

UPCOMING EVENTS

2015 Price Hill Pacer 5K, 10K 10th Anniversary!

Saturday, June 13, 2015 8:30 am
Elder High School Schaeper
Center



Life in the COMMUNITY

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HELPING FAMILIES HELP THEMSELVES SINCE 1897

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Santa Maria Community Services, Inc.



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

Message From the President & CEO

Our winter snow is now a distant memory, and the muggy Cincinnati summer heat is still ahead of us, so it must be Spring!

Spring at Santa Maria means a flurry of activity for our program participants:

- international adults complete their English language courses,
- successful GED students graduate in caps and gowns, and
- the parents of dozens of children graduating from Promoting Our Preschoolers are making final preparations to send these little ones off to kindergarten in the fall.

Another highlight of the past month at Santa Maria Community Services was the recognition we received from being selected "Agency of the Year" by the Southwest Ohio region of the National Association of Social Workers. I accepted this award at a ceremony at the Cincinnati Museum Center on behalf of the many staff, board members, other volunteers and donors who help Santa Maria make a difference in people's lives.

This is an awesome place to invest time and resources! Thank you for considering a gift to help us sustain this work.

H. A. Musser and Santa Maria Honored

Both Santa Maria Community Services and its President and CEO, H. A. Musser, Jr. were recognized this Spring by two different organizations. Santa Maria Community Services was awarded the "Agency of the Year" award at the 2015 National Association of Social Workers Ohio, Region 6 awards reception that was held at the Cincinnati Museum Center on April 17.



Santa Maria President and CEO, H. A. Musser, Jr. and Kaitlyn Wessels, former Santa Maria student intern and recipient of the NASW Ohio Outstanding Service to Social Work Award

During another event this Spring, the United Way of Greater Cincinnati kicked off its year-long Centennial celebration, by honoring 100 heroes who have helped shape and improve the Greater Cincinnati community. Santa Maria's President and CEO, H. A. Musser, Jr. was one of the 100 honorees.



H. A. Musser, Jr.
United Way of Greater Cincinnati 100 Hero Award recipient

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! This year we've received support from the following foundations:

For the Wellness/Bienestar program:

- Josephine Schell Russell Charitable Trust, PNC Bank, Trustee
- The Spaulding Foundation

For the Youth program:

- Summertime Kids of Greater Cincinnati Foundation

For the Promoting Our Preschoolers/ Family Child Care programs:

- SC Ministry Foundation

For the Family Child Care Providers Network:

- The Women's Fund of the Greater Cincinnati Foundation

For the Price Hill Pacer 5K Training Program and Price Hill Pacer 10K:

- Interact For Health

For Capacity Building:

- Marge and Charles J. Schott Foundation

For Evening GED Program:

- The Maxwell C. Weaver Foundation
- Ed and Joann Hubert Family Foundation

Santa Maria's International Welcome Center Hosts Business Course

Santa Maria's International Welcome Center hosted an accelerated 8 week business course through Microenterprises for members of the Price Hill community. This course ensures that families are provided intensive education on business basics that will prove essential for start-up success. Members are taught the basics of business models, finance and accounting.

The accelerated business course was a continuation of the Female Entrepreneurship Program held in the summer of 2014. The Female Entrepreneurship program provided aspiring female entrepreneurs with basic business and manufacturing skills, specifically jewelry making. The passion and continued



interest of these women led to the accelerated business course which allows them to have a deeper pursuit of their business studies. By the end of the accelerated business course, there were thirteen graduates.

Santa Maria's International Welcome Center will follow through with the successes of these past two programs by continuing with a Female Entrepreneurship Program for the summer of 2015. During the summer, participants of the past programs will have a chance to utilize their business education and jewelry making training to do business projects. These business projects allow them the experience being business women with little risk, thereby encouraging them to grow and seek out their full potential as entrepreneurs.

Price Hill Pacer Celebrating 10th Anniversary

2015 marks the 10th Anniversary for the popular Price Hill Pacer Run/Walk event, an idea inspired by former Santa Maria board member, Mark Davis. The 10th Annual Price Hill pacer starts at 8:30 am on Saturday, June 13, at Elder High School's Schaeper Center (Vincent Avenue entrance). Distances include the 5K (3.1 miles), 10K (6.2 Miles) and the One Mile Hart Pharmacy Run/Walk. The Price Hill Pacer committee, along with Title Sponsors, Macy's and SC Ministry Foundation, challenge everyone to "Conquer the Hill!"

