March 2011

WARM

Westerville Area Resource Ministry

Goodbye Dear Friend, Until we meet again.

*With ManyThanks and grateful hearts, WARM says goodbye to a long time volunteer who has championed the mission of WARM and given countless hours of service. **Lynn Miller** graciously and masterfully guided WARM in the production of our newsletter. We wish to congratulate Lynn on her new position and pray continued blessings upon her and her family. We miss you Lynn!*

I became acquainted with WARM while enrolled in the Leadership Westerville program in 2005/2006. **Kristy Robbins** runs this fabulous program where I got to meet community leaders and learn about Westerville business, commerce and government. A part of this program is to provide a community service. Our leadership group of about 5 people established contact with **Scott Marier** at WARM. At the time, WARM had just acquired the new office space on Broadway and Scott gave us a facility tour through drywall and wall studs, contractors and florescent light tubing hanging from the rafters. It was

decided that our group would paint and furnish the community room and chapel. When the project was complete, Scott shared some more of his wish list with me. It included better branding and marketing of the services WARM offered. At the time, Scott was paying a writer to create the newsletter. Having been an advertising copywriter in my first career, I saw this as a way of helping WARM while providing me with an opportunity to stay in touch with this organization that I had become so fond of.

The people at WARM ooze compassion. They listen and respond with kindness. They always put the individual ahead of the task. That's the feeling I got every time I interfaced with anyone associated with WARM. Clients, staff, donors...there is openness, trust and a willingness to lighten the load of anyone facing any problem, any kind of adversity. I may have looked like a volunteer, but at times I felt the beneficiary. The people associated with WARM provided me with optimism, hope and renewed my faith in humankind.

In the course of my volunteer work I talked with lawmakers, church and civic leaders, Eagle Scouts, teachers and parents. They inspired me. My in-depth conversations with clients were equally motivational. The homeless, the abused, the laid-off corporate executive, each followed a different path to the door of WARM. But all shared drive, ambition and courage to succeed after having been a part of the WARM program.

I worked as a Human Resources Assistant and then Coordinator at the City of Westerville for 8 years. Accepting the HR Director position with the City of Pickerington, I knew I could no longer continue writing for the newsletter. New work responsibilities, much longer commute and distance from Westerville means it's time to let someone new take the lead. I have already been in touch with the Food Pantry of Pickerington and have begun a United Way campaign idea to support that organization.

Thank you WARM for allowing me to be a part of a team unlike any other I have ever known.

The Heart of our Mission

Anyone who has lived in the Columbus area for any time knows that when Christmas comes around, it's time to purchase tickets to The Living Christmas Tree. **Grace Brethren Church Polaris** has produced this wonderful musical offering for over 25 years in which the story of Jesus birth, death and resurrection are told through music, drama and dance.

This year Grace Brethren Polaris, gave an additional offering of 600 tickets to WARM clients, volunteers and staff. The evening presentation was solely for the benefit of non-profit ministries, costing nothing to those in attendance. When asked why they chose to do this, Tim Montgomery, Stewardship and Development Director for the church said "It's the right thing to do". **Executive Pastor, Dr. Jim Augspurger** stated, "We have a mission of outreach. We want to share the Gospel with as many people as possible, reaching out through love, caring and helping people". Although Grace is a church of 3,000 this is best evidenced in the small groups who care for one another inside the church as well as outside.

Dr. Augspurger stressed the importance of reaching people by teaching transformation through Biblical Word. In addition to The Living Christmas Tree, Grace Brethren offers a clothes closet and continually seek ways in which they can reach others. "It is an honor for our church and a privilege to serve the community," said Pastor Jim.

