



SANTA MARIA
COMMUNITY SERVICES

Life in the Community



Helping Families Help Themselves Since 1897

FALL/WINTER 2016 - 2017

Message from the President & CEO

What a summer we've had at Santa Maria!

June - Santa Maria and non-profit partner Price Hill Will both benefitted from the 11th Annual Price Hill Pacer 5k/10k Run/Walk community event. 201 individuals registered for the event including serious runners and local Price Hill and other Westside families.



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

July - Thanks to the generosity of our partner Community Matters and many employees of P&G, Cincinnati Reds, Cincinnati Zoo and others, we moved our Youth Development program out of a very small, cramped space into the beautifully renovated Joe Williams Family Center at 2312 Glenway Avenue in Lower Price Hill.

Fall is equally promising!

Thanks to all who contributed to our local United Way campaign. This was Santa Maria's 100th year of receiving funds from this campaign, and we depend on this support.

Finally, as we approach the holidays, your direct investments in Santa Maria insure we can continue to

- Coach parents of 82 four-year-olds as they get these children ready for kindergarten next fall
- Teach two dozen adults per month budgeting skills to improve family financial stability
- Have 82 people manage chronic diseases as a result of working with our Wellness program

Thank you for considering a special year-end gift to sustain results like these with the families we serve!

Santa Maria Celebrates 50 Years in Price Hill at Birthday Brunch

Santa Maria invites the Greater Cincinnati community to attend the Annual Santa Maria Birthday Brunch, celebrating 50 years in Price Hill and 119 years as an organization.

Join Santa Maria and Brunch sponsor, the SC Ministry Foundation, in presenting the Sister Blandina Award to Jen Baker, President and CEO of Education Matters, as a tribute to the life of Sr. Blandina Segale, founder of Santa Maria. The award serves to recognize individuals who, like Sister Blandina, have had an incredible influence on the lives of many people. Credentials for the awards include characteristics demonstrated by Sister Blandina, including being a creative thinker and doer, persistence in overcoming obstacles, being a champion of minorities, fearlessness against injustice, being unbowed by failure and the ability to involve the community.

Santa Maria will also honor Community Matters with the Organization Award for their continuous efforts to improve lives in Price Hill and strong partnership with Santa Maria. Proceeds from this fundraising event, including raffles and silent and live auctions, benefit Santa Maria's family stability programs and services. The Brunch will be held Sunday, December 4, from 10 am - 1 pm in Clifton, Ohio. Reservations and donations can be made by visiting www.santamaria-cincy.org/event/annual-events. For more information about the Brunch please contact Leslie at 513-557-2730 or leslie.schultz@santamaria-cincy.org.



Board of Directors

Jorge Seda (Chair), GE Aviation (Retired)

Nelson Rosario (Vice Chair), GE Aviation (Retired)

Kaitlyn Baker Wessels (Secretary), Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center

Paul Friedmann (Treasurer), Great American Insurance Company

Jessica Woo, Ph D (Past Chair), Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center

Robert Ball, US Bank

Tina Baumann, The Kroger Company

Sr. Patmarie Bernard, SC, Sisters of Charity

Stephen Brinker, Hamilton County Board of Revisions

Tim Gillespie, Procter and Gamble

Dan Knecht, Grayden Head & Ritchey, LLP

James McCarthy, Katz, Teller, Brant & Hild

Lauren Niehaus-Beckner, Shake Shack Nutrition, LLC

Julieta M. Simms, Cincinnati Public Schools

Luther Smith, Ph D, Xavier University

William Thomas, Preschool Promise; MORTAR Cincinnati

Guillermo Villa, Johnson and Johnson, Ethicon

Seth Walsh, Sedamsville Community Development Corp.

Rose Mary Wesselman, Rosebud Communications

H. A. Musser, Jr. (President and CEO), Santa Maria Community Services, Inc.



Bringing Literacy Education to the Children of Price Hill



Keith Armour and the "Doodle Van" visit Santa Maria's SPARK families

Keith Armour is the Education and Homework Support Manager from The Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County -- one of Santa Maria's partners in the Supporting Partnerships to Assure Ready Kids (SPARK) collaborative. Each year Keith joins Santa Maria's SPARK home visitor, Jaime, on a home visit with

each child. He brings a literacy activity, book, resources and materials for each SPARK family. The children look forward to this visit every year, and the excitement is high when the "Doodle Van" arrives. The library also participates in the "Let's Talk" program each spring, which brings language and literacy enrichment to the preschool age children in Price Hill and Madisonville. Thank you to the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County and to Keith Armour for your contributions to the children in our community.

