

happenings @WARM

YOU and WARM — making the difference in our community

From the Executive Director... Scott Marier

NUTRITION SERVICES ONLINE Choice Market

In WARM's view, there is nothing more important than the well-being of our community. The partnerships, collaborative work, and concern of so many have helped in countless ways as we've navigated the COVID pandemic, helping others through difficult circumstances.

Looking ahead, we're taking bold steps to help even more people.

Our **ONLINE Choice Market** initiative puts us on the leading edge of innovation through technology in the nutritional support of individuals and families in need. In addition, we are expanding our children's nutrition programs to further alleviate childhood hunger. Our **Way2Work** initiative is helping the



unemployed find and keep living-wage jobs, which breaks the cycle of poverty that had them trapped. Our volunteers exemplify servant leaders directly helping those in need. We are so appreciative of the generous and often times sacrificial financial support, which makes the impact of WARM possible. Together, we're making a real difference in the quality of life for many in our community. I hope you realize that as a supporter of WARM, YOU are changing lives for the better. *Thank you! - Scott Marier*



	Fruits
	Vegetables
	Dairy
	Proteins
	Grains
	Other

A New Approach to Providing Food Assistance

During the pandemic, WARM moved to a contactless, curbside pickup model that did not allow clients to choose what they received from WARM. This was a significant departure from WARM's Choice Market food pantry model, where clients select food and household items based on their family size.



In February 2021, WARM introduced the **ONLINE Choice Market**, once again allowing clients to choose their own groceries while continuing with curbside pickup. Clients who are comfortable ordering online can do so through a computer, laptop, tablet, or any mobile device. WARM provides login credentials, as well as an instructional packet to assist clients using the system. Those who cannot order online may call WARM's Help Center at 614-568-8700 to place their order by phone Monday through Friday from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

In the first weeks of the **ONLINE Choice Market**, nearly 200 families ordered, about 40% of them through the Help Center. The initial feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, with most clients embracing the change and excited about the ability to have choice, one of the aspects of treating them with dignity at WARM.

"It's great that you guys are doing this! I'm excited to be able to pick which items we get!" -WARM Client



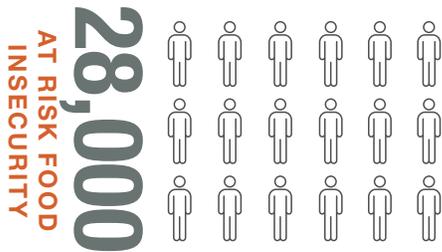
HOPE Program Refined

The **HOPE Program** has undergone a significant refinement in advance of re-opening the building to in-person meetings with clients this spring. The **HOPE Program** provides hope, encouragement, and support to senior adults (60+) and people with disabilities. We recently added other economically disadvantaged families to serve under the umbrella of the **HOPE Program**. Our family services coordinators work with these folks to help maintain or improve their overall well-being and stability.

hope program

They build relationships by meeting with clients each time they visit for food assistance, uncovering unmet needs, and making resource referrals to organizations that can address those needs. These conversations have taken place by phone during the pandemic. **The team is looking forward to meeting in-person again. As a reminder, WARM will re-open the building on Monday, April 26!**

Expanding Community Outreach



In 2020, WARM engaged the Kirwan Institute of The Ohio State University

to analyze Census Bureau data to identify areas where families who meet income eligibility live within our service area (primarily the Westerville School District).

This allows us to focus our community outreach efforts. **The analysis showed there are nearly 28,000 people who are at risk for food insecurity. Yet, in 2020, WARM served just over 10% of that population.** This is in spite of the pandemic, which increased the need even more.



Over time, more families in need will be aware of WARM and the services we provide to help them improve their situation.



Child Nutrition



Kids Lunch Club

WESTERVILLE AREA RESOURCE MINISTRY

Summer is right around the corner!

This year we are adding 3 new sites for a total of 16 sites for the Kids Lunch Club Program.

Our new sites will be located at Hanby Park (behind Westerville Public Library), Minerva Park and Metzger Park. By adding more sites, we plan to reach more children who are in need of meals throughout the summer. Our goal is to increase our average number of children served from 300+ to 400+ per day. In 2020, KLC served children in need over 22,000 lunch meals and nearly 23,000 weekend meals, totaling over 45,000 meals. Additionally, KLC distributed 44,580 pounds of fresh produce. We are currently searching for food sponsors and any restaurants that would be willing to sponsor one or more days of KLC meals. Contact Chad Maxeiner at chadwarmwesterville.org for additional information.



