

Strengthen

Support

Hope

Connect

Succeed

Trust

Believe

Build

Invest

Autumn 2006

Providing life's basic necessities

For most people living in Northeast Ohio, a warm bed, a nutritious meal, quality health care and a safe living environment are elements of everyday life. But there are thousands in Greater Cleveland who lack one or more of these necessities on a consistent basis, and their ranks aren't confined to any particular gender, race or geography.

Fortunately, Cleveland is home to a wide range of organizations that make it their business to tackle these ongoing problems. This edition of *Donor Connections* profiles some of those groups and the ways in which they're addressing such issues as hunger, homelessness, domestic violence and unemployment.



Hunger Happens Here

Emergency needs expand from city to suburbs

When it was announced recently that Cleveland had been named the nation's poorest big city for the second time in three years, there was little surprise among those at the Cleveland Foodbank and the Hunger Network of Greater Cleveland.

"The largest increases in the need for emergency food have come in the suburbs, including Cleveland Heights, Lakewood, Bedford Heights, Parma and Rocky River," notes Dana Irribarren, executive director of the Hunger Network. "The people who need that

food include the working poor, and not just those on welfare."

The Foodbank and Hunger Network are vital components of a system that seeks to give food to those who might otherwise go without.

The Foodbank serves as a central clearinghouse that solicits, collects, sorts and distributes food in an efficient manner to local charities. The Hunger Network is Cuyahoga County's largest emergency hunger relief program, distributing 83 percent of all emergency food directly into the hands of the hungry. It consists of a network of 54 area pantries and hot meal programs, along with 83 affiliate sites.

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Health Care

for Cleveland's most vulnerable

As Cleveland's economy falters, predictable increases in homelessness and poverty have upped the demand for charitable health care services. The estimated 4,000 people who experience homelessness each night in Cleveland are at significantly higher risk of serious health conditions such as tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, malnutrition, mental illness, diabetes, hypertension, severe dental problems, alcoholism, and drug abuse.

The mission of Care Alliance Health Center is to provide high-quality health care, patient advocacy and related services to the people who need them most – regardless of their ability to pay – in a manner that is cost-effective and that empowers clients to improve their quality of life.



“Our goal is to enhance the health of our clients through improved physical health, oral health, mental health and substance abuse recovery,” says Care

Alliance CEO Linda Somers. “We are dedicated to providing clients with easily accessible, free or affordable services that are designed to help them overcome the barriers they face.”

Care Alliance welcomes gifts of any amount to support its mission:

- \$100 provides 10 warm blankets for people sleeping outside this winter.
- \$250 provides bus tickets for 140 individuals traveling to and from medical and dental appointments.
- \$500 provides 100 hot meals to homeless individuals.
- \$1,000 covers laboratory costs for 50 people.

For more information, please contact Jenice Contreras at jcontreras@carealliance.org or 216-781-6228 x249. Visit the organization's web site at www.carealliance.org.

East End Neighborhood House

Serves all ages



Throughout its 100-year history, East End Neighborhood House (EENH) has served individuals and families on Cleveland's southeast side by providing a wide range of services to people at every stage of life.

For example, EENH offers a state-of-the-art day care center providing a safe, nurturing place for infants and children to grow and learn. It also sponsors parenting classes and assessments and referrals for families in crisis.

In addition, EENH offers before- and after-school programming for school-aged children. EENH is the lead agency for the Woodland Hill/Fairfax Collaborative, an organization that provides a network of services to families who are at-risk or involved with the Cuyahoga County Department of Children and Family Services.

EENH also operates an open computer lab with classes to help those of any age achieve computer literacy. Two EENH programs – Rites of Passage and Foster Grandparents – have been nationally recognized for their impact on the community.

“For an entire century, EENH has provided relevant and culturally sensitive programming to a variety of ethnic groups,” said President and CEO Paul Hill Jr. “To celebrate this endurance, we have secured funding for the renovation of the early 20th-century mansion still existing at the core of our complex.”

Hill considers building renovation and the agency's operating expenses as EENH's largest philanthropic needs. For more information, contact Hill at 216-707-6000 or nropi@aol.com, or visit www.ritesofpassage.org/house.htm.

Shelter restores *hope* to those without homes

As Judy Hamlett and her staff at Project Hope for the Homeless like to point out, having a roof over your head is a luxury that can't always be taken for granted. Every day, men, women and children around Northeast Ohio face homelessness and the problems that come with it.