Price Hill Home Safety Day

The home has been identified as the most common place for children age one to four to be injured. A collaborative effort between Santa Maria's Healthy Homes: Block by Block program and Cincinnati Children's Hospital's Comprehensive Children's Injury Center, along with many volunteers, spent the day on November 12th reducing the risk of home injuries to children under five. Training, equipment and tools were provided and volunteers were trained to provide 2-3 pre-registered families with home safety education and basic home safety equipment installation. Volunteers engaged families in their home and provided an immediate increase in home safety with the



The Price Hill Home Safety Day was hosted by Elder High School on Saturday, November 12th



Home Safety Day volunteers helped with installing safety equipment in community homes

scripted education and installation of basic home safety equipment. These volunteers have helped reduce injuries by more than 50% in homes they have visited.

Foundation Corner

Thank you to the many supporters of Santa Maria and its programs! We have recently received support from the following foundations:

For the Youth Program

- PNC Bank Foundation
- The Andrew Jergens Foundation

For Promoting Our Preschoolers and Family Child Care Providers Support

- Scripps Howard Foundation

For Santa Maria's Development Department - Marketing/Communications Intern

- Scripps Howard Foundation

For Family Child Care Providers Support

- The Women's Fund of the Greater Cincinnati Foundation



New Family Center in Lower Price Hill Opens Through Community Makeover Project

This year, Lower Price Hill and Santa Maria's non-profit partner, Community Matters, were selected as the recipient of the annual Community Makeover project in Cincinnati. July 28 marked the much anticipated event sponsored by P&G, The Cincinnati Reds Community Fund and the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden.



Close to 400 volunteers from these businesses and agencies, along with their partner organizations, worked throughout the day to improve three major neighborhood locations in Lower Price Hill, including renovations to the former Espy Boys & Girls Club, now the Joe Williams Family Center, a program of Santa Maria in partnership with Community Matters. Named after major Santa Maria supporter



and Cincinnati Reds' Chairman of the Board, Joe Williams, the Family Center was originally gifted to Santa Maria's partner and neighboring organization, Community Matters, who in turn rented on favorable terms to Santa Maria as a replacement to the Youth Development building which consisted of three small rooms in a

once-housing development.

"Having Joe's name on this building is really satisfying to me," said Jim Holmstrom, Program Director of Santa Maria's Youth Development program. "So many people know him as the Chairman of the Board of the Reds, but I knew him as the guy who came in every week to help me do a youth group -- he and his buddy Andy Espy. I think it's just really wonderful for me to see Joe's name up there. I can't think of anybody's name I'd rather have up there."

The Family Center provides a larger facility and learning space for Santa Maria's Youth Development program and will offer a place for other organizations to host group meetings. The new building includes a gym, tutoring center, kitchen, café, enhanced grounds and more. Santa Maria hosted an open house on August 26 to introduce the fully renovated Family Center to the community. The receipt of the new building nicely coincides with the anniversary of Santa Maria's 50th year in Price Hill.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on July 28 in the Lower Price Hill Community Garden to dedicate the three improved locations. During the dedication, P&G and the Cincinnati Reds Community Fund awarded Santa Maria \$35,000 for its future work with Youth Development.

"I'm thrilled at the prospects we have for the new building," said Holmstrom. "I'm humbled by all of this and by the generosity of everyone -- every one of you who put this work in and volunteered your time into doing this work today to make this neighborhood a better place. I've never been more hopeful for this community."



Santa Maria Celebrates Holiday Season With Annual Community Events

The holiday season at Santa Maria starts off with the Price Hill Thanksgiving Day Parade at 10 am at Western Hills High School. The parade ends at St. Lawrence with a petting zoo, pony rides and a performance by the St. Lawrence Eagles choir. Santa Maria staff and family members will join in the festivities by passing out hot chocolate.

The following weekend Santa Maria participates in the annual Price Hill Holiday on the Hill celebration, which kicks off its December celebrations. As tradition dictates, Santa Maria's East Price Hill office (3301 Warsaw Avenue) offers pictures with Santa and hot chocolate and cookies from 10 am - 12 pm, Saturday, December 3. This event, sponsored by Santa Maria's Early Childhood and Wellness teams, is open to any family in the Price Hill Community. Santa Maria is very grateful to the continuous and generous donors, including Summit County Day School, St. Martin of Tours and Elder High School, who help make the holiday season special.





