



SANTA MARIA
COMMUNITY SERVICES

Life in the Community



Helping Families Help Themselves Since 1897

SPRING/SUMMER 2016

Message from the President & CEO



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

Santa Maria lives and breathes partnerships. There is very little that we do in serving families that is done solo. In fact, when our board members and staff developed a set of values for our organization a few years ago, “Partnership” was one of the first words we settled on to describe one of our core operating principles. And because Santa Maria serves families holistically, from early childhood to youth in school to parents and other adults who need a job or access to health care, we have partnerships in all of those arenas. We operate on a “whatever it takes” kind of model, connecting people to the resources they need to help them overcome barriers and reach the goals they have set for themselves. They do the work, but we are there with them every step of the way, along with our other partners to encourage them along that path.

Some of our most important partners are you, the people who choose to invest, with your financial gift, in the work we do. Every dollar we receive is used to support the mission of Santa Maria -- to serve as a catalyst and advocate for Greater Price Hill families to attain their educational, financial and health goals. Thank YOU for your partnership in our work!

Price Hill Pacer 5k/10k Set for Saturday, June 4

Santa Maria Community Services, along with Price Hill Will and event Corporate Sponsors Macy’s and SC Ministry Foundation, and Impact Sponsors PNC Bank and Hart Pharmacy, invite the public to participate in the 11th Annual 5k/10k Price Hill Pacer, Hart Mile Walk and Kids’ Fun Run in support of the Greater Price Hill communities. Funds raised at the event will go directly to Santa Maria and Price Hill Will, which focus their programs to service individuals and families in Price Hill, in addition to the community itself, by providing a combination of educational, economic, financial and wellness support.

The Price Hill Pacer takes place in Price Hill and is designed to lead participants through the historical community neighborhoods. Registrants are invited to join Santa Maria and Price Hill Will after the race for food, prizes, giveaways and awards. In addition, Mercy HealthPlex trainers will be present to assist in post-race stretching while participants enjoy music provided by Steve Mann and Mix 94.9. A free Kids’ Fun Run takes place on Elder High School’s football field, The Pit, and all children 10 and under are welcome to participate!

The Price Hill Pacer will take place Saturday, June 4, 2016 at Elder High School’s Schaeper Center located at 4005 Glenway Avenue. The race will begin at 8:30 am with race-day registration starting at 7 am.

.....Continued on Page 3

2016 Price Hill Pacer
5K/10K Run/Walk
Saturday, June 4,
2016

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

Doug Hein, TriHealth–Good Samaritan Hospital

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.



Dayle Deardurff, Santa Maria
AmeriCorps Director

Santa Maria Welcomes New Staff

Santa Maria warmly welcomes its two newest employees to Santa Maria's Administrative Office in the Sedamsville neighborhood: Brittany Robbins and Dayle Deardurff.

Brittany joins Santa Maria as the Communications Assistant working directly with the Development Department staff. Brittany is a Northern Virginia native with a Bachelor of Science degree in English and concentration in Business and Technical Writing and Secondary Education. Upon receiving her Master of Science in Corporate and Professional Communications with

a focus in Public Relations from Radford University, she moved to Cincinnati with her husband. Her recent work includes teaching communication courses at the University of Cincinnati and Xavier University, leading her to work as both a Project Manager and Manager of Communications and Branding for multiple software development companies in the Cincinnati area.

Dayle joins Santa Maria as the new AmeriCorps Program Director. Dayle has over 25 years experience managing programs in the social services and higher education, including AmeriCorps. She brings a wealth of knowledge and love of the AmeriCorps program to Santa Maria. You can catch Dayle cycling on the road throughout Greater Cincinnati.



Brittany Robbins, Santa Maria
Communications Assistant

Spring Health Fair a Success!

In April, Santa Maria's Wellness program hosted its annual Spring Health Fair at the Price Hill Recreation Center. More than 180 English and Spanish-speaking community members attended the fair to receive health screening and information. The event offered free screenings for all visitors and included a Kid's Health Zone for the younger attendees to increase health awareness in the community's youth.

With the help of over 100 volunteers, the wellness program is pleased to have produced another successful health fair and looks forward to continuing health education for the Price Hill Community. We thank Cincy-Cinco and the

Ohio Commission on Minority Health for their continued support of Santa Maria's Health Fairs through the years.



