

UPCOMING EVENTS

Price Hill Pacer Weekly Training Program

Check out pricehillpacer.org for meeting dates and locations

2015 Price Hill Pacer 5K, 10K

June 15, 2015
Elder High School Schaeper Center



Life in the COMMUNITY

IN THIS ISSUE

HELPING FAMILIES HELP THEMSELVES SINCE 1897

FALL/WINTER 2013 - 2014

Foundation Corner.....	2
Workforce Development .	2
Every Child Succeeds	
Family	3
PHP Training Group	4
Parky's Farm Outing.....	4
Designing Future Through Jewelry	5
Boost Health - Volunteer..	6
Shop at Kroger for SM.....	6
Youth Enrichment Program	7
PH Women's Health Fair ...	7

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Santa Maria Community Services, Inc.



H. A. Musser, Jr.
MA, MSW, LISW

Message From the President & CEO

At this time of year, and since on June 18th I completed my first 30 years at Santa Maria, I'm thinking of some of the many reasons we have to be grateful.

Santa Maria Community Services is thankful for our supporters, donors and volunteers without whose investments of time and money we could not be successful. We are thankful for Santa Maria's 117 year legacy of serving the most vulnerable in our community. We are very thankful for our very dedicated staff who find satisfaction in working here at Santa Maria.

Most of all, we are grateful for the committed families with who we partner. We coach, support and encourage these families in their journey of raising their children,

getting jobs and improving their health. We are so blessed to be able to walk with them toward the goals they have set for themselves. Sometimes they face roadblocks--not unlike the literal ones we've had in the construction zone on River Road for the past two years--barriers that sometimes seem insurmountable but which, once examined may be more of a detour than a roadblock. Once families are able to identify their barriers and work hard to address them, the path to success becomes more level, smooth and straight.

Won't you please consider a particularly generous year-end gift to help Santa Maria help families help themselves? We would be most grateful!

With gratitude,

Santa Maria Celebrates Its Legends at Birthday Brunch

Santa Maria President and CEO, H. A. Musser, Jr., was recently honored with the Sr. Blandina Segale Award for his dedicated service to Santa Maria and the Price Hill community at Santa Maria's Birthday Brunch held on Sunday, December 7 at the Cincinnati Woman's Club. The award honors a creative thinker and doer who is persistent in overcoming obstacles, a champion of minorities, fearless against injustice, unbowed by failure and able to involve the community.

Additional Santa Maria staff, "Our legends," were honored for their longtime service to Santa Maria and the Price Hill Community

--each with 35+ years of service: Blair Schoen, Vice President, Jim Holmstrom, Youth Program Director and Pat Mattingly, Business Assistant.



Honorees Blair Schoen, Jim Holmstrom and Pat Mattingly

Santa Maria proudly recognized The United Way of Greater Cincinnati, celebrating 100 years in 2015, with the organization award. Thank you to our sponsors, SC Ministry Foundation and PNC Bank, for helping us make this event successful!

Administrative Office and Sedamsville Center

617 Steiner Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45204
(513) 557-2730

East Price Hill Center

3301 Warsaw Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45205
(513) 557-2700

Literacy Center West

3208 Warsaw Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45205
(513) 244-5062

Lower Price Hill Center

718 State Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45204
(513) 557-2710

Price Hill Financial Opportunity Center

2918 Price Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45204
(513) 587-6920

Foundation Corner

Thanks to the many supporters of Santa Maria and its programs! In 2014 we received:

For the Wellness program:

- Best Baby Zone Initiative of Center for Health Systems Excellence/ Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center
- CareSource Foundation
- Cincy Cinco
- Ruth J. and Robert A. Conway Foundation
- Health Path Foundation of Ohio

For the Youth program:

- Charles H. Dater Foundation
- Crosset Family Fund
- The Andrew Jergens Foundation
- Jack J. Smith Charitable Trust
- Summertime Kids/ Greater Cincinnati Foundation
- Sutphin Family Foundation

For the Promoting Our Preschoolers/ Family Child Care programs:

- Conrad Hilton Fund for Sisters
- SC Ministry Foundation
- Scripps Howard Foundation
- The Women's Fund of Greater Cincinnati Foundation

For the Price Hill EITC/VITA Initiative:

- SC Ministry Foundation

For the Every Child Succeeds program:

- Best Baby Zone Initiative of Center for Health Systems Excellence/ Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center

For the International Welcome Center:

