



SANTA MARIA
COMMUNITY SERVICES

Life in the Community

Helping Families Help Themselves Since 1897



SPRING/SUMMER 2017

Message from the President & CEO

This is the time of year at Santa Maria where we think of graduations! I attended two of our graduation ceremonies this June, both held in the same space at Elder High School within 24 hours of each other. The first was the formal cap-and-gown ceremony for our 44 GED graduates from the past year. What a wonderful, inspiring event!



H. A. Musser, Jr.
President and CEO

It was a privilege to celebrate with these proud graduates, many of whom have overcome major obstacles in their lives to choose to get to this point. Their families were there as well—parents, siblings, children, grandparents—proudly cheering as their loved one processed in and received their certificate, which can help them move them and their families toward greater financial stability.

The very next day, we were back at Elder celebrating the three dozen children who, at age three, “graduated” from our Every Child Succeeds program and will be taking their next steps, with their families, toward getting ready for kindergarten. This event had equal amounts of joy and satisfaction about the parents’ and children’s accomplishments as well as excitement at their next steps in life.

We are so thankful to be able to participate with families in celebrating these accomplishments. Thank you for helping make this all possible.

Price Hill Pacer Celebrates Largest Number of Registrants

The 12th annual Price Hill Pacer 5k/10k Walk/Run and One Mile “Hart” walk was held June 3 at Elder High School’s Schaeper Center. The event was hosted by Santa Maria and Price Hill community partner, Price Hill Will, as well as supported by Presenting Sponsor, Macy’s, and Corporate Sponsor, the SC Ministry Foundation.

Over 245 individuals registered for this year’s event, which included a Kids Fun Run, food and drinks, snow cones, face painting, balloon creations, prizes, raffles, live DJing by Steve Mann with 103.5 WGRR, yoga, various vendor booths, music by 93.3 along the race route, post-race stretching with Mercy Health Orthopedics and Sports Rehabilitation, and more.

The Price Hill Pacer raised over \$10,000 for the programs and services of both Santa Maria and Price Hill Will, both of which support the Price Hill community.

Interested runners and walkers are welcome to join the year-long Price Hill Pacer training group. For more information on the training group, visit www.pricehillpacer.org.



2017 Price Hill Pacer

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Youth Connect with Community Through Basketball

On May 20, youth from Oyler School and the Lower Price Hill community participated in the “We Are Family” basketball tournament, an event promoting positive engagement with firemen and police officers. Officer Anthony Johnson officiated and firefighter John Koch participated in the tournament.

The event was held at Santa Maria’s Joe Williams’ Family Center and hosted games for all ages where staff and adults could join. Children in the 7th grade and up were able to enter the final tournament held in Oyler’s gym.

Along with the tournament, youth and participants enjoyed pizza and yard games. Those who attended the event received a bracelet, and the winners of the tournament received medals. The event offered a way to bring the community together with fun and friendly competition while engaging the youth with officers and firefighters.



We Are Family basketball tournament

Spring Health Fair Provides Free Health Resources

Santa Maria Community Services, along with partners and funders Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center, Cincy-Cinco, and the Ohio Commission on Minority Health, held the 2017 annual Spring Health Fair on April 9 at the Price Hill Recreation Center.



2017 Annual Spring Health Fair

The event provided free health screenings for blood pressure, BMI, depression, glucose, STI, pregnancy, dental health, vision, hearing, and more. A Kid’s Health Zone, Zumba, and additional free health resources from community health organizations were also offered at the fair.

The event included 160 attendees and 129 volunteers, including student groups who came from Mount St. Joseph University, University of Cincinnati Medicine and Physical Therapy, Northern Kentucky University Latino Mentor Program, students in partnership with the Hispanic Chamber, and more.

Santa Maria Celebrates Three Summer Graduations

Santa Maria celebrated its 2017 GED graduation on June 22 and Every Child Succeeds graduation on June 23. We, along with family, friends, and the community, were excited to honor graduates of all ages.

The GED graduation recognized 44 GED students as they move forward with pursuing their goals and careers. Santa Maria’s Every Child Succeeds graduation recognized three-year-old graduates from the program which offers first time mothers and their families support to ensure optimal start for their children.

We are excited for our POP and SPARK graduation to take place on August 4th and 5th at Roberts Academy, which will celebrate preschoolers graduating into kindergarten.



