

2018

Impact Statement





**EMPOWERING GROWTH IN THE LIVES
OF THOSE WE SERVE.**

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Message from Skip Koesterman, Board Chair

Friends,

Back in 2016 we had a vision that we could do more than just provide food and clothing: more for our clients, their families, and our community. As of 2018, Valley Interfaith Food and Clothing Center has now fully transitioned into Valley Interfaith Community Resource Center. Food and clothing remain important for us to meet our clients' immediate needs, however we are now utilizing these as the tools of engagement to learn more about the people that we serve and their underlying needs.

We are now a Community Resource Center with the resources to help our clients with mental health issues, physical health checks and education programming to give them the tools and skills that they need to succeed.

In 2018, we served 5,836 individuals: 3,508 were under 18, 556 Elderly, 100 Chronically Homeless, 182 Mentally Ill and 95 Domestic Violence Victims. 94% of our clients were under the 50% AMI poverty level. On average, we served 54 individuals each day.

Our numbers of client visits were record setting for 2018 and, unfortunately, we expect to see continued need. However, thanks to our staff, devoted volunteers, and donors like yourself, we find ourselves better placed to provide services that will have long lasting effects for our neighbors.

I would personally like to thank the following people for an outstanding year:

- **Our Volunteers**
- **Our Staff**
- **Our Donors**
- **Our Partnering Agencies**

Thank you!



2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Skip Koesterman, Chair	Gordon Dennis, Treasurer
Brook Gilliam, Secretary	Ed Maynard
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Mission

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

Vision

Creating a sustainable tomorrow.

“Our clients are resilient given where they sit in their life. The question we must be asking ourselves is how do we move them forward?” – Dr. Ron Arundell

“Continuum of Care” Service Model



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

Vision: Creating a Sustainable Tomorrow

We resource the under-resourced in economically stressed neighborhoods.



Emergency Resources

Food Pantry
Shop for a 3 day food supply based on household size.
Reduce food insecurity & battle rising childhood hunger rates.

Clothing Pantry
Shop every 30 days, at no cost, for clothing & necessary household items.
Mutually beneficial exchange of resources from community member to community member.

All Emergency Resources, critical for survival, are harm reduction supplies reducing risk of victimization.



Crisis Intervention

Resource Referral
Connect to community resources for additional services.

Victim Advocacy & Prevention
Identify victims of crime to assist with meeting immediate emergency needs, provide crisis intervention to include future safety strategies, increase knowledge of and provide referrals to available community resources, improve understanding of victim's rights, services, and criminal justice process, and application for Ohio's Compensation fund.



Sustainability

Neighbors Empowered
Weekly group workshop that creates an opportunity for women in our community to break the cycle of poverty by re-writing their future story. Members challenge mindsets and build resources, while developing a personalized goal plan with action steps for long term success. The workshop covers topics from affordable housing costs, living wage, and debt to income ratio to mental models of economic class, causes of poverty, and the theory of change model. Members assess personal & community resources as a vision (with a plan) for the future is built.



Back-to-School
Essential school supplies provided to school age children in our community to set youth up for success and reduce hardship on families.

Annual Seasonal Programs
Thanksgiving
Food basket delivered to the home of residents enrolled.

Holiday Sharing
Gifts & food basket to households with children; food basket to households without children. Our "Final Friday" program is offered in December.

1 in 4 Hamilton
County youth live
in poverty!



Emergency Resources

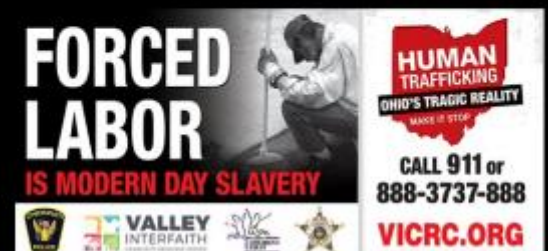
- Our Food Pantry served **5000+ individuals**, increasing food access and reducing food insecurity for thousands of Hamilton County households.
- Through our retail food partners, faith communities, and generous individuals, our food pantry received **261,586 lbs. of food** to stock our pantry shelves.
- In 2018, VICRC hired a new Pantry Coordinator, Glenn Howie. Glenn brings a passion for food & for helping others to our team.
- Our Clothing Pantry provided clothing for **more than 1200 households**. In October, our 2ND ANNUAL COAT DRIVE provided 300+ gently used coats.