Project Hope offers a helping hand to the homeless in Lake County, serving as a temporary emergency shelter.

"When you donate to Project Hope for the Homeless, you are truly helping to restore the hope and renew the lives of those men, women and families we serve," says Hamlett, executive director of Project Hope. "It is an investment in each life that we have the opportunity to touch."



Shelter guests are provided with such services as needs assessments, support groups, mental health outreach, substance abuse prevention, survival skills workshops, blood pressure checks and physical examinations.

Project Hope for the Homeless accepts monetary gifts to help maintain its operating budget:

- \$500 allows staff to shelter and encourage an individual for two weeks
- \$100 shelters and cares for a family of four for one night
- \$50 provides a mother and child with shelter, food and services for one night

Project Hope also maintains a "wish list" of needed items. For more information, call 440-354-6417 or visit www.projecthopeonline.org.

Helping women break the cycle of

Homelessness

It was while working in Cleveland's homeless shelters in the mid-1980s that Sisters Donna Hawk, Loretta Schulte and Irene Utrup from the Congregation of Saint Joseph saw firsthand the vicious circle that often ensnares homeless women and their young children. The same women continually came through the shelters, a testament to the shortage of safe, decent, affordable housing available for women living alone.

In response, the sisters and other supporters came together to acquire and renovate a former motel on Cleveland's near-west side into a 61-room facility. The result was Transitional Housing Inc. (THI), which has been serving women and infants in the community for more than 20 years.

In 2005, THI served a total of 147 women and infants. The organization seeks funds to cover a variety of operational costs:

- \$2,000 purchases apartment-size stoves and refrigerators for five units.
- \$700 covers the cost of bus tickets for one month for women traveling to work and/or school.
- \$75 procures food and supplies for THI's twice-monthly Family Days, which provide a range of activities and workshops for mothers and children who are in the process of reunification.
- \$50 supplies initial food, toiletries and supplies for a new resident.

For more information, contact THI at 216-781-2250 or go to www.transitionalhousinginc.org.

domestic *Violence* in Northeast Ohio

There is no denying the impact and the need for WomenSafe, an organization that provides emergency shelter and support services to survivors of domestic violence in Northeast Ohio. In the first nine months of 2006 alone, WomenSafe

- answered more than 2,169 calls to its 24-hour "COPEline"
- educated more than 2,000 middle and high school students about healthy relationships and what to do if they are involved in a dangerous one
- provided 2,440 emergency shelter days to more than 150 women and children
- assisted 170 women through the legal process

Now in its 26th year of operation, WomenSafe provides all of its services free of charge. Thousands of women and children have come through the organization's doors in search of help since its inception.

WomenSafe recently broke ground on Green House, a new, state-of-the-art facility expected to open in Geauga County in summer 2007.

WomenSafe benefits from all donations:

- \$100 buys a week's worth of diapers and baby formula
- \$300 operates an alarm system for a year
- \$750 pays for residents' medications for an entire year
- \$1,000 provides three meals a day for shelter residents for 50+ days

For more information, please contact Renee Petro at 440-285-8764, or visit www.womensafe.org.

How to recommend a grant for any of these organizations

Complete the grant recommendation form enclosed, or access your Advisor Xpress account through the My TCF option under the "Current Donors" section of the foundation website.

For more information about these and other worthy organizations, please call or email the Gift Planning and Donor Relations team.



The Cleveland Foundation
1422 Euclid Avenue, Suite 1300
Cleveland, Ohio 44115
Phone: 216-861-3810
or 877-554-5054
Fax: 216-861-6754
Email: giftplan@clevelandfn.org
www.clevelandfoundation.org

Hunger ...

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The Foodbank gratefully accepts monetary donations in support of its mission:

- \$2,000 provides weekend meals for 10 children for an entire year through the organization's "Backpacks for Kids" program.
- \$4,500 allows the Foodbank to distribute 5,000 hot meals to low-income seniors through its Cleveland Community Kitchen program.

The Hunger Network of Greater Cleveland also welcomes donations:

- \$500 will feed 2,000 hungry children.
- \$950 will provide a hot meal to everyone involved with the Hunger Network's 18 hot-meal programs.
- \$1,600 will feed everyone at one of those hot-meal programs for a month.

For more information about the Cleveland Foodbank, call 216-738-2265 or visit www.clevelandfoodbank.org. For details on the Hunger Network of Greater Cleveland, call 216-619-8155 or go to www.hungernetwork.org.