2016 POP/SPARK graduation

Youth Tend to Gardens for Summer Employment

This summer, five students from Santa Maria’s Youth Development Program will be hired to tend to several Lower Price Hill gardens as Garden Apprentices for a summer work program.

Lower Price Hill nonprofit, Community Matters, currently operates three of the community gardens: the Victory Garden (St. Michael Street); the Aaron Raines Memorial Garden (8th Street); and the Sassafras Garden (Neave Street).

The youth will be learning about planting, sustainability, and healthy eating. The students will work twice a week alongside Santa Maria and Community Matters’ staff. Some of the

apprentices’ duties will include maintaining the gardens and planning for weekly, public garden parties which take place in the Sassafras Garden Fridays from 2:30-4:30.



Lower Price Hill garden



Seton Senior Hosts Art Fair to Raise Funds for IWC

On the weekend of April 22, Seton High School senior, Nina Wurzelbacher, organized a charity art fair at Eden Park titled “Arts ’N Smarts: Multicultural Art Fair” to raise funds for Santa Maria’s International Welcome Center. The event was held on the lawn near Mirror Lake and featured 14 booths of professional and amateur local artists. The fair raised over \$400 to help educate immigrants who receive services through the Center.

The International Welcome Center exists to give Cincinnati’s immigrants a unique, effective and open community education and welcoming support.



Arts ’N Smarts International Art Fair

The Center offers English and Spanish literacy classes, support groups, and more to provide immigrants with a safe space to access valuable resources and connect with one another.

Paint Night Supports Santa Maria

On June 12, Santa Maria held its first ever Painting with a Purpose fundraiser at Painting with a Twist--Cincinnati West. 39 participants came to paint the night away with family and friends, while raising \$600 toward the programs and services of Santa Maria.

Staff, board, and friends of Santa Maria, including community members, spent the evening enjoying food, refreshments, and great conversation while being taught step-by-step instructions on how to paint Painting with a Twist’s chosen artwork “Sunset in Paradise.”

Each guest left with their own painting and a Santa Maria goody bag.



Painting with a Purpose fundraiser

Coaches Needed for Youth Sports League

Santa Maria’s Youth Development Program is looking for coaches to support a newly established Lower Price Hill youth sports league. The sports league will help encourage leadership and promote healthy lifestyles among the youth in the community.



Shane Butler coaching the LPH Youth Sports League

After hearing the buzz about creating a neighborhood sports league, 15-year-old Shane Butler, a student at Oyler School, felt motivated to lead basketball practices for 6-10 year olds in the neighborhood. Shane and some of his fellow classmates now hold practices every Tuesday and Thursday at the Joe Williams Family Center from 1-3 pm. These teens have stepped up and have shown great leadership while setting a positive example for the younger children in the area.

With hopes of expanding the league, Santa Maria is seeking coaches for basketball, baseball, football, and soccer. If you are interested, please call the Joe Williams Family Center at 513-557-2710.

Volunteers Celebrated at Annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner

Santa Maria celebrated its 2016 volunteers at its 45th annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner on April 19.

This year’s dinner was held at St. William Church and celebrated the contributions of many individuals who have volunteered for Santa Maria during the 2016 calendar year.



Volunteers and staff at the 2017 Volunteer Recognition Dinner

The event featured a catered dinner by Hammann’s Catering, Deli and Butcher Shop, music by Original Farm League Big Band, and giveaways. Staff, Board, volunteers, and supporters of the agency enjoyed a night of dinner, music, and conversation while learning about the many programs of the organization.



Farm League Big Band



Mount Students Work at Santa Maria for the Summer

Each summer, Santa Maria is provided with the opportunity to host several Mount St. Joseph University students as part of the University's Summer Employment Program. The program is a great opportunity for the students to receive professional experience and to broaden their knowledge of the community around them.

A variety of job opportunities were available at Santa Maria this summer, and nine students were selected to work with the agency. The students have positions mentoring students, planning events and activities for the youth, assisting with GED services and preparation, helping to develop communications and marketing materials, assisting with the volunteer program, planning special events for the agency, and more.

Mount St. Joseph student, Aspasia Markis, stated, "Working at Santa Maria through the Summer Employment Program has been an eye-opener. I had no idea that many of the programs Santa Maria offers even existed, and it is an amazing thing, especially for the Price Hill community. Working with Human Resources will allow me to learn various functions and skills of the HR office and field, which will follow me wherever life takes me

after college. I am forever grateful that the Summer Employment Program allows students to have opportunities like the one I have, and that I am able to work for such a great organization like Santa Maria."