PROGRAMS IMPACT

Crisis Intervention

As a stepping stone to **STABILITY**, we deepen our work with families by asking *"What brought you here?"* Simple questions such as this enable VICRC staff to **identify deeper needs and coordinate referrals to additional resources**.

- In 2018, **The Ohio Attorney General** awarded VICRC the **Victims' of Crime Act grant** to expand our VICTIM ADVOCACY & PREVENTION work. In the first quarter of the grant, VICRC staff hired two Victim Outreach Advocates and **provided assistance to dozens of crime victims**.
- VICRC provides space to several organizations to offer their services to the families we serve, and our team networks with outside agencies to connect our families with additional services elsewhere. **In 2018, our team recorded 150+ referrals to outside agencies.**
- As part of the **Ohio Children's Trust Fund Human Trafficking Prevention grant**, VICRC staff provided Anti-Human Trafficking group sessions at Valley and Juliette's Hope and displayed two area billboards.



Did you know research confirms persistent poverty changes the brain?

Sustainability

Our primary sustainability program, Neighbors Empowered, supports **WOMEN** as they develop **BRIDGES OUT OF POVERTY**. The program strives to impact the self-sufficiency of each member, while building the *confidence, motivation, and relationships* necessary to **break** the poverty cycle.

- In 2018, VICRC completed three program cycles (Cycle 5, Cycle 6, & Cycle 7). Consistent with past cycles, the program accomplished a **high rate of participant retention**, confirming that clients that start the program complete the program.



PROGRAMS IMPACT

- All 2018 participants **improved overall self-sufficiency scores**, with majority of gains in life skills and community involvement. Additionally, all 2018 participants engaged in goal setting behavior, completing a SMART goal plan prior to graduation.
- Cycle 7 was a revised edition of Neighbors Empowered, shortening the program cycle for a day time offering, which accomplished unique achievements to include **50% of the cycle securing employment** during enrollment.
- Throughout the year, Neighbors Empowered **cultivated partnerships** that promote FAMILY STABILITY. VICRC partnered with **St. Joseph Orphanage** to provide a youth behavioral group to the adult participant's youth, a multi-generational approach to improving family stability. VICRC partnered with **Family Independence Initiative (FII)** to enroll graduates for post-graduation support, the **Ohio Children's Trust Fund** to provide Human Trafficking Prevention Curriculum to youth and adult participants, and the **Hamilton County Sheriff's Office** to improve addiction awareness.
- Using grant funds, VICRC offered past program graduates the opportunity to apply & receive a SELF-SUFFICIENCY STIPEND in May. Several graduates were awarded stipends to meet their **sustainability goals, including education and employment**.

Seasonal Programs

Our Seasonal programs serve households throughout the year, filling gaps when emergency resources become increasingly strained, such as the start of a new school year or during the holidays.



In March, the Wyoming Presbyterian Church community donated **150 packed food bags** to support families with children during Spring Break from school. Bags were distributed first come, first serve-providing food to nearly **200 school age youth**.

PROGRAMS IMPACT

Our **ANNUAL BACK TO SCHOOL PROGRAM** ensures families with school age youth receive the essential school supplies necessary for a successful school year. In 2018, we served nearly 400 families, providing **school essentials to more than 1000 YOUTH!** Our Back to School program is generously sponsored by the Dater Foundation, the Wyoming Junior Women's Club, and local faith communities.

In partnership with the Junior Women's Club of Wyoming, VICRC provides space to the Halloween Fairy Godmothers Program. The program provided **233 Halloween costumes** in 2018.