This year, the race committee is proud to announce the addition of a 10K course. "The 10K course is a challenging course," says committee chair, Leslie Schultz. "This course will travel down Seton, go west on West 8th, make a loop inside the New St. Joseph Cemetery, and then make its way back to Vincent by way of Schiff, Ridgeview,



Hermosa, St. Lawrence, Kreis and West 8th. We encourage residents along the route to come out and cheer the participants to the finish line!"

In addition to the race, family fun entertainment includes a juggler, balloon artist and face painter. The Free Kids' Fun Run in Elder's Pit will take place at 10 am.



At the beginning of 2015, Santa Maria Community Services received a \$15,000 "Join the Fun" grant from Interact for Health to add the 10K to the race. The Interact for Health grant also boosts healthy activity in the neighborhood by supporting the Price Hill Pacer's free training program.

"We know when people are active, they are healthier," says Jaime Love, program officer for healthy eating and active living at Interact For Health. "And being active with your community can reduce stress, enhance self-esteem and foster an overall sense of well-being. We saw an amazing turnout with the addition of the training program for last year's event, and we want to build on that success by adding the 10K to this year's race."

Since the end of February over 70 individuals have taken advantage of the free training sessions, which take place on alternating Tuesday and Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings. "The Price Hill Pacer Training Group has walked and ran all over Price Hill, with some of the participants covering over 140 miles," Ms. Schultz says enthusiastically. "I know the training group participants will be ready for the Price Hill Pacer!" The Free Price Hill Pacer Training Group is open to racers of all skill levels (beginning to advanced.)

Proceeds from the Price Hill Pacer benefit programs offered in Greater Price Hill by Santa Maria Community Services and Price Hill Will. For more information about the Price Hill Pacer and the Free Price Hill Pacer Training Group visit www.pricehillpacer.org.

The Price Hill Pacer Training Group has a lot of fun!



United Way Day of Action

Join the United Way of Greater Cincinnati at the Day of Action, which will take place on Saturday, June 20 from 10 am - 3 pm at the Purple People Bridge.



The Day of Action is a fun, free and educational event for parents and elementary age children to help bridge the summer learning gap. Featured programs include an interactive puppet show, painting murals, hip hop dancing, celebrity authors of children's books, science experiments and sing-alongs.

For more information visit www.uwgc.org/dayofaction.

Santa Maria Celebrates GED Graduates

On May 21 at Elder High School's Schaeper Center, Santa Maria's Workforce Development program awarded 15 GED program participants with much-deserved diplomas. Keynote speaker Dr. Eric Abercrombie from the University of Cincinnati gave a powerful and encouraging address to those in attendance.

Santa Maria's Workforce Development GED class of 2015 consisted of 15 graduates who come from all different backgrounds and experiences, but each share the fact that they have persevered through long hours of studying for the 2014 version of the GED. In 2014 the State of Ohio adopted the new version of the GED that had significant changes from the 2002 GED version.

The most recent test version is completely computer based and is more adapted to the common core curriculum. This can pose a challenge for adult students who have been out of school for quite some time and have little familiarity with computers. However, there are many things to be celebrated about the newest GED version. Students are able to take one section of the test at a time and this enables them to devote focused time to one content area (there are 4 sections total.) Furthermore, the computer based test



Santa Maria Workforce Development staff and the 2015 GED graduates celebrate accomplishments

allows students to identify key areas that they need to improve upon in order to pass the test.

After the graduation ceremony, friends, family, Santa Maria employees and guests gathered for a celebration meal to honor the graduates. The Workforce Development Program is extremely proud of the 2015 graduates.

For more information about Santa Maria's Workforce Development GED program, contact Lyndi Fitzsimmons (Education Coordinator) at lyndsi.fitzsimmons@santamaria-cincy.org or 513-244-5062 ext. 560.

2015 Spring Health Fair a Success

Santa Maria's Wellness/Bienestar program hosted a successful Spring Health Fair on Saunday, April 12th at the newly renovated Price Hill Recreation Center.



Countless volunteers, as well as local medical professionals and agency representatives, provided free health screenings, fun activities and information for the community.

Stable Families Program Spotlight

The goal of Santa Maria's Stable Families program is to support Price Hill families by averting family crises that could lead to



Santa Maria POP Bilingual Parent Advocate, Marissa Wane Shearon, on a home visit working on the alphabet and sensory motor skills with shaving cream.

homelessness. Using intervention, prevention and education tools the staff works to (re)establish housing stability while promoting continuity of education for children.

Working as a team during a combined home visit to address the needs of a family, Santa Maria's Promoting Our Preschoolers (POP) program Bilingual Parent Advocate, Marissa Wane Shearon, interprets for the Stable Families Program Specialist, Amelia Wehr. While Marissa keeps 4 year old, Jorge, engaged with a learning activity, Amelia helps mom, Paula, track down important documentation and discusses housing issues.