From left to right: Brie White; Riley Ferguson, Sara Winsted; Aspasia Markis; Jirequez Fair; and Kayla Eaton

Santa Maria Looking to Recruit Members for its AmeriCorps Program

Santa Maria Community Services offers a unique opportunity for those who want to commit to a year of service through Project Advance AmeriCorps.

Similar to signing up for the Peace Corps in your own community, Project Advance AmeriCorps is a great way to build communities such as Price Hill by serving as a paid AmeriCorps member. Thousands of federally supported AmeriCorps programs exist across the nation, and Santa Maria is fortunate to have been selected as one of the local host agencies to manage one such program.



Ohio AmeriCorps members

This year, people serving in Project Advance AmeriCorps begin their service on September 1, and finish their term on July 31, 2018. Santa Maria will be engaging 16 AmeriCorps

members to serve within Santa Maria and other agencies, including some placements within Hispanic communities.

This program gives its members the chance to give back to their community while getting paid to do so – the program provides members with service and employment experiences. Members get to make a difference in their community while discovering possible career paths and building their resumés.

AmeriCorps members are eligible for a bi-monthly living allowance (\$12,630 annual), health insurance, professional training opportunities, plus the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award worth \$5,815 toward college costs (awarded at the end of the service year). Applications for the AmeriCorps Programs are currently being accepted for the following positions: Health Educators, GED Tutors and Employment Coaches, and Housing support Coaches. Positions like these not only give members great opportunities that can benefit them for the rest of their life, but also benefit the people needing these services.

The AmeriCorps Program is a rewarding experience and a great way for members to build the community. For more information visit www.santamaria-cincy.org/get-involved/ameri-corps-program/ or call Bonnie Hood at 513-557-7264, or email Bonnie.Hood@santamaria-cincy.org.



M.O.R.E Club at Dater High School Raises Funds for Santa Maria

Santa Maria Community Services recently received a generous donation from the M.O.R.E. (Men, Organized, Respectful, and Educated) club at Dater High school.

The club previously raised funds for two other nonprofit organizations and selected Santa Maria as their third. To raise funds, the M.O.R.E. club sold animal crackers and Jumex juice during their lunch period, and took donations while spreading the word about their philanthropy project. The young men also volunteered as ushers at a chorus and band concert to take donations and talk to the community.

The philanthropy project raised \$360.50 and brought awareness of the programs and services offered at Santa Maria. Students involved in the club include Justin Jackson, Yordy Cabrera, Curtis Simpson, Raphael Hicks and Fernando Lopez, led by Dater High School teacher, Lee Black.

The M.O.R.E club started at Dater High

School two years ago as a reactive idea to keep young men out of trouble by allowing them to serve in leadership roles and by offering new opportunities to them.



Dater High School M.O.R.E. club

The club serves to engage at-risk youth with the community while involving them with purposeful activities, projects, and philanthropies. The M.O.R.E. program nurtures academic success and strong character development among young men to promote measurable improvements in academic achievement, grade-level promotion, graduation rates and college

readiness.

In addition to fundraising, the group participates in college tours and prepares for college readiness by learning how to create a resume and dress properly for interviews. The club is also called on to speak on different issues.

Each of Cincinnati Public Schools' 26 M.O.R.E. clubs includes after-school programming and monthly and quarterly enrichment opportunities that include such topics as community service, current event discussions, personal visions, conflict

resolution, anti-bullying, overcoming adversity, social/emotional learning, learning styles and strength discovery, time management, and social media awareness.

Santa Maria is grateful for the hard work the M.O.R.E. club has put into raising funds to support the Price Hill Community, and we thank them for their generous donation.

Online Campaign Supports the Health Gap in Price Hill

Help Santa Maria Community Services bring health education and resources to underserved families in the Cincinnati community. One hundred percent of the families served by Santa Maria are economically disadvantaged, and many have no access to health care.

Santa Maria's hope is to help eliminate the health gap by providing education on health topics and healthy living, and offering better access to health resources for all the families served, including the Hispanic and immigrant populations.

The HealthPath Foundation of Ohio will generously match Santa Maria's goal of \$3,000, providing the nonprofit

organization with the funds to reach the overall goal of \$6,000.