Sponsored by the Wyoming Presbyterian Church and our local Faith Community Committee, **300 large food boxes** were packed & delivered in November to VICRC families for the 2018 Thanksgiving holiday.

In December, the 2018 Holiday Sharing program served **375 families, which included 825 children**, by providing NEW holiday gifts and a large food box filled with holiday fixings & pantry staples to support FAMILIES while youth are on break from school.



Volunteer Impact

The work we do at Valley Interfaith would not be possible without the incredible volunteers who bring our building to life! We appreciate the vast support we had in 2018:

✓ **13,251 volunteer hours** were logged for the year, **over 1000 hours per month**, along with **hundreds of unrecorded hours** from Neighbors Empowered, seasonal programs, and student helpers.



✓ While some volunteers retired this year, we gained about **35 new "regulars"** to help cover all needed positions as well as several new seasonal partners.



✓ We experienced an amazing outpouring of support, collaborating with **over 70 other organizations**, businesses, schools, and faith communities to serve this community.



✓ Trader Joe's stepped up as a new corporate partner, donating **more than 125,000 LBS** of food & supplying two volunteers each week for our food pantry.

✓ Volunteers improved client services through **exciting projects** like the Stipend Review Committee and the second year of the annual Coat Room.



✓ The community came together for 13 drives, including **Frame USA's Fill the Truck** and **Glendale's Fill the Square**, & 12 service projects to support Valley Interfaith this year. We love the food drives, projects, and **volunteer energy from students** at St. Ursula, Ursuline Academy, MND, Lockland, Wyoming, and numerous other local schools.

✓ Volunteers donated time and money to **facility improvement projects** like a new chair rail in the lobby, a pantry face-lift, and a repainted seasonal space & offices.

✓ Volunteers **trained and engaged** through New Volunteer Orientations, Town Hall Meetings, Lunch & Learns, a Pantry Refresher Course, and a Volunteer In-Service Day.



✓ We **celebrated our dedicated volunteers** and donors at Centennial Barn with a lovely Volunteer Appreciation Dinner in June and a Holiday Celebration in December.

We truly saw our mission being carried out as Valley Volunteers came together to generously share their time, treasure, and talent in 2018.
Sincere thanks to all our supporters!

Impact in Photos



Annual 5K Fundraiser

Despite a snowy, cold April morning, our annual 5K Run/Walk "Hop into Spring" event, powered by Slingshot Solutions, raised nearly \$10,000 for VICRC families! The event was hosted by Wyoming native & US Track & Field Olympian David Payne, with photo credit to Leigh Taylor.

Ursuline Canned Food Drive

For the 2nd year, Ursuline partnered with VICRC to include our agency in their annual canned food drive. High school students lead the endeavor, collecting essential pantry staples for many agencies. In 2018, we received a generous donation weighing 5,835 lbs!



Cincinnati Police Service Week

Newly sworn in Cincinnati Police officers kicked off a week of service in the community at VICRC.

Impact Story 1

Mary



Mary, age 28, enrolled in Neighbors Empowered Cycle 5. A single mother of a seven year old child, with another on the way, Mary found herself unemployed and struggling to find a job. Mary believed her decision to drop out of college after the devastating loss of her father was to blame for her difficulty finding employment and she struggled to find the motivation to go back to school.

Encouraged by other members of the group and inspired by the information she was learning, Mary made the decision to pursue a career as a dental hygienist. She registered and started school while enrolled in our program. Mary also found a part-time job as a gas station attendant. Now pregnant, attending school, working part-time, and taking care of her daughter on her own, Mary attended every group session and graduated from Neighbors Empowered in 2018.

A year after graduation, Mary shared her success with the VICRC Programs Director. After the Neighbors Empowered program and giving birth to her second child, Mary completed her education.

One of her professors helped her find

employment at the dental office where she worked. Now steadily employed at the dental clinic, Mary's family has found stability and continues to thrive.



