



# Miracles on 32nd Street

2022: Volume II

## CELEBRATING 45 YEARS OF SERVICE



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\* *deceased*

**FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

“DO NOT BE DAUNTED BY THE ENORMITY OF THE WORLD’S GRIEF. DO JUSTLY NOW. LOVE MERCY NOW. WALK HUMBLY NOW. WE ARE NOT OBLIGATED TO COMPLETE THE TASK, BUT NEITHER ARE WE FREE TO ABANDON IT.”

This quote, an iteration of ancient Jewish Rabbinic teachings, sums up well our goals here at the West Side Catholic Center. Our amazing staff and volunteers are privileged to be the hands and face of that mission every day.

That mission is usually one layer away for those of who serve on the Board.

At this time, however, the Board has the great responsibility of hiring a new Executive Director to fill the very large shoes of John Litten. We formed a very qualified Search Committee that has a broad variety of professional experience and a diverse world view. That committee reviewed over a hundred résumés, conducted dozens of interviews, and, as of this writing, has narrowed the field to a few finalists for the entire Board to meet and evaluate.

This process is one of the most critical and essential functions of the Board. We have taken this responsibility seriously as is required of us by the mission of the West Side Catholic Center.

The Board is tremendously grateful to Mike Bernot for agreeing to act as Interim Director after John’s departure. As always, the staff and volunteers continue to serve our clients despite the inevitable disruption caused by this leadership change.

We hope to have a new leader in place to undertake the stewardship of the Center by the end of the year.

As always we offer our heartfelt gratitude for all of your prayers, financial support, and dedicated time that collectively continues to fortify this mission of justice, mercy and service.

Sincerely,



Kevin Lenhard

# THE BLESSINGS OF ADVENT

As the days darken, we all find ourselves searching for a little more light, comfort and joy. The season of Advent has arrived and it may look a little different for each of us, but we are all searching for more hope, faith, joy and peace.

In the weeks leading up to Christmas there is a flurry of activity here on 32nd Street. Ask any employee, client or volunteer here at West Side Catholic Center and they will tell you this is a very busy time of year for our agency. Hundreds of families receive new clothing and personal care items customized to their sizes and needs through our Spirit of Christmas collection, our Family Engagement team coordinates providing coats to adults and children, and Zacchaeus Housing



Solutions families are adopted by generous donors to provide for their Christmas wish list needs. These wonderful, seasonal endeavors are all in addition to the daily goings on of our Resource Center, Moriah Shelter, Zacchaeus Housing Solutions, Workforce Development and Culinary Training programs.

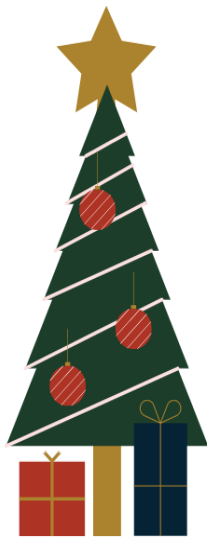
Hundreds of members of the community and families receive wraparound services throughout the year, so what is it about this time of year that feels set apart?

The season of Advent began to be observed in the early centuries of the church with fasting, prayer and other spiritual practices after the feast of Christmas became affixed to the twenty fifth of December.

Preparing the heart and soul for all that Christmas brings us can look like the practices of prayer and worship, spending time with loved ones, serving others and doing more of what brings us ...

...hope, faith, joy and peace throughout the year.

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*Spirit of Christmas*

Each Christmas, we give out 600 bags of personalized items to the families who receive our services the most throughout the year.

Donate your *brand new* items from the list below between December 5th-9th.

New, All Sizes  
Sweatshirts  
Hats  
Gloves  
Scarves  
Underwear  
Children's Pajamas

New, Full Size  
Shampoo  
Soap  
Toothbrush  
Toothpaste  
Deodorant  
Lotion  
Razor  
Diapers  
Wipes

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3



A twenty five year volunteer of WSCC, Eileen DeWood started out serving others in our kitchen and has been involved with several programs over the years. Out of her deep love of others, Eileen can speak at length as to why she continues to serve. “It brings me joy connecting with people. At WSCC, you always find people giving. We try to do as much as we can for others and to give back.”

Blessings in her life are not exclusive to the Christmas season, however. Having experienced much personal loss, Eileen found herself at a turning point in her life. “My family had all passed away in a short period of time and I was alone, but God worked a miracle that brought me extreme joy.” In the wake of such loss, so much was also gained; an expanded family of step-children, grandchildren and others.

This season is a celebration of that miracle, her family and her faith as she prepares for the

Christmas holiday, complete with the Advent candles from her childhood.

However, for those of us who may not celebrate from a religious standpoint, do we still experience the spiritual fruit of the season? Survey says, yes.

Mike Farkas, owner and operator of Farkas Pastry Shoppe, spends the Advent season meeting the heightened demand for delicious baked goods. For twenty years his bakery has provided the Resource Center with sweet treats and he has recently mentored two students from the Culinary Academy in his kitchen. “It has been great fun and rewarding to work with these students. They are adaptive, in tune with learning and have a great attitude.” Our network of partner organizations helps us go beyond our walls and help further the lives of those we serve. Though the Advent and Christmas season is an extremely busy one for the 57 year old business, it is one that sustains.