To accomplish bridging the health gap, Santa Maria is raising funds to acquire TV



Wellness program at Santa Maria

monitors that will be placed in two of their client-centered facilities. Monitors will be able to display health resources to clients, including upcoming health events, agency and local health resources, etc. and provide translated content that may otherwise go unshared by the agency or unnoticed by the families. Monitors will also be used to display educational programs for children during services which offer childcare.

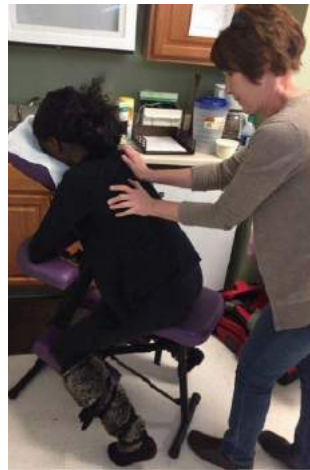
To support Santa Maria's online campaign, please visit www.crowdrise.com/bridging-the-health-gap-for-disadvantaged-ohioans/fundraiser/santa-maria-community-services.



Seton Senior Holds Spa Day for Every Child Succeeds Moms

A critical part of Seton High School's senior curriculum, The Senior Project, is a year long learning experience where students take the opportunity to indulge themselves in a topic of interest. The topics chosen typically fall into one of three categories: career, services, or personal interest.

For her senior project, Seton senior, Melanie McGregor, planned a Spa Day for the mothers within Santa Maria's Every Child Succeeds Program (ECS). Melanie is the daughter of Julie McGregor, Program Director of Every Child Succeeds, and worked closely with Mindy Heathcoat, a Santa Maria employee, to execute this event. ECS is a home-visitation based program with the goal to ensure an optimal start for children of first-time mothers, in seven counties within the Greater Cincinnati area; Santa Maria is one of the lead agencies administering this program. With visits from the time of pregnancy to the child's third birthday, ECS works to provide positive outcomes in child development.



Every Child Succeeds Spa Day

In conjunction with the Santa Maria ECS team, Melanie held a Spa Day on Sunday, March 26, 2017 at Santa Maria's Griswold Center. In attendance, 20 mothers from the ECS program, each of whom brought a friend/support person, and most brought their babies.

The mothers were treated to a special day filled with lunch, massages, henna tattoos, manicures, and building relationships with other mothers.

To help them relax, four Seton seniors helped watch the babies. Although it was only for a few hours, the women were able to take time for themselves to rest, relax, and recharge.

Santa Maria Says Farewell to Long-time Employee

It is with bitter-sweet emotion that we say farewell to long-time Santa Maria employee, Pat Mattingly, who retired this June. Pat began working for Santa Maria on August 26 of 1974 as a clerk-typist for the Youth Service Project, now the Youth Development Program.



Pat Mattingly

Throughout the years she worked as a community organizer, a food pantry and daycare coordinator, and most recently as a Business Assistant working with accounts payable. On October 31 of 1994, 20 years after starting with Santa Maria, Pat retired. Within a year, Santa Maria reached out to Pat regarding some part-time work answering phones and assisting with a few other jobs, and Pat found herself working for the agency for another 17 years.

Pat was very passionate about her work with Santa Maria because of the people—both her colleagues and the people the

agency serves. Pat mentioned that if she had not worked for Santa Maria, she would not have met so many people throughout her life. Working for Santa Maria connected Pat to people and to the good in the world. She finds that Santa Maria and the programs it offers has grown immensely and reaches out to many more people than when she started. When asked what she liked best about working for Santa Maria, Pat stated, "Meeting people, making friends, and volunteering for events."

Pat, a mother of 7, grandmother of 32, and great-grandmother of close to 20, is enjoying her retirement by spending time with family. "I just want to thank Santa Maria for all the years and for putting up with me," joked Pat.

Blair Schoen, Santa Maria Community Services Vice President, stated, "From the very beginning of my long career at Santa Maria, I thought of myself as a member of Pat's extended family. I believe Pat's children thought of me as a big sister or an aunt in the early days, and Pat helped me become part of the Youth Service Project and ultimately, the Lower Price Hill community. I have cherished our connection of our almost 40 years."