Price Hill residents benefitted from the free health screenings offered at Santa Maria's Spring Health Fair

Foundation Corner

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

For Capacity Building

- SC Ministry Foundation
- The Greater Cincinnati Foundation

For English Language Cooking Classes and Building Signage

- SC Ministry Foundation/Sister Elise Grant Fund

For the Youth Program

- Jack J. Smith, Jr. Charitable Trust, PNC Bank and Karen B. Wachs, Co-trustees

For the Workforce Development Program

- Edward and Joann Hubert Family Foundation
- The Greater Cincinnati Foundation/Women's Fund (In support of data gathering on domestic violence and self-sufficiency)



Santa Maria Honors Local Leaders at Bienestar Luncheon

Santa Maria Community Services held its 11th Annual Bienestar Recognition Luncheon honoring local leaders for their significant contributions towards the immigrant population of the Cincinnati community on Friday, May 13th at the Renaissance Hotel in downtown Cincinnati.



Marie Kobayashi

Santa Maria and Impact Sponsors Cincinnati Children's, PNC Bank, Ethicon and SC Ministry Foundation presented Marie Kobayashi with the Sr. Margarita Brewer Hope Award for her

service to the immigrant population within the Greater Cincinnati area. Marie currently works as the English as a Second Language and World Language Manager for Cincinnati Public Schools and is in her 15th year with the district. Her work has resulted in expanded opportunities for students and recognition provided to CPS from a national level and state level. She has been a member of local community advocacy

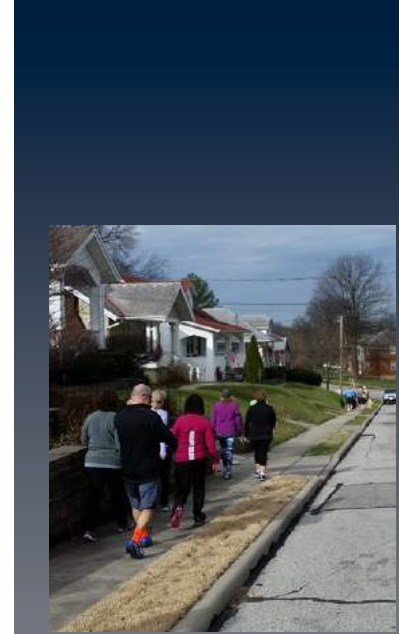


2016 Bienestar Recognition Luncheon

organizations and serves on the board of the English Language Learner Foundation as well as the Live-a-Language Foundation.

The luncheon featured keynote speakers Gloria Rodriguez-Milord, Consultant and Facilitator for the English Language Learning Foundation, and Idna Corbett, Vice Provost of Undergraduate Academic Affairs at Northern Kentucky University. In addition, Santa Maria recognized the following young advocates for immigrants in the community with the Rising Star Award: José Cabrera, Carolina Castaño, Luis Loza, Monica Molestina, and Mayra Wilson.

For more information about Santa Maria's Immigrant and Health Services contact Luz Schemmel at 513-557-2700 ext. 207.



Train For the Price Hill Pacer!

Get ready for the Price Hill Pacer by joining the FREE Price Hill Pacer Training Group! The group meets Saturday mornings and alternating Tuesday/Wednesday evenings throughout the west side of Cincinnati. All levels of ability are welcome! Three different mileage routes are offered at each session. Join us and make new friends and discover the west side! For more information and to view the monthly training calendar visit the Training Page at www.pricehillpacer.org.

Price Hill Pacer Continued

For more information about the Price Hill Pacer 5k/10k and to pre-register online, sign up to volunteer, or sponsor the event, visit www.pricehillpacer.org or contact Leslie Schultz at 513-557- 2730, ext. 408 or

leslie.schultz@santamaria-cincy.org. You can also check out pictures from previous years on the Price Hill Pacer Facebook page!





A New Work Experience Program -Piloting a Partnership with IKRON

By Emmanuel Gray

Exciting new things are happening in Santa Maria's Workforce Development program for out-of-school youth ages 16 to 24! Santa Maria is currently piloting a work readiness program with IKRON (Integration of Knowledge and Resources for Occupational Needs.) IKRON offers job skills training, job placements and is a community resource center (with gym, computer lab, mental health counseling and substance abuse services.)

After attending Santa Maria's employment workshops and becoming job-search ready, students from Santa Maria are referred by their employment coaches to IKRON staff for a paid four to six week on-the-job work experience. For the first two weeks they work with IKRON, which offers experience in either kitchen work, administrative tasks, or janitorial maintenance duties. The students also have a direct supervisor who shadows them throughout the day, helping them with various tasks. This experience lets students get a feel for various types of work, as well as an opportunity to practice skills such as showing up on



time, having attention to detail, prioritizing tasks and working with people.

