



420 W. Wyoming Ave.
Cincinnati, OH 45215
513-821-3233 (O)
513-821-3236 (F)
www.vicrc.org
Valley Voice 2017 Issue 1

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VALLEY INTERFAITH

COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER

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Our Mission

Partnering with the community to provide necessary resources and build self-sustainability.

Our Vision

Creating a Sustainable Tomorrow.

2017 Neighbors Empowered Graduates



Issue
01
2017



NEW MISSION NEW VISION, SAME NEED!

Change is the only constant in our world. Valley embarked on a Long-Term Strategic Plan to more deeply impact the lives of those in need which we are determined to serve.

Although our mission, vision and programs are changing—we are committed to meeting the ever increasing needs of those in extreme poverty in Hamilton County with a focus on the Mill Creek Valley.



Lisa Butts, Volunteer

VOLUNTEERS MAKE IT HAPPEN DAILY!

Valley Interfaith is fortunate to have over 100 volunteers working on specific days throughout the week fulfilling various duties to help us serve others.

We also have over 150 more special groups, churches, students and companies that give of their time. To volunteer, email Alicia AStollenwerk@vicrc.org

VALLEY INTERFAITH

CREATING A SUSTAINABLE TOMORROW

BACK 2 SCHOOL PROGRAM
SERVES 1300 KIDS



This Issue

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Long-Term Strategic Plan: *Hand Ups Replace Hand Outs*

In 2016 the Board of Trustees embarked on a mission to discern the capabilities of our organization and the needs of the community in order to map the future for Valley Interfaith Food & Clothing (as it was known at the time).

During this yearlong process, the team developed a 3-5 year Vision for what they felt Valley Interfaith could be and what its impact in our community can be as it related to the area of poverty and generational poverty cycle.

Immediately the team realized that the name of this institution did not fully represent these hopes and goals and as a result, Valley Interfaith Food & Clothing is now **Valley Interfaith Community Resource Center**.

This name change succinctly states the vision of the Long-Term Strategic Plan as it accurately reflects our desire to be of service to the underserved in the Mill Creek Valley Community, and to serve as a Resource for the families and individuals who call it home.

This idea of being a Resource reframes our efforts from 'giving a (hu)man a fish' to 'teaching a (hu)man to fish' thereby empowering people to take ownership of their lives and mentally move from a state of constant victimhood and powerlessness to being in control of their lives and future.

With this new vision; Valley Interfaith Community Resource Center is expanding its external partnerships, restructuring its programs such as Emergency Resources and adding additional service models for Victim Advocacy, Crisis Prevention and Programs to teach Sustainability.

Hand outs rob people of their power—hand ups honor a person's right to own their direction and life. Hand ups provide support and guidance on the hike and empower the hiker to take necessary steps to summit their mountain.



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Executive Director's Voice...

"I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the water to create many ripples." - Mother Theresa

Dear Friends,

It is my great privilege to take over the helm of Valley Interfaith Community Resource Center, especially during this exciting time of change and vision. It is an honor to walk in the same aisles as such tremendously gifted, humble and caring people like our founder Virginia Weatherbie.

I have spent 27 years in the nonprofit arena and never have I been so excited about the possibilities of service like I am about Valley and our new Vision.

I write this message to you seeking your continued support for the work we do for those in such tremendous need.

As I meet many of you who volunteer and donate, I am overwhelmed and amazed by the outpouring of love for this agency and generous commitment to our work in this community. Your generosity speaks volumes through your contributions of time, talent and treasure.

I intend to honor that passion and generosity, and to earn your trust as we continue to partner together to serve our community.

As we enter the holiday season, this is the time that Valley Interfaith has the most need.

Requests from individuals and families are most prevalent during this time of year.

We hope you will consider either beginning your partnership or continuing your partnership with us so we may help our neighbors in need.

Right here in our own backyard, we have people with insufficient resources that are struggling to feed their families, properly clothe their children, maintain their housing and keep safe shelter.

YOU CAN HELP. Your support in the form of a cash donation will help us empower those in need to get a safe foundation and forge a stronger future.

A recent client, Chelsie 19yo told me: *"I expected just a backpack for my nephews. I got so much more. As a recent victim of domestic violence, I had to escape with my 1 year old and have been jumping from house to house ever since. Valley gave me the backpack for my nephew, but they also gave me so much more. I signed up for counseling and I'll be in the Neighbors*



John R. Keuffer, III

Empowered program next cycle. I feel like I have hope."