Impact Story 2

Ebonie

Ebonie, age 30, is a mother of 4 and a client at VICRC. When asked *"What brings you here?"* during a visit to receive food, Ebonie reported a lengthy history of emotional, physical, and sexual abuse from the father of her children. With her abuser currently in prison, Ebonie moved her family to a new location. Though she reported being afraid of what might happen upon his release, she felt more fearful of how he might react if she pursued legal protection, like a Temporary Protection Order (TPO). Once connected with our Victim Advocate Outreach Case Manager for support, Ebonie received information regarding legal protection and victim compensation funds available through the State of Ohio, as well as a referral to St. Joseph Orphanage for her children.

After a few weeks of case management with VICRC staff, Ebonie decided to file for a Civil Protection Order and reported a desire to change her name for further protection. With the assistance of our Victim Advocate Outreach Case Manager, Ebonie pursued the Civil Protection Order and filed for Ohio Victim's Compensation Fund to facilitate the cost of a legal name change. The VICRC Victim Advocate accompanied Ebonie to an Ex Parte hearing with a magistrate for the Civil Protection Order for emotional support, as well as provided assistance to prepare testimony and evidence prior to the hearing.

"I want to help my kids and do this for their sake. Because of this program, I know more ways to plan for my safety and I have a better understanding of my rights as a victim of crime. I am thankful for the Victim Advocate at Valley Interfaith, she is helpful."

Thought Leadership

Why Do We Do What We Do? Why Are We Doing It?

(Taken From **soapb!x Cincinnati** June 23, 2014)

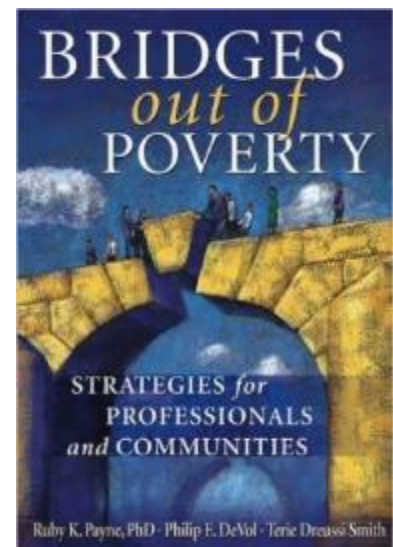
Leaders in the Space

Valley Interfaith Community Resource Center has a 55 year history of being Leaders in the Space as Emergency Resource Providers. We are now positioned to establish ourselves as leaders in the **Transition from Dependence To Independence** Service Provider for those experiencing episodes of poverty.

By using our Food Pantry Services as an engagement tool; we are uniquely positioned to engage clients and ascertain and identify deeper obstacles that are assisting in our client's inability to transition from their poverty cycle. As the US Census also confirms; the gentrification of downtown Cincinnati is causing a migration of extremely low to no income persons to the surrounding suburbs. Valley Interfaith is one of the few agencies aligned to serve those needs.

BRIDGES OUT OF POVERTY

Bridges Out of Poverty is a unique and powerful tool designed specifically for social, health, and legal services professionals. Based in part on Dr. Ruby K. Payne's myth shattering *A Framework for Understanding Poverty*, Bridges reaches out to the millions of service providers and businesses whose daily work connects them with the lives of people in poverty. In a highly readable format you'll find case studies, detailed analysis, helpful charts and exercises, and specific solutions you and your organization can implement right now to: Redesign programs to better serve people you work with; Build skill sets for management to help guide employees; Upgrade training for front-line staff like receptionists, case workers, and managers; Improve treatment outcomes in health care and behavioral health care; Increase the likelihood of moving from welfare to work.



"The U.S. Census Bureau reports that one in every three Cincinnatians live below the federal poverty line. The City is ranked second in the nation for child poverty, according to the Children's Defense Fund. Of those households, most are headed by single mothers."

