



30 Partners in 30 Days



WARM: Helping Westerville in many ways

The Westerville Area Resource Ministry (WARM) will celebrate its 40th anniversary next year. A long-time partner of Mid-Ohio Foodbank, WARM covers the 52 square miles of the Westerville School District and, according to Coordinator of Pantry Operations Patti Keene, is currently serving 400 families a month.

“The need in our community continues to grow,” she says. “Jobs are hard to find. Senior citizens are struggling on their fixed income as prices on necessities rise. Single parent homes struggle to be all things to their children. This is no different than in any other community.”

The pantry helps by offering their STOP program (Steps to Overcome Poverty) in addition to basic food necessities. This program includes resume and job interview help, budget counseling and self-esteem building classes and has had a positive effect on both clients and pantry workers. STOP was recently recognized with the Ohio Association of Nonprofit Organization’s Award of Excellence.



“Recently, we all stood in the pantry with tears as one of our clients made her last visit,” Keene recalls. “Her life coach in client services had assisted her in so many ways, including helping her find a part-time temporary job. The job turned to full-time and permanent and we all rejoiced as she announced she was now self-sufficient.”

It’s this idea of being a “hand-up” to their clients that drives everyone at WARM, from board members to volunteers. The food pantry offers a 6-day supply of food to the families it serves and they operate a Kids Lunch Club with nutritious meals when school is not in session.

“We service many people with disabilities or health issues that aren’t going away, people who have had sudden lifestyle changes after a job lay-off or income change, large families who just can’t stretch a dollar far enough, and the list goes on,” Keene says, adding that, thankfully, a caring community has stepped up to help them meet the need.

Learn More

Westerville Area Resource Ministry
www.warmwesterville.org
614-899-1042

Mid-Ohio Foodbank
www.midohiofoodbank.org
614-274-7770