Bienestar Recognition Luncheon Honors Community Leader and Rising Stars

Santa Maria Community Services hosted the 12th Annual Bienestar Recognition Luncheon on May 12, 2017 at the Renaissance Cincinnati Downtown Hotel with support from Impact Sponsors, Cincinnati Children's Hospital, Ethicon, and the SC Ministry Foundation, and Supporting Sponsors, Cincinnati Hamilton County Community Action Agency and PNC.

Santa Maria and guests celebrated community empowerment and diversity

with keynote speaker and Ohio's first Hispanic female judge, Marilyn Zayas. The agency presented Rosa-Maria Moreno, Spanish Program Chair at Cincinnati State, with the Sister Margarita Brewer Hope Award for her contributions to the Hispanic community, and honored six young, local immigrant leaders for their contributions to Greater Cincinnati's diverse communities.

Pictured left to right, honorees included: Brenda Moran; Victor Ponce; Laura Mendez Ortiz; Rosa-Maria Moreno; Stephanie Ibemere; Tapash Phuyal; and Lizette Hernandez (not pictured).



2017 Bienestar Recognition Luncheon

Santa Maria Becomes a Lending Circles Partner

Santa Maria Community Services is eager to announce a new partnership with Mission Asset Fund. As an official partner, Santa Maria will utilize Lending Circles to complement the existing financial services within its Workforce Development Program.

The Mission Asset Fund (MAF) is a non-profit organization located in San Francisco, California, that works to improve the financial stability of families in low-income communities.

In 2008, MAF introduced the Lending Circles program - a social loan program that allows participants to establish great saving habits, boost confidence, make their money matter, keep money safe, and start or build a credit score.

Six to twelve people form a group and

decide on an amount for their group loan and take a free, online financial education class. Each group member makes the same monthly payment, between \$50-\$200, which is reported to credit bureaus. Each participant receives the zero-interest loan, which ranges from \$300 to \$2,400.

In ten years, MAF has partnered with 53 nonprofit organizations in 17 states. MAF has worked to create a 99.3% loan repayment rate among participants, saved participants \$360 on interest and fees per loan, and generated \$5 million in zero-interest social loans. For more information, visit lendingcircles.org or contact Thanapat Vichitchot, Santa Maria Financial Services and Workforce Contracts Director by calling 513-587-6953 or emailing Thanapat.Vichitchot@santamaria-cincy.org.

Volunteer Opportunities

Santa Maria Community Services 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 the agency. 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 Santa Maria's "Volunteer Opportunities" flyer and, with the help of Santa Maria's Development Department, on several social media outlets. Current volunteer activities include but are not limited to:

- Helping prepare for special events including fundraisers
- Tutoring/mentoring youth during the afterschool program
- Participating in mock interviews with Employment Workshop participants
- Participating as interpreter/translator for various programs and services

Santa Maria volunteers are the "secret sauce" to the success of our work. If you would like to become a member of our winning team, please call Gladys Bell at 513- 557-7261, or email Gladys.Bell@santamaria-cincy.org. You may also visit our website at www.santamaria-cincy.org/get-involved/volunteer-opportunities/.



SANTA MARIA COMMUNITY SERVICES

Helping families help themselves since 1897.

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Foundations' Corner

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

Bilingual Cooking/Gardening and English Classes:

- Sr. Elise Grant Fund/SC Ministry Foundation

Capacity Building:

- The Greater Cincinnati Foundation
- SC Ministry Foundation

Earned Income Tax Credit Project:

- SC Ministry Foundation

Family Child Care Programs:

- SC Ministry Foundation

GED Program:

- The John C. Griswold Family Foundation
- Louis & Louise Nippert Charitable Foundation

Marketing/Communications Intern position:

- Scripps Howard Foundation

Price Hill Moms Group Initiative:

- Sr. Elise Grant Fund/SC Ministry Foundation

Promoting Our Preschoolers Program:

- PNC Foundation
- SC Ministry Foundation

Wellness Program:

- The CareSource Foundation
- The HealthPath Foundation of Ohio
- The John A. Schroth Family Charitable Trust, PNC Bank, Trustee
- The Spaulding Foundation

Workforce Development Program:

- U.S. Bank

Youth Development Program:

- Charles H. Dater Foundation
- The Crosset Family Fund of The Greater Cincinnati Foundation
- Summertime Kids of The Greater Cincinnati Foundation
- Sutphin Family Foundation, PNC Bank, Trustee