



INTER PARISH MINISTRY

Who We Are: Inter Parish Ministry is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization founded 52 years ago by an ecumenical group of churches to help low-income families nurture and educate their young children. In 2016, IPM provided food, clothing and communal support to 4,600 families in Clermont County and eastern Hamilton County. Its six-person staff is supported by 43 churches of nine denominations, more than 200 volunteers and 100 businesses, plus schools, community groups and individual donors. Though IPM is a faith-based organization, it empowers clients with information, support and services to improve their lives regardless of their personal beliefs.

What We Do: Inter Parish Ministry serves clients from its headquarters in Newtown and service centers in Batavia and Amelia. In addition to the food, clothing and personal care items needy families select year-around from choice pantries, mobile pantries deliver necessities to locations where people have limited access to grocery stores. IPM clients may also receive back-to-school supplies and, during the holidays, purchase new toys for their children at discounted prices and receive gifts from an Adopt-a-Family program. IPM volunteers provide caring attention when clients visit or shop, and trained staff members refer people to additional resources through the collaborative Clermont County Safety Net Alliance. Through agency referrals, IPM also provides limited emergency assistance funding for rent or utilities.

Why We're Important: Children's Defense Fund statistics dramatically illustrate the dire need for basic necessities in IPM's service area. Child poverty rates in the country's Appalachian region, of which Clermont County is included, are among the five highest in the nation; in Hamilton County, which encompasses the Cincinnati area, the child poverty rate is the third highest in the nation. Though the clients IPM serves are working, some have income at or below the poverty line set by the USDA Economic Research Service. IPM gives families both help and hope during desperate times.

How We Serve the Community: IPM doesn't only provide food, clothing and communal support to working families in need; it offers local solutions that unite individuals

and communities. The organization's culture is rooted in respect for the dignity of its clients and deep appreciation for the churches, individuals, businesses, schools and others who help fulfill its mission. It's important that both clients and partners feel IPM's compassion through the giving and receiving that build and sustain communities. Every IPM program is designed to meet the needs and bring encouragement to clients, starting with the choice pantries that enable selection based on personal preference and not a pre-packaged box. Every donor has the satisfaction of knowing that time and treasure spent in IPM's service area directly impacts a neighbor in need.

How You Can Help:

Here are ways to assist Inter Parish Ministry:

- Volunteer in the pantry or for one of our events.
- Make a donation to help supply food for families in need.
- Donate food, clothing or personal care items from the needs list found on the website at www.interparish.org.
- Organize a food drive with your neighborhood, school or group.
- Adopt a family in need for Christmas.
- Donate back-to-school supplies.
- Sign-up for Kroger Community Rewards and designate IPM as your charity.
- Sign-up for Amazon's Smile rewards program and designate IPM as the beneficiary.

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