- Best Baby Zone Initiative of Center for Health Systems Excellence/ Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center

For the Workforce Development

Program:

- Best Baby Zone Initiative of Center for Health Systems Excellence/ Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center
- The John C. Griswold Foundation
- The Donald C. and Laura M. Harrison Foundation
- SC Ministry Foundation
- US Bank Foundation

For the Price Hill Pacer 5K Training

Program:

- Interact For Health

For Marketing/PR Internship Position:

- Scripps Howard Foundation

For Capital Improvements:

- The Thomas J. Emery Memorial
- Louise Semple Taft Foundation

Santa Maria Combines Programs To Workforce Development

Earlier this year Santa Maria worked toward combining its Price Hill Financial Opportunity Center (FOC) and Literacy Center West (LCW) programs under one overarching title: "Workforce Development."

The LCW location will continue to provide GED preparation, but now offers financial and housing education as well.

Employment workshops and job-seeking services are now conducted at the FOC location. In-house employment services are offered to all ages through group Employment Workshops. These bi-weekly workshops are facilitated over a 3-day span helping job seekers with pre-employment and job readiness skills.

Since its inception, 91 have graduated the Employment Workshop series and 78 job seekers have secured employment. Six youth graduates have completed a 6-week pre-apprenticeship training where they gained OSHA 10 along with other industry recognized certificates. Three of those youth are currently employed in the construction industry making \$30+ per hour.

Sean Reynolds, a recently employed Workshop graduate said, "The Workforce Development Program at Santa Maria is the place to make things happen. It is a blessing to all who take advantage of its many resources."

Santa Maria Every Child Succeeds Family Raises Them Up... ..

Krystal and Kenbrell came to Cincinnati in 2011. The couple grew up in Miami, Florida, and were both athletic individuals valuing education as they came to Cincinnati to pursue college. Krystal, a Xavier University student studying sociology, and Kenbrell, a University of Cincinnati student studying business, found a need to have Santa Maria Community Services involved in their lives.

Krystal enrolled in the Santa Maria Every Child Succeeds program. Krystal was a prenatal parent and met Santa Maria home visitor Colleen Healey weekly to learn of prenatal development and community support for her family. Krystal delivered a healthy baby boy who later earned the moniker of "K2." Krystal met with Colleen weekly as he began to grow. K2 developed meeting his milestones in all areas: motor, intellectual, social emotional, and language development.

As any active boy, K2 was moving about: crawling, walking, running, and later kicking, throwing, and catching balls. K2 was exposed to athletics very early because his parents took him to University of Cincinnati football games to watch his father, Kenbrell Thompkins, a wide receiver, play football as a Bearcat.



Kenbrell and K2



Krystal and K2

Krystal was an active mother in the Every Child Succeeds program, participating in the gatherings of moms throughout the year. Krystal mentioned the Parky's Farm event through the Every Child Succeeds Parent Group, recently commenting "... we participated in the Parky's farm event...it was our first time experiencing anything like it. It was nice to hang out with other moms." Krystal commented also on the home visits and the delivery of age appropriate curriculum to her through the program, "The monthly curriculum is what I loved. It kept me on track and my son advanced...his vocabulary is expanding on a daily basis!" Krystal reports that Kenbrell or K2 is advanced for his age with great language skills.

Krystal continued her involvement in other ways throughout her time with Every Child Succeeds. Krystal was a volunteer for the Santa Maria East Price Hill front desk administrative assistant and was a Literacy Center West tutor for the youth earning their GEDs. Krystal was encouraging to the young teens and adults she met through Santa Maria's programs. She would still be involved in the Santa Maria Agency of programs if her journey had not taken a detour...and a great detour it was!

Please continue reading on page 8

Price Hill Pacer Training Group Helps Others

The Price Hill Pacer Training Group had the wonderful opportunity to share some Holiday cheer December 17!



Several members of the group decided to sponsor a Santa Maria family for Christmas and collected many items including clothing, blankets, games, books, toys and food.

After packing up all of the items (at least 10 bags and boxes), group members personally delivered them to the family. Thank you to all of those who participated in this act of kindness! Please know that your thoughtfulness is much appreciated.

Keep Moving With the Price Hill Pacers!

Fitness and fun. You can't beat that healthy combo! It's what the FREE Price Hill Pacer Training program serves up all year long.

