



WESLEYLINKS

WESLEY COMMUNITY SERVICES

JANUARY NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 4 MEETING NOTICE

HAPPY NEW YEAR, everyone. Hope you had a most joyous holiday season with your friends and families, and I wish all of you a healthy and prosperous new year.

FIRST 2009 MEETING – Our first meeting of the new year will take place on Wednesday, February 4 at 12:00 at the **Hartzell United Methodist Church, located at 8999 Applewood Drive, Cincinnati 45236**. Gerry Coffey will be our hostess and, as always, we will provide a pizza luncheon with soft drinks. Westside Links can carpool from our Glenmore Avenue location, beginning at 11:15 A.M.

PROGRAM – Our program speaker will be **Mark O’Keefe** with the **Navigator Program for Seniors’ Health at Tri Health (Bethesda North & Good Samaritan Hospitals)**. The Navigator program seeks to connect seniors to a network of senior care options and identify which of those options best meets the need of the senior. This should be a very informative program, so hopefully you will make every effort to attend.

OTHER 2009 MEETINGS – Continuing with our first Wednesday of every other month meeting times, as we have done these past four years, our second meeting of 2009 will take place on Wednesday, April 1 at the Clovernook Center for the Blind & Visually Impaired, where we met last year. Our hostess will be Terri Montgomery, and she would like us to see the rest of the facility, which we were unable to do last year. Our third meeting will be at St. James Episcopal Church in Westwood on Wednesday, June 3, with Marian Riestenberg serving as hostess. After our summer break, we will meet again on September 2, at one of our new WesleyLinks churches, Immaculate Heart of Mary Roman Catholic Church on Beechmont Avenue in Mt. Washington, and our fifth and final meeting will take place at Wesley Community Services’ building on Wednesday, November 4. If you like to keep calendars/blackberries, our 2009 meetings will be:

Wednesday, February 4 - Hartzell UMC 12:00
Wednesday, **April 1** - **Clovernook** Center 12:00
Wednesday, **June 3** - **St. James Episcopal Church** 12:00
Wednesday, **September 2** – **Immaculate Heart of Mary RC Church** 12:00
Wednesday, **November 4** – **WCS** 12:00

A LOOK BACK AT 2008 – Wesley enjoyed another record year in 2008. **Meals increased** from 224,672 in 2007 to 247,423 in 2008, an increase of **10%**. Including the meals we arrange for delivery for the Meals-On-Wheels Association of America and Humana Health Care to seniors in Southwest Ohio, our total meals delivered tops 250,000. Physician-prescribed therapeutic meals, for seniors needing a special diet because of renal or kidney disease, high blood pressure, diabetes, or problems chewing or swallowing, increased a whopping 71%, growing from 14,552 meals in 2007 to 24,953 therapeutic meals in 2008. Our nurse educator Jayne Haverkos, R.N. regularly visits with health care professionals to explain our therapeutic program. Wesley Community Services is the only Meals-on-Wheels Agency in Southwestern Ohio that offers therapeutic meals.

Specialized transports (taking seniors to medical appointments, taking Hamilton County MRDD clients to work sites, taking special needs students from two local school districts to school, and taking clients of the Salvation Army to adult day care centers) **increased** from 25,046 transports in 2007 to **34,141 transports in 2008, a 36% increase**, and hours of **homemaker assistance increased** from 18,067 (2007) to 21,471 (2008), a **19%** increase.

During December Wesley received a very substantial gift which will help us toward the **purchase of a much larger building** so we can consolidate all of our operations under one roof. This will allow us to relocate our current kitchen in Hyde Park, thus removing the need to transport meals each day from the Hyde Park kitchen at Hyde Park Community United Methodist Church to our facility on Glenmore Avenue in Westwood. We are forever indebted to the members of the **Hyde Park Community United Methodist Church** for their commitment and support of our Meals-On-Wheels program over the past 8 years and look forward to their continued involvement in our programs.

We also learned in December that we had **received** another **grant** from the **Walter & Sophie English Foundation** which will enable us to **provide again this year free pet food** to our growing client base. Seven area **Banfield Pet Hospitals** in the area collected pet food for us in December. The longer I work at Wesley, the more I learn that we are truly a ministry of serving seniors. And the more I learn that our WesleyLinks program is a key resource in providing information to seniors in church congregations or seniors who come to your church to seek help which will enable them to live richer, fuller lives. We truly are the hands and feet of Jesus Christ.

NEW LINKS – I mentioned earlier that **Immaculate Heart of Mary Roman Catholic Church** in Anderson Township is our newest Link. Paul Hillebrand, the Coordinator of their Helping Hands Ministry, will be their representative. Joining right before them was **Vineyard Church Westside**, with Barb Daniels and Patty Stanton serving as its representatives. Patty attended our meeting last November. With the help of Eileen Simpson, I am working on five other churches in the Mt. Washington area. I made a letter contact with each one in December, but now I need to make personal follow up contacts, which I will do prior to our meeting.

CONCLUSION – We want you to feel a part of us. If you ever have any questions, or if you want me to come out a meet with a church group, I am always willing to come and visit your church to present a program. I am getting to know more and more of you, and I truly consider you friends. I look forward to seeing many of you again on February 4.

Bill Reusing, WesleyLinks Coordinator