Grace Brethren Polaris is located at; 8225 Worthington-Galena Rd., Westerville, Ohio 43081. For more information about Grace Brethren at Polaris, visit them at www.gracepolaris.org or call 614.888.7733



THE WARM spot Fredericks Hair Design

WARM thanks to Artistic Designers and co-owners **Jay and Katie White** of **Frederick's Hair Design** who on Monday, January 10, they, along with the salons additional Master Designers offered their hair services free of charge to 20 of WARM's clients. They helped our clients start the New Year off with a new look and new perspective. Additional makeovers were manicures and makeup. Katie White co-owner said the shop was using "our expertise to help people improve their images, feel hopeful and remain positive about themselves".

Frederick's Hair Design is located at: 6029 S. Sunbury Rd., Westerville, Ohio 43081, phone 614.891.3600. To learn more of Frederick's Hair Design, visit their website at: www.fredericksbairdesign.com



I lost my job ...

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to serve as a notice to the goodness and faithfulness of God, and to who is faithful to do his Kingdom business. I am **Apryl** and on August 6, 2009 I lost my job because of the challenges with the economy. Needless to say I was fearful of loss, but in the midst of that God lead me to the W.A.R.M. program in Westerville, Ohio. Ever since my arrival there, I was met with warmth, understanding and encouragement, powerful prayer and love. They gave me material needs for the last year and great spiritual food as well. Each time I left I carried food for my family, with a few tears...but always they gave me the message of hope for my gain in God. I just wanted to honor you people of God for all that you do. To God be the glory, with your prayers and love, on September 23, I started my new position as an account executive in downtown Columbus with a very nice salary.

Special thanks and much love to **Lynda Chambers** who worked with me on employment opportunities but more than anything prayed me through. I found a prayer partner for life and me and my family and my church thank God for you all daily. Increase is here and in return God is opening doors to enable us to freely give what was so freely given to us. We love you and are praying for you all. Again thanks for making the test we went through easier,

*Blessings,
Apryl*

...I found a prayer partner for life

SAVE THE DATE May 5

Annual Westerville Community Prayer Breakfast

The **9th Annual Prayer Breakfast** is only weeks away. Plan now to attend this inspirational event, held **Thursday, May 5, 2011** at the **Westerville Community Center**. Sponsorships are still available. *For more information contact cheryl@warmwesterville.org*

DID YOU KNOW?

The Benefit Bank is now a Part of WARM's Community-wide Response to Poverty

The Benefit Bank is a web-based service that simplifies and centralizes the process of applying for many state and federal benefits for low- and moderate-income individuals and families. A number of WARM volunteers are now trained to use the OBB system to assist clients.

Each year, more than \$1.7 billion in tax credits, and work support programs go unclaimed by Ohio citizens and these available funds are returned for reallocation to other states and other programs. The OBB strives to assist Ohioans in accessing these available dollars as revenue for our local economies and stability for our local families.

The system based on the internet. Data is entered by the counselor who is working one-on-one with the client, in a private, confidential setting. The software is question-guided and secure. All information is encrypted. The beauty of the system is that eligibility for multiple programs can be swiftly calculated and once data is entered, applications for all appropriate benefit programs may be submitted electronically. Checklists for required documents can be printed and reviewed. Application processes are thereby streamlined and waiting periods shortened. Clients' precious resources are conserved by minimizing unnecessary appointments, and the often confusing benefits system is clarified. This new system is a wonderful resource for Ohioans, and especially for WARM clients, and we are happy to make it part of our services.

Some of the programs included within the penumbra of the OBB are: Ohio Medical Assistance, Ohio Food Stamps, Ohio Child Care Benefits, Ohio Energy Assistance, Ohio Prescription Assistance, Ohio USDA Child Nutrition, Medicare Rx Extra Help, Ohio Cash Assistance, Ohio Women, Infants, & Children, Ohio Bureau for Children w/ Medical Handicaps, Ohio Child & Family Services, Ohio Senior Community Service Employment, Ohio Big Brothers Big Sisters, Rx for Ohio, FAFSA, Current & Prior Year's Federal & Ohio Personal Income Taxes, National Voter Registration.

More information is available at <http://thebenefitbank.com/about>. *To schedule a time with the Benefit Bank contact deb@warmesterville.org*