Thanks to an Interact For Health Join the Fun grant that was awarded to Santa Maria at the beginning of 2014, a FREE run/walk training group was formed to prepare individuals to compete in the Price Hill Pacer 5K. And the group continues moving!

The next Price Hill Pacer 5K/10K will be in Summer 2015 to benefit Santa Maria Community Services and Price Hill Will, and the training group is preparing by running and walking all around Price Hill.

The training group meets twice a week at different locations in Price Hill, either on Tuesday or Wednesday evenings at 6pm, and on Saturdays at 9am. Our training calendar, complete with training locations, is available at www.pricehillpacer.org.

Participants run, walk or run/walk during the trainings, and three different distance options are featured each time: a 1.5-2 mile route, a 3-4 mile route and a 5-6 mile route.



The Price Hill Pacer Training Group had a great time participating in the Run to Honor Veterans 5K

More than 25 members of the group participated in the Run to Honor Veterans on Saturday, Nov. 8. The group had a fabulous time supporting our veterans and training for the 2015 Price Hill Pacer next June.

Price Hill Pacer training sessions are free and are open to all; children must be accompanied by an adult. We look forward to having you join in the fitness and fun!

Parky's Farm Outing Fun For All



Santa Maria's Every Child Succeeds, Promoting Our Preschoolers, and Family Child Care programs took a field trip to Parky's farm with families on Friday October 17th. On three full school buses, parents and children headed to embrace a beautiful fall day outdoors.

Some of the children had never seen live animals before this event. What a great way to learn about nature and its inhabitants!

Santa Maria's child development programs provide our families with learning experiences that promote the academic and developmental success of children.



Designing Their Future Through Jewelry

A group of motivated, ambitious women participated in the Santa Maria International Welcome Center's Entrepreneur Program this past summer. This seven-week program, which teaches the Hispanic women of Price Hill how to start their own businesses, focused on jewelry-making.



The goal of the International Welcome Center's Entrepreneur Program is to encourage and support female entrepreneurs in Price Hill as they seek financial stability for their families.

Santa Maria partnered with the Greater Cincinnati Microenterprise Initiative to teach participants about starting a business. In addition to covering basic accounting and management skills, the Entrepreneur Program focuses on hands-on education in product creation and production. This program helps participants in their goal of attaining financial independence while providing them with an outlet to connect with other business-minded women in the community.

Jenny Ginocchio, a long-time Santa Maria Community Services' volunteer, taught this group of powerful women about jewelry-making. And some of the participants are already selling the jewelry they're creating!

At the end of the summer program, the most advanced students completed an auction project that showcases the jewelry-making skills they learned. This bohemian-style jewelry set pictured on the left was completed by Rena Kato (earrings), Yukiko Suzuki (necklace) and Astou Sawane (bracelet).

The jewelry project pictured below is a unique design from two of our advanced students: Alejandra Garcia and Maria Garcia. Both women want to eventually start a jewelry business.

Both of these jewelry collections were available for purchase through the silent auction at the 2014 Birthday Brunch on Sunday, December 7!

The artistry and dedication shown in the Entrepreneur Program demonstrate the creativity and drive of the women of Santa Maria International Welcome Center.

Additionally, we would like to thank the San Antonio Church Parish for helping make these classes possible.



Additional Photos from the 2014 Santa Maria Birthday Brunch





Continue to Raise Funds For Santa Maria By Shopping at Kroger!

This time of year is an excellent time to support Santa Maria while shopping at Kroger! Santa Maria is honored to be a part of the Kroger Community Rewards program! Over the past year Kroger has donated almost \$1,200 to Santa Maria through this program!

All supporters of Santa Maria who registered their Kroger Plus Card prior to April 1, 2014 must re-enroll online to continue supporting Santa Maria through this program.

Signing up or re-enrolling only takes a few moments and is completed in a few simple steps. To re-enroll:

- Visit Kroger's website at www.krogercommunityrewards.com
- Sign in using your email address and password. If you have forgotten your password, just click on "forgot password" and a link will be sent to your email to change your password.
- Enter the first three letters of Santa Maria (SAN) and click search.
- Select Santa Maria by clicking on the circle to the left of Santa Maria's name
- Save changes
- If you have not signed up before today, follow the easy steps at the website listed above.

If you have any questions about the Kroger Community Rewards program, contact Leslie at 513-557-2730 ext. 408 or leslie.schultz@santamaria-cincy.org.

Boost Your Health - Volunteer!