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VOLUNTEERS



DO YOU HAVE AN INTEREST IN VOLUNTEERING? VOLUNTEER SERVICES IS BUSY!

We could use your help working safely in our facility and offering support to WARM's programs. In addition, with the brand-new **ONLINE Choice Market** ordering system comes a host of new volunteer opportunities! Volunteers confirm and fulfill client orders, answer questions in our Help Center, deliver items to client cars and process our entire inventory.

- Does your organization or group want to help the community, and come together in fun and compassionate service? Schedule a service project at WARM – it is always a safe and convenient way to help others!
- Students and others who need to complete community service hours are always welcome to fulfill them at WARM! There are many ways, both as groups or individually, for you to serve safely to complete your community service hours.



Contact Julia Smith at julia@warmwesterville.org if you are interested in these or other volunteer opportunities at WARM. We look forward to hearing from you!



The Way2Work program continues to enhance and expand its services.

PathLane Services



Bridge Skill Training and Support

Workforce development has added several new courses to improve anyone's Microsoft Office capabilities.

Available now are a series of easy to follow videos that cover Excel, Word, PowerPoint, and Outlook. In today's job market, most all employees need a working understanding of these business programs.

Also available are four educational models that highlight the importance of having better soft skills. Mastering these will lead to continued job growth.

More PathLane support can be found in the career exploration section. We currently have two initiatives that explain opportunities and growth potential in the IT and healthcare sectors.

To access any or all of these, register at: <https://www.warmwesterville.org/w2w-employment-support> or contact David Crago at david@warmwesterville.org.



Career Exploration and Certification

We're making a difference. Over the last 60 days, the program has helped eleven job seekers obtain better employment.



Employment Support and Coaching

"Thank you. I never thought I would need job assistance, let alone that this program even existed. I am grateful for your help to obtain gainful employment. It has been a wonderful experience." - Tenisha M.



As we move forward in 2021, WARM is humbly asking for your additional support so that we may continue to adapt and serve those in need in our community.



Westerville is an amazingly generous community. Thankfully, donors and volunteers alike continue to respond to our immediate needs with food donations and financial support. As a non-profit organization, WARM's fundraising needs are aimed at making sure that we have the funds needed to carry out daily operations but more importantly, to fund all the programs that serve those in need among us. WARM isn't in the business to "make money", rather we raise money to put it back into the community to keep the mission going. WARM continues to adapt, even a year later, to new challenges surrounding the ongoing pandemic.

You can be a part of the mission by considering the following giving options:

Establish a re-occurring gift to the 365 Program.

A yearly donation of \$365 is the equivalent of \$30 a month or \$1 a day. This level of partnership with WARM will support our community each day by providing 1 person with 3 square meals a day for the entire year. We initiated this giving club last year and welcomed more than 400 donors to support us every day of the year.

Please consider supporting WARM's efforts again this year by renewing your support or joining the club for the first time. Please visit our website and DONATE securely online at www.warmwesterville.org/donate or return the enclosed giving envelope.



Other opportunities to consider include:

- Contact your employer to ask if it participates in a matching gift program
- Challenge those within your organization to raise a specific fundraising amount for WARM
- Contribute to WARM from an IRA or RMD
- Donate a gift of stock or securities
- Include WARM in your will

If you have questions, please contact our Director of Development & Communication, Dana Lawrence by email at dana@warmwesterville.org

"Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will repay him for his deed." Proverbs 19:17

IRS pushes
back tax filing
deadline to
May 17, 2021.



Scan the QR Code
to Donate to WARM



150 Heatherdown Dr.
Westerville, OH 43081

WARM INFO

CONNECT WITH US

WARM Office

150 Heatherdown Dr.
Westerville, OH 43081

Donation hours:

Mon-Fri 9am-4pm
After hours use 24 hour
drop box

Phone 614-899-0196

Fax 614-899-1042

WARM Online

www.warmwesterville.org

info@warmwesterville.org



Westerville Area
Resource Ministry



WARM_1972



warm_westerville

Scan the
QR Code
to Donate
to WARM!



WARM'S Most Needed Items

- Spaghetti Sauce
- Pasta - all types
- Sides: Pasta - Potato - Rice
- Sloppy Joe Mix
- Beef Tuna Helpers
- BBQ Sauce
- Ketchup
- Mustard
- Mayonnaise
- Salad Dressings

save the dates 2021

- April 26 Re-opening the Building
- May 6 National Day of Prayer WARM
Community Virtual Prayer Event
- September Hunger Action Month
- November 21 Thanksgiving Blessing
- December 4 Holiday Food Drive

WARM to
re-open the
building
Monday,
April 26!