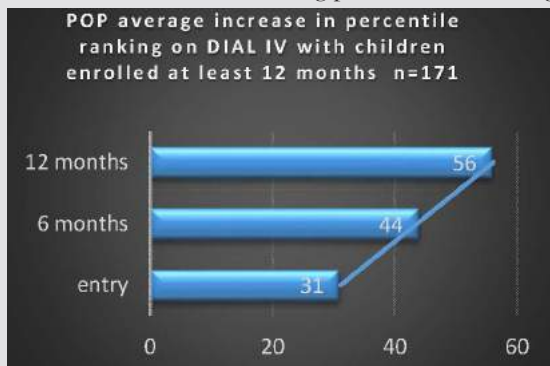
For the third and fourth weeks students are referred out to one of IKRON'S 30+ employment partners. After the four weeks are completed, students will have something new to put on their resumés, as well as professional references. For instance, one student was sent to Krohn Conservatory and now can use experiences and references from Santa Maria and IKRON, as well as Krohn Conservatory to augment his resumé and help him apply for future positions.

Paid Work Experience opportunities through our partner IKRON will take place throughout the year. All placements run 8 am - 2 pm (6 hours daily), five days a week totaling 30 hours per week.

For more information about this program contact Kelsie Wilkens at 513-244-5062 ext. 550.

Promoting Our Preschoolers Continues Success

Santa Maria's Promoting Our Preschoolers home visitation and kindergarten readiness program has proven to be continuously successful. Children who have been enrolled in this program for at least one year, on average have improved their percentile ranking scores by over 20 percentage points. To make these gains, the program has increased the quantity of content each child learns, exceeding the amount of knowledge normally expected at their age. In addition, the program also includes home visits or a meeting place of choice using the



Parents as Teachers Curriculum, and provides resources and support for parenting education, pre-school experiences and kindergarten readiness.

Promoting Our Preschoolers offers parenting and child group meetings and activities, developmental screenings for physical, language and thinking skills, and support for families to build a good working relationship with their child's health care provider.

Let's Talk

Let's Talk is a literacy/language group that is offered to any preschool age child in Price Hill as a component of Santa Maria's SPARK (Supporting Partnerships to Assure Ready Kids) program. Each week, speech and language pathology graduate students from UC partner with the Hamilton County Library, Children's Home of Cincinnati and Santa Maria to offer small group instruction to preschool children and their parents. Parents learn about activities and receive books and materials each week to be used at home with their children. The program will be held May 9 through June 22 at the Price Hill Recreation Center every Wednesday from 3-4 pm. For more information contact Jaime at 513-557-2700.



Meet Ashley, Devyn and Diondre

Ashley and 2 1/2 year old daughter, Devyn, have been participants of Santa Maria's Every Child Succeeds (ECS) home-visitation program since Devyn was an infant. Their participation in the program has made for a successful last couple of years for Ashley, Devyn and Devyn's father, Diondre.

Ashley has set several goals for her family and accomplished them despite life's many interruptions. Her most recent successes have been completing her GED through Santa Maria and enrolling in Cincinnati State College. Ashley has also accomplished such goals as getting a job, securing stable housing, and getting a car. The goals that Ashley and Diondre have always kept in the forefront are their children's development and family stability.

Ashley states, "We look forward to the visits by the Santa Maria Home Visitor, Barbara, because the activities they provide are creative and educational, and better than any store-bought toys." She adds, "ECS has helped me and Devyn to grow and develop. I like that the visits are at

my house, which sometimes included my mother, Patti, and brother, Chase, and we've always had the same home visitor. We love it. I tell my friends about the program too."

Upon graduating from Every Child Succeeds in October, Devyn will be attending preschool and continuing with

Santa Maria's home-visitation program through Promoting Our Preschoolers to get ready for kindergarten.

Ashley and Diondre are devoted parents who plan to continue their focus on a successful future for their children, Devyn and Diondre's son Cain.



Diondre, Devyn and Ashley

English as a Second Language Program Flourishes

The Santa Maria International Welcome Center's English as a Second Language (ESL) program at Roberts Academy has been doing great things this year. In December we welcomed three new staff members: Hannah Stein (AmeriCorps volunteer), Carly Wilson (Childcare Coordinator) and Serah Watson (ESL Coordinator.) Our team of teachers, coordinators and volunteers have been working hard to create a welcoming environment to serve the ESL needs of Price Hill residents primarily.