-Matthew Woolley

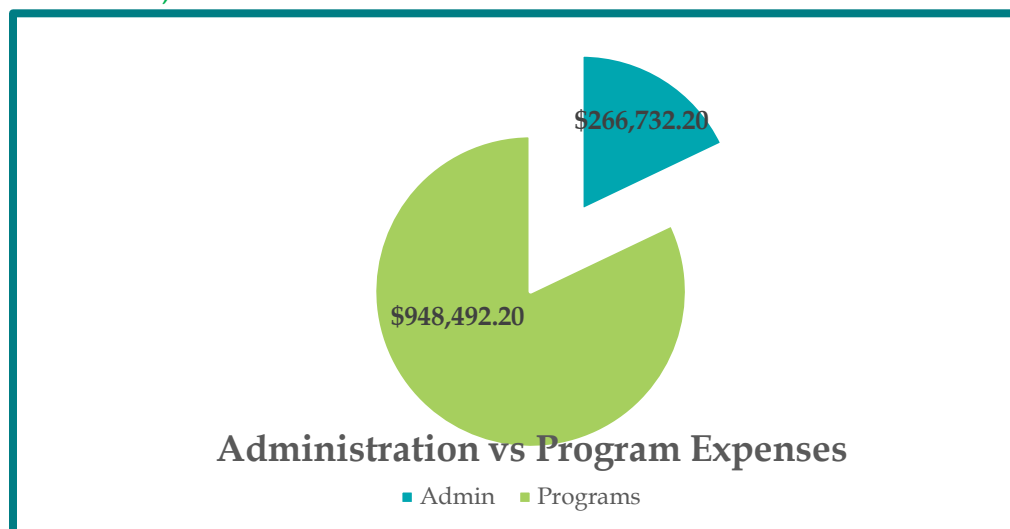
Resources & Financial Management

PROFIT & LOSS	JAN - DEC 2018
TOTAL ASSETS	\$171,382.93
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$4,630.60
TOTAL EQUITY	\$166,752.33
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$171,382.93
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,217,390.78
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,256,772.74
NET INCOME (LOSS)	-\$39,381.96
REVENUE SOURCES	
Congregational Groups	\$37,732.00
Individuals	\$124,843.70
Corporations	\$55,303.77
Grants/Foundations	\$133,545.06
5K Event	\$12,887.21
In-Kind Support	\$840,000.00
Other (Interest/Misc.)	\$2,166.29

FUNDRAISING EXPENSES = \$38,775.18

59 CENTS

PER DAY HELPS SUPPORT ONE PERSON WITH EMERGENCY FOOD, CLOTHING AND OTHER SUPPORT SERVICES.



Looking Forward

Executive Leadership

What a tremendous year of growth. We are working diligently to help provide a Continuum of Care that helps our clients transition from a life of dependence to a life that is self-sustaining.

We are excited about the many additions and changes we are making. We've added Victim Advocates to the team, expanded external partnerships, we are providing therapeutic support for trafficking victims and so much more! We are making great improvement in our efforts to disrupt the cycles of poverty experienced by our neighbors in need.



Thank you to all of our donors, volunteers and staff. Each of you make this possible.

John



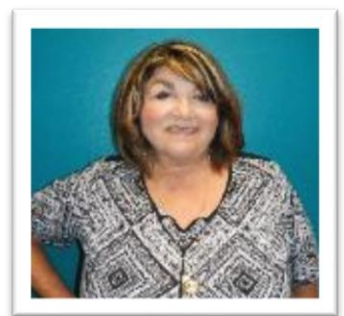
Alicia Stollenwerk



Casey Hinkel



Glenn Howie



Maria Lanzillotta



Emily Patton



Rabbi Mendy Kalmanson

(Not Pictured: Dr. Ron Arundell and Emily Schuler)

We Need Your Help

In 2018 we embarked on an important point in our fundamental change of who we are and what we do. Last year we laid out in real actions where we are going to head on this journey while also laying out real objectives beyond 'what we give' to those who utilize our services. We began to ask deeper questions about who we served, why they needed us, and what they ultimately need to move forward in their lives

As a result, we saw unprecedented numbers who came to our doors. The migration and gentrification within the City of Cincinnati downtown area is creating a need in the outlying communities of the county where there are little to no services. Valley Interfaith is filling that gap. Your financial support helps us bridge that gap for our neediest neighbors.

