



Cincinnati's Oldest Soup Kitchen

Over-The-Rhine Kitchen

Walnut Hills Kitchen

Walnut Hills Pantry

Nourishing the Body, Mind, and Spirit



Kitchen Bites and Pantry Delites

December 2013

Our Journal of Gratitude for our Family and Friends, our Volunteers and Supporters, and Guests whom We Serve

As we celebrate miracles of light and new birth, we also celebrate YOU. Your consistency and dedication in both small and large things have made ALL the difference in our ability to provide basic necessities to 216,500 individuals/families so far this year. The pace of work in the Kitchens and Pantry is so hectic that when I finally stop and think what is accomplished, I think of YOU! *Your commitment and loyalty are critical to help our small staff provide daily meals and monthly groceries.* Our founder, Father Tom Bokenkotter, approaching ninety is still overseeing our daily activities. He has often reflected on the plight of our guests, saying, *"There are many reasons why people are caught in the trap of extreme poverty. However, while we are looking for answers, we can all do our part to alleviate some of the suffering."* We continue to need your financial assistance as the numbers of poor and hungry have continued to grow. When you give, 91% of your gift is used for our meal and pantry programs.

Please consider a donation today! Thank you all! *Patricia Wakim, Executive Director*

BBB Says: Give Locally to a Charity You Can Trust



- ✓ The BBB recently featured the Kitchens and Pantry on a billboard in Newport, Kentucky. Mary Beth Wilker of Wilker Design and Marketing donated the billboard design. We are grateful for her generosity and to the BBB for advertising for us.
- ✓ The Kitchens and Pantry have been able to display the BBB seal for the past five years showing that we meet the **Better Business Bureau's BBB Wise Giving Alliance** standards. The rigorous Alliance evaluations address charity governance, finances, fundraising, website disclosures, and donor privacy. See Give.org.



OUR WEEKEND WARRIORS

We respectfully salute the compassionate volunteers who donate their time, talents, and resources each Saturday, Sunday, and Monday by providing a hot, nutritious meal at the OTR and WH Kitchens.

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| Adath Israel | Immaculate Heart of Mary | North Pohl Group | St. Saviour Parish (<u>monthly donor also</u>) |
| All Saints Catholic Church | Immanuel United Church of Christ | Northern Hills Synagogue | St. Timothy Episcopal Church |
| Beth Adam | Isaac M. Wise Temple | Norwood Knights of Columbus | Second Community Baptist Church |
| B'nai Tzedek/Bet Chaverim | Lakeview United Church of Christ | OTR/WH Board of Directors | Sepate Family and Friends |
| Brown Chapel AME Church | Leading Ladies Christian Ministry | Rockdale Temple | Sistuh Circle Of Cincinnati |
| Crestview Presbyterian Church | Dee Mason, Michael Schultz, and Judy and Esly Caldwell | St. Gertrude Church | Temple Sholom |
| Congregation Ohav Shalom | Mason United Methodist Church | St. James Father's Ministry | The Dwelling Place |
| Sally and Paul Derrick and Friends | Deborah and John Moffatt | St. Mary Hyde Park | Trinity United Methodist Church |
| EPA Administrative Workers | New Jerusalem Baptist Church | St. Peter United Church of Christ | Tylersville Road Christian Church (<u>servng both OTR and WH</u>) |
| Faith Presbyterian Church | New Vision Missionary Baptist Church | St. Rose Church | Valley Temple |



We are pleased to announce the maintenance and improvements program for the Kitchens and Pantry has been funded for 2014, in part, by the Walnut Hills United Presbyterian Church Endowment Fund, a field of interest fund of the Greater Cincinnati Foundation.

Again this year, Chris and Ramesh Malhotra have extended the extremely generous gift of heat for our OTR guests throughout the winter. The Kitchens typically set the heat very low to conserve energy and cost. Thank you Chris and Ramesh! We feel the heat!



Special thanks to Carol Geis who sewed and hung beautiful blue and yellow curtains with tie backs for the Pantry. The curtains create needed privacy when guests visit. We applaud Carol, a long standing dear friend. Please take a bow!



Firestone Supports Community

We gratefully acknowledge Firestone manager, Jeremy Ursin, his employees and customers for their active support in a yearlong food drive, enabling us to pick up canned goods every two weeks! Firestone's care for the poor is a testament to their business values.



Bags of Thanks Go To...

- ♥ Our volunteers from Christ The King Church who serve every Wednesday. They are fondly referred to as our "Golden Girls and Tom" and have been supporting the WH Kitchen over two decades!
- ♥ Temple Sholom, a Weekend Warrior at our Over-The-Rhine Kitchen, continue their *mitsvah* for the Kitchens and Pantry by regularly donating canned goods.
- ♥ Valley Temple President of the Board, Craig Hoffheimer who presented us with a check from their successful fundraiser "Denim and Diamonds." A Weekend Warrior at OTR Kitchen, Valley Temple continues their commitment to the Kitchen.
- ♥ Rev. Harold Schackelford who has picked up our weekly, delicious donations from Harrison Bakery for the last 20 years!
- ♥ The Sisterhood of Isaac M. Wise Temple who invited us to exhibit at their annual Chocolate Festival and gain exposure to a wider group of potential supporters and new food and supplies donors.
- ♥ Student gardeners at Summit Country Day School who gave us mounds of fresh produce!

Easy, Secure Ways to Support the Kitchens & Pantry: ** Mail a check to P.O. Box 6045, Cincinnati, OH 45206

**Secure donation thru www.overtherhinekitchen.org [click on Make A Donation] ** Call 513-961-1983, ext. 1, for gifts of food, supplies, or equipment

Our Cooks Need Your Help!



