

## Fairmount Providers' Meeting

Thursday, January 21, 2016

**\*\*Special thanks to the Millvale Rec Center for hosting and for Central Clinic and Taylor Academy for providing lunch. Great things happen when we work together**

### ***The New St. Leo choice food pantry opened this week!!***

After months of planning and work on its new site in the former Kroger building on Carll Street, the pantry's move from St. Leo's rectory was finally completed and the doors opened for the first time Wednesday, January 20.

Users of the pantry will now be able to "shop" and choose items that best meet the needs of their families. In December the pantry served 1337 people, including 724 children and 65 adults in 362 families

The pantry move was done in collaboration with Catholic Charities which will soon be offering services at the same location.

### **...New Faces...**

- Emma Shirey, community organizer for North and South Fairmount, working with the Community Building Institute at Xavier University, [shireye@xavier.edu](mailto:shireye@xavier.edu)
- Police Officer Louis Arnold, Sr. faith based community liaison, 352, 1454 (w) 498-6796  
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### **....Working Hand in Hand...**

#### **...To Build and Enrich Community...**

- Emma Shirey community organizer in North and South Fairmount is working on ways to get more people involved in the community. One upcoming program she spoke of is Cincinnati's first "neighborhood games" in which the 52 neighborhoods will compete in a wide range of activities from chess to hula hoops, Frisbee, and soccer. There was interest and discussion of the possibility of North and South Fairmount and Millvale joining together to hold preliminary competitions and send winners to the city wide events in the summer. More information is available at [www.cincygames.com](http://www.cincygames.com)
- Officer Louis Arnold, Sr., faith-based community liaison for the Cincinnati Police spoke of the importance of collaboration between the police and faith-based leaders. At big events in the city, faith leaders are often there by the police to provide a moral voice. He says that often people feel freer to talk to a clergy person than the police. He likes to attend community meetings so people can see the police as people like them whose job it is to enforce the law. He shared his story recently at President Drive Church of Christ and was well received. It gave the congregation the opportunity to see him as one with struggles just like them. He believes that Cincinnati is ahead of other cities in community engagement.
- Everett Brewer of President Drive Church of Christ says the local pastors group has say its annual day of hope for August. 13 at Wayne Playfield on Beekman. The event provides music, food, clothes, school supplies, and informational booths. More information to come.
- CMHA's resident council will hold a job fair at the Millvale Rec Center Saturday, Jan. 30, from 1 to 4 pm
- Scott Stephens of Catholic Charities says the agency hopes to be offering services soon in their new offices located in the same building as the food pantry.
- Catholic Charities will be offering training for volunteers to work with refugees Tuesday, Jan. 26, at 6 pm at their offices in Roselawn. Volunteers are needed to help refugees with such services as transportation to appointments, ESL classes, and job readiness.
- Julie McGregor of Santa Maria spoke of the agency's holistic approach that includes programs from prenatal to seniors. It offers such programs as early childhood education and support, ESL, wellness classes, and GED. Many of the classes have bilingual (English/Spanish) teachers. Santa Maria also offers pro bono counseling and legal aid as well as speakers on such issues as the affordable care act. Julie is taking a master's social work class on communities and will be focusing her work on North and South Fairmount
- Kevin Corey of Talbert House, operations superior, is looking for community service s or job training opportunities for the women in transitional care there. Contact him at [Kevin.corey@talberthouse.org](mailto:Kevin.corey@talberthouse.org) for more information

### ...For Our Children...

- Molly Luken, resource coordinator at Ethel Taylor Academy will have a big literacy event "Books and Blankets" on Tuesday, January 26 in collaboration with Cincinnati Union Bethel and Cincinnati State. The activity, which is open to 2 to 5 year olds and their parents, includes children going to three different stations where books are read to them and they work on complimentary activities. At the end of the program, children get a packet that includes the 3 books and a blanket. Molly also reported that the school has received a \$25,000 grant to be used for whatever needs are determined.
- The Soaring Hawks Foundation will be holding a special event to benefit Ethel Taylor academy, Friday, Feb. 12, beginning at 6 pm at the University Club in downtown Cincinnati. It will include food and a silent auction. More information and tickets are available at [www.THESOARINGHAWKS.ORG](http://www.THESOARINGHAWKS.ORG)
- Little brothers joined their St. Xavier high school Big Brothers at a hockey game January 9 and will attend a Xavier basketball game this Saturday, January 23.
- "Girls Life Skills" group at the Villages at Roll Hill met January 7, with Ms. Amy Clasgen, from Cradle Cincinnati as the guest speaker. On January 21, the girls will enjoy dinner provided by LaSoupe, do t-shirt painting, and have a discussion "How to deal with Peer Pressure." Volunteer students from St. Ursula will be with them for the remainder of this school year.
- There will be two BIG workshops open to everyone at the Villages at Roll Hill in February. "Legal Shield," a workshop on how to prevent identity theft will be on Friday, February 12. Lunch and door prizes will be provided. Healthy Moms & Babes will sponsor a luncheon, with door prizes on Thursday, February 25.
- Donna Bellomo of Healthy Moms and Babes says the agency is working to support pregnant women in having healthy babies and receive support if needed after the baby is born. The van which comes to several neighborhoods to provide on-site services, also offers STD, blood pressure, and glucose testing. Healthy Moms provides some in home services and also offers lunches at community centers that offer healthy meals, nutrition information and educational pieces on such topics as lead poisoning. Healthy Moms is also working on opening a homeless shelter for their clients, where they can live for up to a year and then be transitioned to their own housing. Healthy Moms will be celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary Saturday, September 24. Volunteers are needed to plan the event. Contact Theresa Diersen 591-5600, ext. 32 or [tdiersen@healthymomsandbabes.org](mailto:tdiersen@healthymomsandbabes.org)
- Jim Boyle, director of the Millvale Rec center said they had a great Christmas with gifts from Toys for Tots. The golden gloves boxing matches will be held at the center March 18, 19, and 20. The boxing coach for the center is also the boxing coach for the city. Jim says that the Center will be hosting basketball leagues, beginning Friday, Jan. 22. The after school program includes snack time from 2:15 to 3 pm followed by optional programs and hot meal at 5 pm. Programs after the meal are for adults.
- Casey Betz, development director at St. Leo's says they are hoping to put an informational bulletin board in the food pantry. She is also talking with "Haircuts from the Heart" about providing free haircuts to pantry clients.
- St. Leo's is working with 4 C for Children to offer an interractional parent-child activity twice a month. More information to come.

### ...To Save Money...

- 38 families received PIPP heating assistance from the Community Action Agency January 12. The next 2 days for CAA's, HEAP / PIPP program at the Villages at Roll Hill Community Center are February 2 and 23, at 9:00a.m. People can pre-sign up with everything that's needed the day before each date from 2 to 4 pm at the center. One does not have to live in the Villages at Roll Hill to take advantage of this program.
- FREE tax preparation will again be available at the Millvale Community center on Saturdays, Feb. March 5, 19, and 26, and April 2, and 9 from 9 am to 1 pm
- \*\* Officer Gibson's father died. Please keep him and his family in your prayers.

**February, Fairmount Providers' Meeting**  
**Thursday, Feb. 18, 11:30 am to 1 pm**  
**Villages at Roll Hill Community Center**