Every Penny Matters

To help continue our work and be an investor in the lives of our neighbors in need please visit: www.vicrc.org and make a donation now.

You may donate by mail: 420. W. Wyoming Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45215



Volunteer and Help Make a Difference

Everyone has a variety of ways they can give. Many give of their treasure while others can give of their time and talent. If you'd like to be part of our work and you are **A SERVANT LEADER** who is able to be **A TEAM PLAYER** and **SUPPORTIVE** of our mission, then we'd love to talk to you about joining our team of volunteers.

- ☐ Volunteer for Valley Interfaith Community Resource Center
- ☐ Volunteer for a Special Project: Christmas, Easter, or Back To School
- ☐ Volunteer in a different way: _____

Please visit our website www.vicrc.org to learn more, or call us at **513-821-3233**. Send this form by mail to our office at **420 W. Wyoming Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45215** or email Alicia Stollenwerk at astollenwerk@vicrc.org

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Email: _____

Thank You to All of Our Donors

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WHY I GIVE

"My donations truly go to those in need."

-Dennis Sulfsted

***Read Dennis' Story on Pages 20 - 21**

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Northern Hills United Methodist Church	Fleming Road United Church of Christ
College Hills Christian Church	St. John United Church of Christ
Northminster Presbyterian Church	Cincinnati Primitive Baptist Church
Immanuel United Church of Christ	Friendship UMC
Society of Transfiguration	Christ Church Glendale
The Gathering at Northern Hills	Mature Saints Ministry, Mount Zion Baptist Church
Church of Ascension & Holy Trinity	Hartwell United Methodist Church
The 1 st Presbyterian Church of Glendale	Friendship UMC Senior High
St. Bartholomew	Valley Temple
St. James of the Valley	Mt. Zion Baptist Church
Faith Lutheran Church	Faith Lutheran Church

Corporate Supporters

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Cincinnati Marathon	St. Joseph Orphanage
Chic-Fil-A	WesBanco
Spring Valley Bank	John D. Smith Co., LPA
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Premier EMG, LLC	Wilkerson Properties
Hollaender Mfg. Co	Sharonville Chamber of Commerce
Rod Sidley Architect	Bushelman Supply Company
Ohio Valley Goodwill Industries	Running Time LLC
Brooks Enterprises dba Statements Salon	Zins Plumbing LLC
Target	Trader Joe's
Bimbo Bakery	Aldi
Walmart	Lil' Caesars
Wyoming Pastry	Hug Jewelers
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Hartwell Elementary School	Premier Target & Shooting

Foundation Supporters

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The Benevity Community Impact Funds	Johnson & Johnson Foundation
Walton Family Foundation	Wyoming Junior Women's Club
Bartlett Anonymous Client	Kroger Community Rewards
Charles H. Dater Foundation	United Way
State of Ohio Attorney General's Office VOCA Grant Funding	JP Morgan Chase Foundation
Sheakley Family Charitable Fund – Rhonda & Larry Sheakley	Chickesaw Foundation
John & Jean Kupfer Family Trust	Ohio Children's Trust Fund
National Philanthropic Trust	Hope Ride, Inc.
The Spaulding Foundation	The Andrew Jergen's Foundation



Ohio Children's Trust Fund
Ohio's Prevent Child Abuse America Chapter



Buechner
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Meyers
Koenig Co., LPA



DENNIS SULFSTED STORY...

My relationship with Valley Interfaith began after my retirement. I had always felt the desire to serve others, but because I worked so much, I simply didn't have time to do so. At retirement, one thing I did have was time.

The greatest attraction of the organization to me was in its name, "Valley". I grew up in the Millcreek Valley, and lived in the valley my entire life. Even today, I still refer to myself as a "Valley Boy". I particularly liked the idea of serving my own neighbors, the people with whom I live.

When I started volunteering at Valley, I at first just wanted to stock the pantry shelves. At the time, it appeared I was one of the "younger" people to volunteer there, and I thought that's how I could best serve, but the truth of the matter was, I wasn't confident in my interpersonal skills when dealing with pantry clients.