However, many students travel from neighboring areas such as Westwood, Western Hills and Clifton. From December - February, Santa Maria served

73 students. The program continues to grow and see new global representations from many different countries each year. The majority of the student population is from Guatemala. However, from Dec.-Feb., we welcomed students from 17 different countries who spoke at least 8 different native languages/dialects.

Our dedicated teachers teach the students reading, writing and speaking skills to help them in their everyday lives. The Youth Enrichment Program offers fun activities for children of ESL students who otherwise might not have had the opportunity to study. During the last quarter there were 10 students with perfect attendance, even with the bitter winter

and limited transportation. The students successfully had a total of 910 study hours combined, and each class level showed significant increases in post-test scores. A snapshot of achievements for 2015:

- Of 250 served in 2015, 100 (40%) unduplicated students advanced/improved in their ESL studies.
- 50 immigrant adults learned life skills & demonstrated knowledge of tenant rights, basic nutrition, domestic violence laws, health prevention/screening & budgeting.

The ESL program is showing promising development, and we are excited for new, upcoming success!



Support Santa Maria While Shopping at Kroger!

Santa Maria is honored to be a part of the Kroger Community Rewards program -- in 2015 Kroger donated over \$500 to Santa Maria through this program!



All supporters of Santa Maria who registered their Kroger Plus Card during 2015 must re-enroll online to continue supporting Santa Maria through this program.

Re-enrolling only takes a few moments and is completed in a few simple steps;. To re-enroll:

- Visit Kroger's website, sign in using your login information and password
- Click on your name at the top right
- Scroll to the bottom of the page and find Community Rewards
- Click edit, search for and choose Santa Maria, then click save! Your choice is good for one more year!

If you have any questions about the Kroger Community Rewards program, contact Leslie at 513-557-2730 ext. 408!

Lower Price Hill Youth Have Been Busy!

Over the past few months, students and staff from the Youth Development program took a few extra fun field trips thanks to ticket donations made by the non-profit, Most Valuable Kids. In November they had a magical night at the Cincinnati Ballet when they attended a performance of The Nutcracker -- even learning some dance moves from the ballerinas before the performance. In February, a group of students from the middle and high schools went to a Cyclones hockey game -- a close game that came down to the final few seconds. They left happy after seeing the Cyclones win!

On April 20, the Youth program was excited to host eleven students from Mother of Mercy High School's Key Club. The afternoon began with sharing a snack at the center, provided by the Mercy students. Then everyone headed down to Evans Field to spend the afternoon playing capture the flag, dodgeball and drawing with chalk. All had a great time. We hope that the girls from Mercy will visit again in the future!

Three of the young ladies from Santa Maria's



Santa Maria's Youth program groups enjoyed seeing the Nutcracker Ballet in December



Jim Holmstrom (standing) with the Santa Maria Youth program staff.

Youth Development program's eighth grade Social and Emotional Skills group were invited to speak at the St. Vincent de Paul-Ozanam Center for Service Learning on April 2. Katie, Megan and Mariah served as panelists for a class of Middle Childhood Education majors from Xavier University (pictured, left). The day focused on understanding how to be supportive teachers in ways beyond academics and day-to-day classroom procedures. The students were able to provide valuable insights to the XU students that they will be able to apply to their future teaching experiences. The opportunity also gave the girls a chance to practice their public speaking skills.



Bringing Jobs to the Community *By Emmanuel Gray*

Santa Maria's very own Block by Block Healthy Homes Initiative, in partnership with Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, is doing more than reaching out to neighbors in the community -- it is creating new employment opportunities.

Block by Block employs Price Hill residents at \$15 per hour for 10 to 20 hours per month to go on walks through their assigned neighborhood as "Block Captains," and connects young families to services such as Santa Maria's Every Child Succeeds, Start Strong, Promoting Our Preschoolers and Tri-Health/Wellness Outreach programs. They also reach out to families with children ages 6 and younger, and deliver package elements such as cribs, smoke detectors, baby gates and books.