Price Hill's Iconic Mosaics Welcome New Addition Nearly 20 Years Later

In 1997, then-Santa Maria youth social worker, Kelly Tannen, and current staff member, Brenda Merrick, led a captivating youth project in Price Hill known as "Art on the Hill." Funded by the Hamilton Department of Human Services, the project contributed three mosaics to Price Hill in an effort to beautify the community. Nearly 20 years later this July, Santa Maria partner and nonprofit community development corporation, Price Hill Will, along with project leader and Director of Creative Placemaking, Laura Jekel, worked in collaboration with Santa Maria to preserve and expand the tile mosaics on Warsaw Avenue. The original mosaics located at Santa Maria's East Price Hill location were created by about 30 Santa Maria students. The scenes were designed by the students and placed with the help of artist Pam Kravetz. Designs included hands on the front of the Warsaw offices and the panels on the wall by the once-IGA grocery store, now AutoZone, representing "Healthy Families and Safe Neighborhoods."



Mosaics are on display along Warsaw Avenue

Eleven additional panels were created but never installed on Warsaw due to an understanding that the wall would be torn down for the purposes of opening the view of the business from the street. Funded by the City of Cincinnati, Price Hill Will worked with ArtWorks Cincinnati, artist Lori Kay Harris-Farr, and members of the community to complete the project since titled "Tapestry: Community Woven Together."

The dedication of the new portion of the mosaic mural was celebrated July 9 in front of AutoZone on Warsaw. Kelly Tannen, original project leader, attended the event among members of the community, Price Hill Will and Santa Maria. "It was so lovely to reconnect with the group from Santa Maria,"

Tannen said. "I have very fond memories of my time working there. The new mosaics are truly beautiful, and I enjoyed the opportunity to meet the people who worked on them and who made the project possible."

Community Garden for Staff, Students Offers More Than Produce

Every summer, Santa Maria's Workforce Development Program's staff and students plant a community garden at 3208 Warsaw. The seasonal activity is celebrated with volunteers who come together to tend a garden (weeding, mulching and sowing) to grow foods that the community can take interest in. This year



Kelsie Wilkins enjoys spending time in the garden on Warsaw Avenue

the rewards have been immense: not only are participants reaping a good crop of fruits, vegetables, and herbs, but food is sent home with the GED programs' students, allowing an open dialogue about gardening and ecology.

This year the group planted and harvested assorted tomatoes, cantaloupe, green beans, okra, various peppers, eggplant and several herbs, including rosemary and mint. There are also pear trees which continue to grow and mature.

"I rely on the garden in the summer, mostly for herbs," says Kelsie, Santa Maria's Workforce Development Intake Specialist. "They are so expensive in the store and recipes only call for a tiny

amount, so I love that I can grab a handful before leaving work. I also love the green tomatoes. I take them home and fry them!"

The garden also serves as a place of respite where students and staff can go visit when they need a moment to breathe, or simply feel closer to Mother Nature. "I feel like it's a tiny bit of nature that I can enjoy in a mostly concrete neighborhood," says Kelsie.

The garden has been a rewarding experience where both staff and students are able to stick their hands in the earth and see what is handed back.



Tonia Green, Workforce Development Housing Data and Office Coordinator, holds one of the cantaloupes grown in the garden



Santa Maria Staff Member Receives Multiple Awards

Santa Maria's Program Director of Immigrant Outreach and Wellness Services, Luz Schemmel, recently received two awards recognizing her continuous efforts in the Hispanic community. On September 23, the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) Cincinnati Board of Directors honored Schemmel with the Community Outreach

Award at the 2016 LULAC Cincinnati Awards Gala. The Ohio State Office of Diversity and Inclusion and the Ohio Latino Affairs Commission (OCHLA) presented Schemmel with the Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan Award at the Governor's Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan Awards Gala on October 7.

honored the accomplishments of Hispanic and Latino individuals in the region for their service to the Latino Community. The event served to celebrate Latino and Hispanic culture and break the barriers of Latino and Hispanic involvement in business, education, health, politics and more.



Luz Elena Schemmel
Immigrant Outreach and Wellness Services
Program Director

"I am happy, honored, and humbled to have accepted these awards on behalf of the whole Santa Maria team," said Schemmel. "I am so grateful to be working in this organization with the wonderful people that go the extra mile to help our clients, improve our services and take care of our community. I am truly lucky to have a job I love and be working with people who care so much and work so hard for the betterment of others and our community."

The 2016 LULAC Cincinnati Awards Gala celebrated the positive impact of those who shape the diversity and race relations in the tri-state community. The Gala honored the outstanding initiatives made by individuals, socially conscious corporations and students.