The OTR Kitchen is sending out an SOS for assistance. Our elderly six-burner commercial stove with convection oven is not working. Repairs are both costly and difficult due to age. We would like to purchase a new stove with the same features.

Additionally we are in need of a microwave at the OTR Kitchen and a washing machine at WH. The washing machine is critical to ensure a supply of clean towels for the Kitchen.

If you can help us with these critical appliance needs, please contact us at 513-378-2977.



A Page from
"Our Family"
Album

The photo above is **Greg Frank** who has taken great care of our kitchens and pantry for many years. Greg makes deliveries on Tuesday and Wednesday, picks up donations, cooks and serves in the kitchens/ pantry and has completed many fix-it projects *gratis*. Thank you for your support, Greg! You are a valuable part of our lives.

Christmas came early to the Walnut Hills Pantry this year! These are only a handful of the adorable stuffed animals donated by the **Dan Meyer Family** to give to the children who visit the pantry during November and December. Such a great surprise is in store for many little ones this holiday season. Seeing their smiling faces is such a joy!

Michael Schultz and Dee Mason have a real desire to give to the poor. They have prepared and served meals at both Kitchens. On Tuesdays and Thursdays Michael makes deliveries and picks up donations. Michael and Dee also bag groceries and help run the WH pantry. Michael and Dee partner with Judy and Esly Caldwell as Weekend Warriors at OTR. They are loved by both our guests and staff.



Gobble! Gobble! Gobble!

For the holiday season we have been blessed with plenty of turkeys to serve our guests. Our main turkey donors were: Ralph DeFulvio and friends, Sons of Italy (Cincinnati Chapter), Dwelling Place Church, Mary and Scott Boster and friends at Isaac M. Wise Temple, Dolores Goldfinger and friends at Rockdale Temple, and Tom Brinkman and friends at Christ the King Church.

Longtime volunteer **Betsy Jones** has not allowed her inability to stand for extended periods or lift heavy pans from stopping her. Betsy has taken over a critical task from Mr. Bill, a daily volunteer until his untimely death at age 98, by wrapping napkins and forks for *every meal* at *both Kitchens*. Betsy tells us she really enjoys her volunteer work while watching Notre Dame win football games!

Dedicated Volunteers Support the Kitchens During Staff Transitions

- ♥ Thank you to Scott Reis for stepping in as interim manager of the OTR Kitchen for 5 months this year. Continuing to keep the Kitchen operating would have been difficult without Scott's hard work. Longtime volunteers Dolores Goldfinger (also serving on our Board of Directors) and Bill Hoffman moved their volunteering to the OTR Kitchen along with friend, Carol Geis to support Scott.
- ♥ Thank you to Rita Nzinga, Vice President of our Board of Directors, who enthusiastically supported new Chef Duane Bomar at the WH Kitchen, along with friends, Gereen Johnson and Weltha Garrett.

We are surrounded by truly dedicated friends! Most outside observers will never fully appreciate the passionate volunteers that empower us, every day, to fulfill our mission. We know our guests truly count on us for a daily home cooked meal.

Thank You Weekday Volunteers

Weekday volunteers are the hands and hearts that help us write, plan, pick up donations, prepare food, cook, serve, and clean up in the Kitchens, as well as stock shelves, pack bags, and distribute groceries at the Pantry. We could never run the Kitchens and Pantry without our wonderful volunteers!

Yolanda Ali	Patsy Grote	Betsy Jones	David Ness	Michael Schultz
Valerie Badinghaus	Jeanne Gudmens	Gerry Koesters	Rita Nzinga	Sister Julie Sheatzley
Tom Brinkman	Greg Frank	Nancy Kromer	Aubria Rauh	Lester Silver
Gary Bryson	Germaine Hale	Dee Mason	Joyce Rohan	Marcie Silver
Judy & Esly Caldwell	Bradley Harris	Tom McCormack	Diane Rohs	Grace Spencer
Arlene Conlon	John Heger	Jim Meridieth	John & Ginny Rush	Diane Sweeny
Weltha Garrett	Bill Hoffman	Mt. Carmel Women's Ministry	Sue Ryan	Zack Tran
Dolores Goldfinger	Gereen Johnson	Seasons Retirement Community	Harold Schackleford	David Van Schoik

Wish List

- 9" (or larger) plastic or Styrofoam plates
- 8 oz. paper or Styrofoam cups
- Plastic forks
- Paper napkins
- Square-bottom, heavy paper grocery bags (for distributing groceries at the Pantry)
- 1 quart size zip top bags
- 60 gallon trash bags
- Clean plastic grocery bags (previously used is OK)

Our everyday Wish List seems to stay the same because our line of guests keeps growing! We thank these "Everyday Angels" that have made a consistent effort to bring us these items – and more – in small and large quantities:

- ♥ **Judy and Esly Caldwell**, who also bless us with food donations and serve as Weekend Warriors.
- ♥ **Sister Aloyse Gerhardtstein**, who also serves as Secretary of the Board of Directors. Your stamina is amazing!
- ♥ **Ginny and John Rush**, who also are generous with donations of computer equipment, funding, and their time and talent.

St. Saviour Parish in Rossmoyne has been incredibly dependable in their support of the Kitchens by underwriting the cost of air conditioning at Walnut Hills in the summer, providing monthly gifts, and serving as a Weekend Warrior. Thank You St. Saviour!



Receive the newsletter by email....
Save us a stamp!
aposervice02@gmail.com or
call us at 513-961-1983, ext. 2