Along with being a great community outreach program, Block Captains are finding that Block by Block is a stepping-stone for further employment. Take for instance, Valerie Perez, a proud mother of four: she was a Santa Maria Stable Families client working with staff on stabilizing her housing situation for herself and children, but when it came to employment, Valerie had a rough time getting hired because of her previous criminal record. "I never gave up," Valerie said. "Even though I kept getting told no for every job that

I applied to, I just kept applying, kept applying and hoping that I would get a yes somewhere." She finally got a break when Santa Maria's Stable Families program told her about Block by Block. Deciding that she would be perfect for the position as Block Captain, Valerie applied and was hired.



Courtney Craig, Public Ally Block Specialist, and Lisa Watkins, Block by Block Coordinator, point to stars on a map of Price Hill representing families being served

Through Block by Block, she was then connected with other employment opportunities such as the Price Hill recycling campaign, which she heard about from another Block Captain. When she attended a community event through the

program, she was connected with Cincinnati Children Thrive and later was hired on as a peer researcher.

Recently Santa Maria's Workforce Employment Coach helped Valerie apply for a job with the Walking School Bus at Roberts Academy. "I was scared, because I do have a record, and I didn't think that I would pass. But I went ahead and applied." With good references, including some from Block by Block, and a new resumé, Valerie got the job with the Walking School Bus and now works as a Lead Conductor, overseeing the activities of other Conductors for the school.

Block by Block has been a catalyst for Block Captains to advance their careers and also a way of connecting other people with Santa Maria's many services. Valerie says of the Santa Maria experience, "I think it's a great place to work, it's a great place to thrive. I was here as a client before I was here working and there's just so many opportunities upon opportunities."

For more information on Santa Maria's Block by Block program contact Lisa at 513-587-6920, ext. 306.

I Can Imagine Myself

Sometimes fate makes opportunities present themselves to us, even when we aren't looking for them. This is what happened one afternoon during a tutoring session at Oyler School where Katie, 14, and Mariah, 13, receive Santa Maria programming. On this particular day, Katie and recent Santa Maria intern and University of Cincinnati Graduate Student, Jenni Cattran, struck up a conversation that would lead the three on a rewarding journey.

The discussion began with Katie sharing her aspirations of becoming a youth advocate like Jim Holmstrom, the Coordinator for Santa Maria's Youth Development program. "I want to protect children from abuse," said Katie. "I can imagine myself in a courtroom telling the judge why hurting children is wrong."

The dialog between the two prompted Mariah to share her plans for the future. "I am very interested in being an F. B. I agent," said Mariah. "I can imagine myself

solving crimes using a computer, I might change my mind, but for now, this is what I want to do."

Their interest in the future is what led Jenni to take the girls on a tour of the University of Cincinnati (UC) and Northern Kentucky University (NKU) campuses. "We enjoyed walking around the campus and learning more about student life in general, and discussing the support that is available for incoming

... .. Continued on Page 8



SANTA MARIA COMMUNITY SERVICES

Helping families help themselves since 1897.

Administrative Office
617 Steiner Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45204
(513) 557-2730

www.SantaMaria-cincy.org

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



FUNDED IN PART BY
CINCINNATI
city of



SERVE OHIO
(Ohio Commission on Service and Volunteering)



SWORWIB
The Southwest Ohio Region
WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD



I Can Imagine Myself Continued

freshmen,” said Jenni. “After UC we went to NKU. NKU is a smaller university and is a very affordable option that offers great support for first generation students. Katie and Mariah both seemed more comfortable on this smaller, homier campus.”



After the tour, Jenni and the girls discussed how current decisions shape future choices and how higher education works. They learned about professional dress and how personal presentation can be a great tool for attracting positive people into their lives. “It was a

wonderful opportunity to discuss self-respect, body image, and dressing well to attract future opportunities,” said Jenni. Jenni helped the girls strategize and commit to goals. She worked with them to create college planning boards to visualize their futures, create goals and a plan, and work toward making that plan a reality. Jenni also had the girls try on her graduation regalia to get a sense of the rewards of higher education.

“Santa Maria provided me with a wonderful model for great social work in action,” said Jenni. “I wanted to build rapport with Katie, Mariah and the other children in the program, so when the opportunity arose, I jumped on it!”

Please join Santa Maria in serving the youth of Lower Price Hill with your friendship and financial support by contacting Jim Holmstrom at jim.holmstrom@santamaria-cincy.org. Jim’s thirty-nine years of service to Santa Maria’s youth, along with the help of his dedicated team, provide those in the program with academic tutoring and socio-emotional skills while supporting their families with home visits and resources.

Imagining you can do it.... the first step: Mariah (13) and Katie (14) try on graduation regalia for the first time!