As I helped pantry clients over time, I slowly began to realize I was learning more from them than I was helping them. One thing I learned, for example, is that a time or two in my own life, I thought I was poor. In talking to my pantry clients, however, I learned that I was never poor. As time passed, I decided to remain a pantry helper instead of a pantry stocker.

As I continued my relationship with Valley Interfaith, I learned the organization was so much more than emergency services. Frankly, that's why I joined the organization, and I thought that's really all we did - provide food and clothing to those in need. After all, those words used to be a part of our name - Valley Interfaith Food & Clothing Center.

Early, I also learned that Valley Interfaith helped people in need pay their utility bills and rent. It's at that time when I started donating some of my expendable income to Valley Interfaith. I felt like my donations truly went directly to those in need helping pay someone's utility bill or rent.

Over the last couple of years, I became aware of how Valley Interfaith refocused its mission from one that provides emergency services to one that is truly a community resource for neighbors in need. Valley still provides emergency services like food and clothing, but I learned how much more they do and how much more of a contribution they are to Valley residents.

For example, I became aware of the Neighbors Empowered program, a workshop that helps women create a personal plan to develop long-term success and sustainability. I also knew Valley served as a hub to connect those in need to various resources throughout the Greater Cincinnati area, including financial, legal, and medical resources. They had seasonal programs at Thanksgiving and Easter and a back-to-school program, and they provided crisis intervention and victim advocacy. But then I heard about Valley personnel helping a person involved in the sex trade. "What?" I thought. "Not in my backyard!" But unfortunately, even activities of this nature indeed were happening in the Millcreek Valley.

Somewhat recently, I escorted a young mother around the pantry with a baby and a 4-5 year-old in tow. We chit-chatted as she made selections in the pantry, we talked about her children, and of course, I had to tell her about the five-year-old grandson my wife and I babysit. She finished shopping, and I told her I would meet her outside with her groceries.

By the time I got out to her car, she had the kids strapped into their seats and had the trunk open. I began loading her grocery bags as we continued to talk. As I placed the last bag into her

trunk, I turned to face her to say goodbye, but she very pointedly looked me in the eye and asked, "Do you pray?"

I kind of chuckled aloud and said, "Well, of course, I pray, though I guess I'm not really that good at it."

"Would you pray for me and my family?" she asked. Taken aback, my smile faded, and I stumbled out, "Is everything okay? What's happened?"

She rambled she's just been under so much stress and so many things have been happening to her lately. Tears started down her cheek. And then she blurted out, "My So-Called Husband" - her words and tone - "raped my little girl."

"Oh my God," I thought. That cute little girl in the pantry. I was dumbfounded. I wasn't prepared for something like this. Feelings of rage and sorrow surged in my chest. She reached to me, and I returned her hug.

By then, my brain was at least working to the point that I realized I - we, Valley Interfaith - must help her in some way. I started blabbering that we had people who could help her - people who could support her, professional people. I invited her to come back in, and I would personally find the person who could assist her.

She said she couldn't however. That she had to get home right now. She promised me though that she would come back tomorrow and ask to see someone. She got in her car and slowly drove out of the lot.

I stood there just not feeling right. I started reentering the building, my mind reeling like it was going to explode. I don't believe I ever felt so confused and powerless in my life. I was afraid she wasn't going to come back tomorrow. Then I realized, I had power. I could help. I still had her blue pantry ticket. I had her name. I could find somebody who could help her. I gave her ticket to Alicia and affirmed we had the information to contact the woman and later talked to Emily, Valley's Victim Advocate Case Manager.

This woman's story stays with me to this day. Today, I still pray for her and her children. If just one dollar of my donations has ever gone to help this woman, it is money well spent. This is why I donate to Valley Interfaith Community Resource Center. My donations truly go directly to those in need.

Submitted in its entirety by Mr. Dennis Sulfsted, Volunteer and Donor.



55 YEARS OF SERVING
Hamilton County's neighbors in need!




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