Few of us can say that we have worked for a company or organization for more than a decade, but Rhonda Daniels can do just that. She has been a Housing Coach throughout her time at WSCC and wouldn't change a thing about her time here. “I feel God has placed me where he wants me to be and I love my work.” Her empathy for others drives her to avail herself to clients as much as possible. “My life is peaceful, free and content and I want to give that to others.” She gives from the freedom that comes with a peaceful heart. The Advent season amplifies what she feels throughout the year here at WSCC. “I'm working for the Lord.” She happily works the Christmas holiday at Moriah Shelter so other staff can enjoy the time with their children.

All of us are seeking more hope, stronger faith, exponential joy, and abundant peace. Here at WSCC, it is woven into everything we do and we are grateful for the opportunity to do life together, during this Advent season.



A Charlie Brown Christmas calls to mind a famous speech by the beloved character Linus.

*And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.*

*And the angel said unto them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.*

*And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God saying,*

*"Glory to God in the highest, and on Earth peace, good will toward men."*

*Luke 2: 8-14*



## DONOR GRATITUDE

You can make donations to WSCC to celebrate a special occasion, to ask "in lieu of gifts" or to honor someone special. WSCC expresses gratitude for the recent donations made in memory of the following individuals.

### IN MEMORIAM:

Christine Amino  
Fr. Bob Begin  
Andrew Bradley  
Alice Ciotta  
Alan H. Dant  
Sue DiNardo

Helen Gebura  
William Kalt  
Dennis P. Lynch  
Edward J. McDermott  
Lance A. McGannon

Mary K. McGorray  
Aloysius Mullee  
Susan Palisin  
Kay Parrent  
Gerry E. Vandever  
Patrick Walsh

To learn more about planned giving contact the Advancement Department at [info@wsccenter.org](mailto:info@wsccenter.org) or ext. 132.  
[www.wsccenter.org/legacy-giving](http://www.wsccenter.org/legacy-giving)

## WSCC RECEIVES THE DAVID & MARTHA HESSLER ILLUMINATING HOPE AWARD

The Community West Foundation has been a long-running partner to the West Side Catholic Center. Originally known as the Fairview/Lutheran Foundation, Community West has been supporting many community non-profit agencies through grantmaking since 1997, with WSCC being the longest continuously funded non-profit organization by the foundation.

At the Community West Foundation's 25th Anniversary celebration in late July, WSCC received the honor of being announced as the recipient of their annual David and Martha Hessler Illuminating Hope Award. The award, named after long-time Community West supporters and philanthropists David and Martha Hessler, was created to recognize a local non-profit with a deep history and commitment to our community that is truly "Illuminating Hope."

The award given to WSCC as the recipient is a replica of the "Homeless Jesus" statue by Canadian artist Timothy Schmalz, creator of the "Matthew 25 Collection" installed throughout Cleveland by the Community West Foundation. In addition to the award, WSCC was given a \$10,000 unrestricted grant. WSCC proudly displays this award on our reception desk today, and had it blessed by Fr. Tom Fanta at our 45th Anniversary Mass celebrated in August.

To learn more about the Community West Foundation and the Matthew 25 Collection, visit [www.communitywestfoundation.org/matthew25collection](http://www.communitywestfoundation.org/matthew25collection)



**THE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES PROVIDED AT THE WEST SIDE CATHOLIC CENTER ARE *FREE OF CHARGE* TO ALL CLIENTS. WE ARE ABLE TO OPERATE UNDER THIS MODEL DUE TO THE INCREDIBLE DEDICATION OF OUR STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS, AND THE GENEROSITY OF OUR SUPPORT COMMUNITY.**

**YOUR GIFT TO WSCC IS 100% TAX DEDUCTIBLE AND ENSURES OUR MISSION CONTINUES.**

**GIVE ONLINE AT [WSCCENTER.ORG/DONATE](http://WSCCENTER.ORG/DONATE)  
OR USE THE INCLUDED REMITTANCE ENVELOPE.**



## HOW TO HELP



**Save  
the  
Date**

←→

**18th Annual  
Pancake Run**

**Saturday,  
June 3rd  
2023**



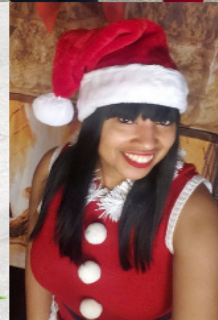
**MORE INFORMATION AT [WWW.WSCCENTER.ORG/PANCAKERUN](http://WWW.WSCCENTER.ORG/PANCAKERUN)**

**Save the Date**  
**Saturday, November 4, 2023**  
**@ The Marriott Downtown at  
Key Tower**



**Save the Date**  
**Saturday, September 9, 2023**  
**(Tentative)**  
**@ The Carfagna Family Magis Athletic  
Center at Saint Ignatius High School**





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