United Health Care released a survey identifying some of the key benefits of volunteering. More than 4,000 American adults participated.

Approximately 68% of those persons reported feeling physically healthier since volunteering during the previous 12 months. More than 85% stated they experienced an improved sense of well-being. Others reported lower levels of stress, better management of chronic illnesses and more of a sense of purpose.



Santa Maria programming involves volunteers year-round. Besides special events like the Price Hill Pacer 5K, Health Fairs and Birthday Brunch there are many ways to be involved. Some of our ongoing volunteer needs include: tutoring middle school students, tutoring GED participants, assisting with group financial education, conducting mock interviews with job seekers, child care for adult classes, program material

and large mail preparation.

As a not-for-profit, our resources are spent for programming with less available for beautification and expensive professional advice. Our friends have helped keep the face of Santa Maria pleasing in the community. Seasonal assistance with landscaping and building spruce-ups help to make us good neighbors.



Charitable community members, professionals and students from all over the area have contributed to the success of Santa Maria and we are grateful.

If you would like to be a member of our volunteer team please contact Gladys Bell at 513-557-2730, ext. 415 or gladys.bell@santamaria-cincy.org

“Volunteers are not paid – not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless.”
– Anonymous



Youth Enrichment Program Sparks Interests

The International Welcome Center addresses the needs of several immigrant communities. Since the inception of the organization, the main tenet of Santa Maria Community Services has been to aid immigrants in transition in the United States.

At the heart of this transition are the children of our immigrant families. As such, the Youth Enrichment Program was developed by Santa Maria's International Welcome Center to address the growing needs of immigrant youth (3-10).

The Youth Enrichment Program strives to develop leadership in immigrant youth while helping them find their passion and interest in life. Youth develop invaluable skills and gain knowledge that will help them grow to become leaders.

The first step in this development is to find the spark that is in every child. Santa Maria's International Welcome Center aspires to help children find their passions and interests in

life by providing them with opportunities to explore.

Youth of the International Welcome Center are introduced to speakers from various organizations such as IMAGO (a grassroots, environmental education organization), the Price Hill Public Library, Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra, District 3 Police Department, etc.. These experiences will help them discover their personal interests while encouraging them to be curious and active individuals.



Price Hill Women's Health Fair Provides Vital Services

Women's health was front and center at the Price Hill Women's Health Fair in early October at Elder High School's Schaeper Center.

Through Santa Maria Community Services,

the University of Cincinnati Medical Center, the YWCA, St. Elizabeth Hospital, Healthy Moms and Babes, and the YMCA, screenings for glucose, BMI, blood pressure, mammograms, STI, pregnancy and A1C were offered to the 58 health fair participants.

Other wellness service providers at the fair included Enroll America (provided help with enrolling for health insurance), the Good Samaritan Free Health Center, Medicaid Managed Care Plans (Buckeye Community Health Plan, CareSource and Paramount Advantage), and Center for Closing the Health Gap (nutrition information).

Free child care was provided, as well as refreshments, Zumba demonstrations and raffles. This event was a great way to focus on women's health, provide important screenings, and help women access the medical services they need for themselves and their families.



Elder High School principal, Tom Otten, and Santa Maria Board Member and Sister of Charity, SPatMarie, SC at the Price Hill Women's Health Fair



Santa Maria Community Services

Helping families help themselves since 1897.

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Every Child Succeeds Family... ..

cont. from page 3

Kenbrell graduated from the University of Cincinnati in business in December 2012. His athletics took the young family on to the next leg of the journey. Although he did have meetings with Cincinnati Bengals staff, (and the Bengals missed out on this talented young man), it was the New England Patriots that signed Kenbrell.

Colleen Healey continues to provide Parents as Teachers curriculum to the family from a distance, mailing Parent Express Newsletters and Preschool Activity Packets to encourage preschool as the family is away from Cincinnati.

Krystal sent the following note to Colleen: "Colleen, you have been a blessing in all of our lives. All of your hard work, dedication, and most importantly, time devoted is more than appreciated. Thanks so much. We love you. Kenbrell, Krystal, and K2."

Kenbrell recently became a free agent and was signed to the Oakland Raiders. Colleen will follow up with the family and report on young K2 and his progress as they settle in California.

Congrats to Krystal and Kenbrell as your son continues on a path of learning and on to school. K2 and the Raiders have more fans in Cincinnati now!