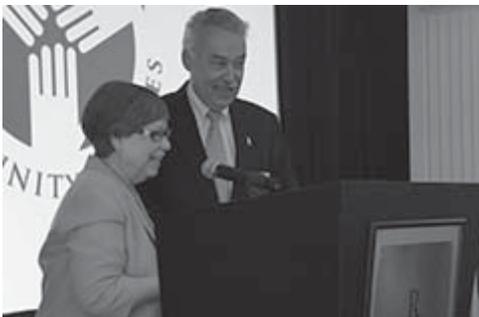


Jorge and the finished product!

Advocates For Immigrant Health Honored

Advocates for immigrant health were recently honored during Santa Maria's Bienestar Recognition Luncheon on Friday, May 8 at The Renaissance Hotel in downtown Cincinnati.

Santa Maria's Bienestar/Wellness program awarded the Sister Margarita Brewer Hope Award to Alfonso Cornejo, president of the Hispanic Chamber Cincinnati USA, for his tireless advocacy for the health, well-being and progress of Hispanics in the Tri-State area. At the Bienestar Recognition Luncheon an organizational award was presented to the Hispanic Chamber Cincinnati USA for its leadership role and emphasis on health initiatives. "Bienestar" means "wellness" in Spanish.



Honoree, Alfonso Cornejo, with Sister Margarita Brewer

The Sister Margarita Brewer Hope Award, named for the first honoree at the Bienestar Recognition Luncheon in 2006, is awarded each year to an individual who works diligently for health access and health care for Hispanic/Latino immigrants. Santa Maria's Wellness/Bienestar program thrives on support from dedicated individuals, like Cornejo, and from exceptional organizations, like the Hispanic Chamber Cincinnati USA. Both Cornejo and the Hispanic Chamber are devoted to enhancing health and education options for the area's Hispanic/Latino populations.

Keynote speaker was Dr. Christy O'Dea, director of global health education at the University of Cincinnati. Geri Hernandez of Macy's served as mistress of ceremonies. The event's Title sponsor was TriHealth. Impact sponsors included Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, PNC Bank, SC Ministry Foundaton and The Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati. Proceeds from the luncheon benefit Santa Maria's Wellness/Bienestar program.

Additional Photos from the 2015 Santa Maria Bienestar Recognition Luncheon



Block By Block - Our Healthy Homes

The Block by Block Initiative utilizes residents from the community in a role that has been termed “Block Captains.” Block Captains are neighbors on the block who seek to identify and support the most at-risk families in the East and Lower Price Hill neighborhoods of Cincinnati. The Initiative will develop these informational community leaders, or Block Captains, work with them to find and engage hard to reach families and support local shifts in the local cultural norms in partnership with the trusted neighborhood residents.

By tapping into the wisdom and experience of local residents, Block by Block seeks to change the outcomes for children and their families. On regular neighborhood walks, block captains look for inherent strengths and identify needs on the blocks they serve. Based on the information collected on walks and at gatherings, the team develops a communication network customized to serve neighborhood families.

One goal is to build a cadre of informal but influential local health leaders who can shift the ‘culture of health’ in their own neighborhood. The Block by Block team is actively building a sense of fellowship and camaraderie among the Block Captains, because this is critical for long-term success. This goal will empower local residents to deliver materials, resources and community engagement opportunities to their neighbors and to increase the well-being of children and families.

The Block by Block team envisions that Block Captains will ultimately help families address barriers (financial, social, health, educational) that stand in the way of personal and family related goals. Currently 12 block captains have identified 51 active target homes on 5 blocks. Their work was initially focused on developing ‘HealthyHomes’ on the blocks. This means that the homes will have a working smoke detector, 15 children’s books with information about shared reading, safe sleep options for newborns (along with a teach back on the ABCs of safe sleep) and a medical OB/GYN and pediatric home. To date, 35 of the active target homes have a complete bundle.

Success will be thriving neighborhoods connected by a shared vision for healthy children, influenced by informal neighborhood leaders, who serve a critical role in reaching the hardest to reach families. In the end, an initial evaluation of this prototype will demonstrate enough strength for scaling up the effort delivering a toolkit that other neighborhoods could adapt and utilize based on their unique assets and needs. In addition, success will include guiding other neighborhoods with similar issues to successful strategies.

Block by Block is made possible through a partnership between Santa Maria Community Services and Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center. For more information or to volunteer please contact Lisa Watkins at 513-587-6920 ext. 306.

Pictures?

Youth Program Needs Your Help!

Need info



ECS Family Photo Day

Pictures



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.



Santa Maria Community Services

Helping families help themselves since 1897.

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www.SantaMaria-cincy.org

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