This is one example of two lives that now have hope beyond just a 3-day supply of groceries. The vision of Valley Interfaith is not just to meet the immediate crisis need, but to assist the client in empowering themselves to make a long term change.

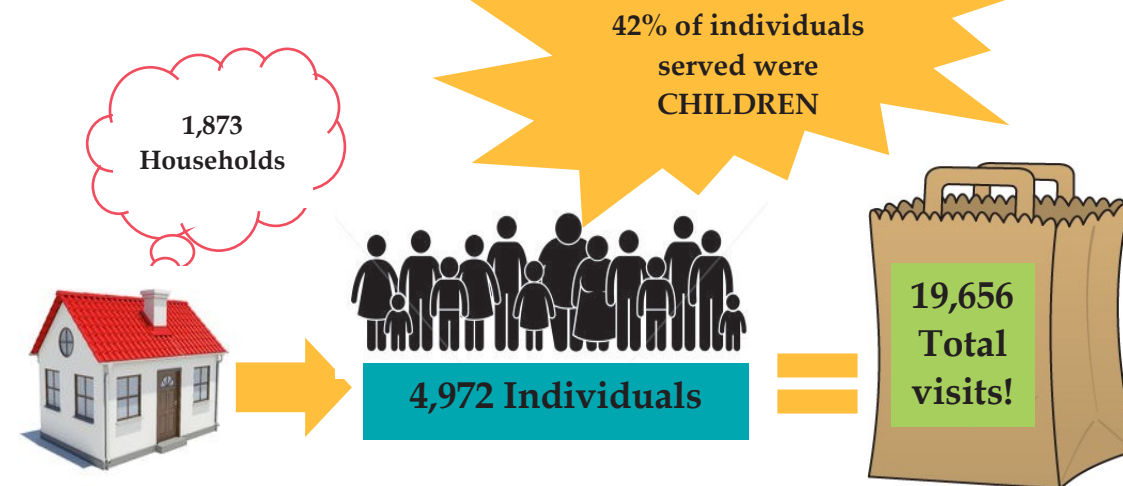
"DON'T GIVE UNTIL IT HURTS. JUST GIVE UNTIL IT FEELS GOOD."

Another client, Julie, is a mother of 3 children while still working 55—60 hours per week and just treading water. *"Valley is giving me hope and a place to help me start thinking about a future, not just for myself, but for my three kids who need and deserve more."*

YOU CAN HAVE AN IMPACT on lives such as Chelsie's and Julia's. **YOUR FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION** will fund our Resources and Programs, as well as Empower the Relationships needed to change the future outlook for many who walk through our doors.



2016 BY THE NUMBERS



STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS



How do you help individuals and/or families escape poverty?

You build networks of effective partners who can help identify the barriers that are contributing to the lifecycle of poverty in an individual or a family. Dealing with the root causes that are hindering progress is the only way to help people overcome. We are pleased to partner with Saint

Joseph Orphanage to now provide Family Support services to clients with kids in their household ages 3 to 22.

St. Joseph is one of the area's premier and oldest social service agency. St. Joseph has been a leader in serving children, youth and families for over 150 years.

This partnership will allow us to not only meet the Emergency Crisis needs of clients but also create ongoing relationship to help address and overcome the many barriers client's face the contribute to their experience of poverty.

Clients may meet with St. Joseph for assessments and sessions by appointment or on Wednesday evenings from 3p—7p for Open Door Hours.

WELCOME SAINT JOE'S TO THE TEAM



Welcome Talbert House to our team at Valley Interfaith Community Resource Center. We now offer diagnostic assessments and assistance for those dealing with mental health and addictions.

Thank you Neil Tillow, Brad McMonigle and the Talbert House Team.

OUR TEAM

Casey Hinkel, Programs Director
chinkel@vicrc.org

Greg Wilkes, Pantry Manager
gwilkes@vicrc.org

Alicia Stollenwerk, Volunteer Coordinator
astollenwerk@vicrc.org

Maria Lanzillotta, Crisis Advocacy Case Manager
mlanzillotta@vicrc.org

Emily Shuler, Seasonal Programs Consultant
eshuler@vicrc.org

93 cents from every \$1 went to Program Services

Visit www.vicrc.org for our 2016 Annual Report!