The Hispanic Ohioan Awards Gala

H. A. Musser, Jr., President and CEO of Santa Maria Community Services stated, "Santa Maria is privileged to have Luz Elena leading our work with international residents in our community. For the past six years, Luz has been a light to help immigrant adults learn English, connect their children with schools and help these families acclimate to life in Cincinnati."

Schemmel is a voice for disadvantaged families and a strong advocate for Hispanics, especially in the realm of improving health. She works to educate the Hispanic Community, help families have access to education, healthy food and everyday services and helps combat the problems of family violence and substance abuse.

Kindergarten Readiness Program Continues to Impact Lives

Lee Rose, Director of Community Investments for the Scripps Howard Foundation, recently experienced the direct services Santa Maria offers to its clients, specifically to the preschoolers of families in Price Hill. "In my role with the Scripps Howard Foundation, I've seen firsthand the way Santa Maria helps disadvantaged preschoolers," said Lee. Recently, Lee visited the home of *Marcus, age 6, who graduated from Santa Maria's program, and his 4-year-old brother, *Andre, who is just starting preschool. Since many families don't have cars, Santa Maria brings preschool education to the little ones' homes.

"As Andre's teacher started his lesson on the floor, I realized that this family doesn't have any furniture," said Lee. "I couldn't concentrate, wondering: 'Where did Marcus do his homework? Where do they eat their meals?' I also noticed there was nothing to read -- no books or magazines." In Greater Cincinnati, 400,000 people struggle with illiteracy and children who haven't developed basic reading skills before kindergarten are three times as likely to drop out of school. "These two bright, lively boys faced a disadvantage even before they started kindergarten. How can they possibly break out of poverty if they can't start school on the

same footing as other kids?"

By donating to Santa Maria you can help directly benefit children like Marcus and Andre. Please consider donating this holiday season to help the children and youth of Price Hill.

**Real names have been changed*





Volunteers Lead Santa Maria to Success

Santa Maria has been “Helping Families Help Themselves since 1897.” Its volunteers are among the best in Cincinnati and have a history of being essential to the success of Santa Maria. Neighbors helping neighbors is the fabric of our nation and fuels the charitable heart of the Greater Cincinnati region.

Throughout the year a variety of opportunities are published in the “Volunteer Opportunities” flyer. Opportunities include but are not limited to: community clean-ups, joining the team that makes Santa Maria’s health fairs successful, preparing a mailing, landscaping or serving as a conversation partner with the International Welcome Center English as a Second language classes.

Santa Maria volunteers are the “secret sauce” to the success of our work. If you would like to be a member of our winning team contact Gladys at 513-557-7261, gladys.bell@santamaria-cincy.org or through Santa Maria’s website: www.santamaria-cincy.org/volunteer

Charlie Zix -- Connected to Sr. Blandina

Santa Maria Community Services has an incredible history in Cincinnati and has been touching the lives of Cincinnati residents for 119 years. This year our founder, Sister Blandina Segale, has been receiving a lot of attention from the media as she is being considered for sainthood. Through the Sisters of Charity, Sister Blandina established Santa Maria in 1897 as an Italian immigrant house to assist Italians who have moved to Cincinnati for the hopes of a better life.

It is always a pleasure for us here at Santa Maria to come into contact with individuals in the community who were related to, or whose family benefitted from, the kindness of Sister Blandina and Santa Maria. We recently had the pleasure of sitting down with Charlie Zix and hearing about his personal childhood connection to Sister Blandina and Santa Maria. When Blandina Segale (age 4) and her older birth sister, Justina, came over from Italy with their parents, they shared a ship with others traveling to Cincinnati. On the ship was also Maria Rosa (age 7), an orphan and the babysitter to the Segale sisters. It is very likely that though she was considered an orphan, Maria was indeed the cousin to the sisters and niece to the Segales.

In her adult life, Sister Blandina opened Santa Maria in downtown Cincinnati on the corner of 13th and Liberty Street. Maria Rosa’s granddaughter would stop by Santa Maria with her son, Charlie Zix, to speak with Sister

Blandina and, what was later recognized by Charlie, to receive services Santa Maria had to offer. “When we were growing up,” says Charlie, “all we knew was Santa Maria. Nothing else.”

Though only a boy, Charlie remembers playing games with the other children at Santa Maria and waiting for his mother as she spoke with Sister Blandina. “Once or twice a summer, mom would take us down there to Santa Maria... and mom would sit and talk to her, and we would play with the other kids. But as I got older, I realized,



Charlie Zix

‘Mom probably went down there for assistance,’ because Sister helped all the poor Italians.’ Charlie had the privilege as an adult to view the manifest of travelers’ names from the ship to Cincinnati and saw the names of the Segale family and his great-grandmother, Maria Rosa.





