



Summer 2017

Inter Parish Ministry Heartlines

“IPM Changed My Life”

One of Cyndi's favorite childhood memories was volunteering at Inter Parish Ministry Food Pantry with her grandmother, Granny, who raised her and her siblings until she was thirteen. So as a young mother of three with an absent husband, Cyndi knew where to turn for help when she was in a difficult place. IPM was just what she needed.

"IPM changed my life by providing support and guidance," she said. "I want clients to know that this is a place that offers more than food and clothing. **The caring hearts of the staff and volunteers are welcoming and sincere.**"

Fast forward to today: Cyndi is starting a business that provides senior care including light cooking, cleaning, and running errands. She also works full time at Angels Care Family Home. On occasion, Cyndi still utilizes our food pantry to supplement her food needs. And just like when she was a little girl with her grandmother, Cyndi volunteers weekly at our Newtown pantry.

Volunteering gave Cyndi a purpose in life and set her on a whole new path. "It was an amazing thing," said Cyndi. "I needed to feel useful." IPM was there for Cyndi in her time of need and now Cyndi is here for our clients during their time of need.



Inside this issue:

Lindsey's Corner	2
Community Garden	2
Celebration Event	3
View from a Volunteer	3
Upcoming Activities	4
Our Mission	4
Critical Needs	4

It's Never Too Early to Think About Back To School

For over ten years, IPM has been helping 300+ students in grades K-12 get ready for back to school. Providing the gifts of back packs, school supplies and new shoes to low-income children allows them to begin the school year feeling confident and ready to learn. We are now collecting school supplies, backpacks and shoe gift cards for children in Clermont and Eastern Hamilton County. Please contact Sarah at sarah@interparish.org to help or donate supplies.

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LINDSEY'S CORNER

A message from our President and CEO

For the food insecure, summer isn't about lazy days, ice cream and popsicles. Summer means more demand on limited incomes as children are home from school with no access to the school meal programs that sustain them during the school year. Summer childhood hunger is very real.

As a single mother raising four young children, Christina sees her food bill triple over the summer months. Her children receive a free breakfast and lunch throughout the school year, however, during the summer months all this goes away. This time of year is extremely challenging for families like Christina's.

Research shows that increasing children's access to food in the summer will reduce food insecurity, poor nutritional intake, and the incidence of childhood obesity. IPM provides 11 mobile pantries over the summer to help families like Christina's. In addition, we collaborate with other local agencies through the Clermont County Safety Net Alliance to effectively and efficiently serve low income families in our community.

We are committed to eliminating childhood hunger especially in the summer. There are many ways in which you can help us - volunteer at one of our mobile pantries, donate food, or write a check so we can better serve our neighbors in Eastern Hamilton and Clermont Counties. Thank you for all you do for IPM and hungry children!



Community Garden Is Here!!



We have broken ground for our new Community Garden at our Amelia Pantry! Special thanks to **Debbie and Dan Motz** for providing lumber and **Anderson Hills UMC Men's Group** for providing the labor to build our three 4' X 12' raised beds. Starting late June we hope to have our first crop of tomatoes and peppers. And more to follow throughout the summer and fall months.



Community gardens provide access to fresh produce where nutrition rich foods are not easily or readily available.

Want to help us? Please contact Sarah Cadle at sarah@interparish.org.

Celebration Event Raises More Than \$90,000

Over 350 guests helped Inter Parish Ministry raise funds to serve our clients in Eastern Hamilton County and Clermont County. And each year at our Circle of Hope Celebration event we honor outstanding volunteers that give their time and support to IPM and our community.

Below are a few comments from some of our Circle of Hope recipients:

- "I am inspired by the thankfulness shown by our clients, by the caring shown by the volunteers, and above all the dedication and organizational skills of the IPM staff. In my many years in the working world, **I have never witnessed so much good accomplished by so few.**" *Earl Mills, Circle of Hope Award*
- "...It is a pleasure engaging and making a difference in someone's day. **I always come away with a sense of joy.**" *Shannon Mills, Owlett One Of A Kind Award*
- "I want to thank all the people who work in clothing, especially the ladies I work with every week—Beth Klaine and Jane Stuhmueller. We haul and schlep and wade through bags. But we also laugh and we've become friends. **IPM is a happy place...full of caring and friendly people. And at the end of the day we feel a sense of accomplishment, that maybe we've helped some families and brought smiles to the faces of the children in need.**" *Peggy Magnesen, Circle of Hope Award*

- "I was honored to receive the award, but really felt I was doing so on behalf of all who were involved in this dream [opening a food pantry in Clermont County] over a number of years. **So many contributions of time, effort and ideas were provided by a great group of people passionate about IPM's mission.**" *Erick Harback, Builder of Hope Award*

Those honored with IPM's Circle of Hope Award included Peggy Magnesen, Earl Mills, Dale Moore and Mary Moore. Shannon Mills was honored with the Owlett One of A Kind Award while Dick Durand and Erick Harback received the Builder of Hope Award. A heart felt thank you to everyone who supports IPM!



A Volunteer's Perspective

"I am part of something unique here." Neal Watzman humbly admits he has been fortunate in his life with a lovely wife and children who are growing into amazing adults. However, when having the occasional bad day, volunteering at IPM Food Pantry lifts Neal's spirit knowing he is helping others in our community.

Neal has been volunteering with IPM for over ten years and says the reason he keeps coming back is due to a friendly and welcoming atmosphere for clients and volunteers. "I feel proud and privileged to be part of this organization because of all the work we do in our community," said Neal. **"Beyond just feeding families, we nourish people."**

Without volunteers like Neal, IPM couldn't provide food for over 4,500 families in our community. We value and appreciate Neal and all of our great volunteers!!

Do you want to volunteer? Please reach out to Carol Rountree, pictured here with Neal, at carol@interparish.org



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**DRAFT DO
NOT USE!!**

Upcoming Activities

- The 8th annual **STOMP Out Hunger 5K** is Saturday, July 29th at Armstrong Chapel in Indian Hill. To walk or run register online at goo.gl/3yS4mh
- IPM is providing eleven **Mobile Food Pantries** this summer in Eastern Hamilton and Clermont Counties. Contact Carol at carol@interparish.org if you would like to help.
- **Back To School Back Pack Drive** is on Saturday, August 5th at Mt. Carmel Christian Church. Contact Sarah at sarah@interparish.org to help or donate.



Our Mission: We provide food, clothing, and other communal support to those in need and we empower our clients with information, support, and services to improve their lives.

Feeding families. Nourishing Souls.

Critical Needs:

- Jelly
- Pasta Sauce
- Paper Towels
- Canned Fruits
- \$25 Payless Shoe Gift Cards
- Back To School Supplies