Project Advance: AmeriCorps at Santa Maria Gets Things Done!

AmeriCorps is a 20 year old national program consisting of dedicated members who provide services to some of the most disadvantaged areas in our community. AmeriCorps members are paid a small living stipend, commit a year of their life to help address the needs of the community, and serve 40 hours a week at various sites across the country. They come from a wide array of backgrounds, ages, and life experiences.

Three years ago, Santa Maria took over the management of one locally established, well-recognized AmeriCorps program, now called Project Advance. Each year Santa Maria scans dozens of applications and selects the best to serve in the program. Each fall, Santa Maria places 15-20 members, like interns, with its own programs and external partner agencies, where they use their skills,

education, life experiences and hearts to serve at the front lines of social services.

Members reflect the depth of services provided by Santa Maria: they serve as tutors, health service navigators, job coaches or housing advocates. These wonderful individuals are often the critical first responder to Santa Maria's clients, listening to their needs and responding



Cincinnati's area AmeriCorps members took their pledge of service this October

with services and resources. They make a difference every day in the lives of thousands of youth and families. It is impressive to note that there are over 140 AmeriCorps members serving in Cincinnati, representing 8 different AmeriCorps programs.

In October, this group of 140 took their pledge of service together and became part of the national grand total of over 1 million people that have served in AmeriCorps since its inception 20 years ago.

Please join Santa Maria in recognizing and applauding its 2016 Project

AmeriCorps team members: Rick Baker, Julia Bean, Rita Covington, Ezra Durham, Alexandra Gonzales, Latasha Hambrick, Rose Hamzy, Andre Jeter, Kathy Jones, Mike King, Phil Jupper,

Meagan Miller, Kim Roberts, Allison Sears, Nate Webb, Stefanie Williams and Katherine Wilhelm.

For more information about Santa Maria's Project Advance AmeriCorps program, contact Dayle at 513-557-2730 or dayle.deardurff@santamaria-cincy.org.

Wellness Program Hosts Impactful Women's Group

Last Spring, Santa Maria's Wellness program hosted a Spanish speaking women's group in collaboration with several other agencies. With generous support from The Hispanic Chamber Cincinnati and Hispanos Avanzando Hispanos, the group began meeting and was called "Fortaleciéndote Mujer" (Empowering Women.) Maritza Dyer, from Addiction Services Council, led the group for ten weekly sessions. Topics of discussion ranged from acculturation to domestic violence. With her knowledge, Maritza brought forth profound conversations in a safe, women-centered place.

Meanwhile, Lorena Mora-Maury, faithful companion of all things empowering, posted montages of the weekly lessons learned on social media. The group's overwhelming success led The Hispanic Chamber to extend the program to English speakers. The English-speaking group

hosts both American-born and immigrant English-speaking women. Participants in other Santa Maria programs, such as Promoting Our Preschoolers and Stable Families attended. Both groups drew in women from the community who heard about the program from past participants.





SANTA MARIA COMMUNITY SERVICES

Helping families help themselves since 1897.

Administrative Office
617 Steiner Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45204
(513) 557-2700

www.SantaMaria-cincy.org

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CINCINNATI, OH
PERMIT NO. 4850



FUNDED IN PART BY
CINCINNATI



SERVE OHIO
Ohio Commission on Service and Volunteerism



Price Hill Benefits From 18th Annual Women's Health Fair

Approximately 133 people from the Price Hill community gathered at the Price Hill Recreation Center for the 18th



Various health care providers offered free screenings to health fair participants

Annual Price Hill Women's Health Fair. Eleven health care providers performed over 260 screening for the attendees, including tests for several high risk diseases, such as diabetes, hypertension and STDs. Seventeen exhibitors, representing a variety of non-profits, companies and government agencies, came to share health related information. Organizers were happy to receive such a positive reception from attendees,

who greatly value the services and information provided by the collaborators, who so generously donated their time and resources. Thank you to the planning committee, including Cincinnati Recreation Commission, Sedamsville Civic Association, Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati, St. Elizabeth Healthcare, Talbert House, the Urban Appalachian Community Coalition and YWCA, for the extensive efforts and generosity in making this year's Women's Health Fair a success.



Santa Maria Vice President, Blair Schoen, Board Trustee, Sr. Patmarie Bernard, SC and Immigrant Outreach and Wellness Services Program Director, Luz Elena Schemmel at the Health Fair.