DIRECTOR’S NOTES

"Work, honest work, gives us dignity."  Pope Francis

Dear Friends,

Labor Day, celebrated on the first Monday of each September, recognizes the American labor movement and the social and economic victories of the nation’s workforce. It constitutes a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country.

I always think of my father when we celebrate this end of the summer holiday. He was a man who took to heart the value of work as expressed in his very strong work ethic and pride in the product of his labor, both on the job or at our family home. As a union electrician working on major construction projects, he participated in building many of the large structures that define our city landscape yet today. It still brings a smile to drive past one of “Dad’s buildings” and remember his working man’s hands that made them operational during the day and then light up the night sky.

Here at MNM, we understand the value of work as an empowering tool that honors the dignity of each person. Pope Francis expressed this so well in his statement, “Through work, the family is cared for and children are provided with a dignified life”. Our training programs enable our graduates to enter the workforce, often for the first time, and begin to care for themselves and their families while also contributing to the overall well-being of our community.

We celebrated the beginning of this journey for eight women at our most recent Home Care Aide training program graduation. (see article on page 2). Mayor John Cranley joined us in recognizing the importance of this opportunity, when he said, “This is the heart of everything—getting people the tools they need to take care of their lives.”

What a perfect event to launch Labor Day weekend and to celebrate OUR contributions to the “strength, prosperity and well-being” of our city.

Happy Labor Day, everyone!

Blessings,

MNM Partners with Creative Aging Cincinnati
MNM has expanded its Senior Services programming by offering monthly arts activities through a collaboration with Creative Aging Cincinnati. In an effort to decrease isolation and provide arts and humanities programs that have a positive impact on the quality of life of older adults,

Jazz and blues artist Cheryl Renee had our seniors clapping and singing along. Acoustic guitarist and vocalist KJ Summerville’s mix of pop and country classics was a real treat that inspired one couple to dance in the aisles. Finally Ron Vance brought stories from the Old Testament to life through his unique storytelling using hand carved Biblesticks. We are excited for this new partnership and look forward to more programs in the coming months.
MNM Hosts Community Open House to Welcome Bridges Computer and Job Training Program

As MNM officially welcomed the Bridges Computer & Job Training Program (BCJT), our offices were filled with longtime supporters, community partners, and volunteers as well as many new friends at our first Community Open House on September 10. Beginning in mid September, BCJT is a twelve week training program for adult job seekers who are economically disadvantaged, with a curriculum that includes Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint; improving keyboarding; resume development; and related job readiness skills. Mercy Health generously donated computers which we were able to show off in our computer lab that will house the BCJT program.

MNM staff from all other program areas, including Senior & Supportive Services; Home Care & Home Care Aide Training; Education & Work Readiness; and the Julie Hanser Community Garden, were on hand to share information as guests toured our facilities. Sr. Kathy Green, RSM, Senior Vice President for Mission and Values Integration at Mercy Health, spoke of the critical needs for the programs at MNM as they are a direct reflection of and in alignment with the mission of the Sister of Mercy. These are busy days at Mercy Neighborhood Ministries and we were thrilled to share all of our growth and change with our guests.

Mayor Cranley Attends HCAT Graduation

As eight new Home Care Aides get ready to begin a new career in the healthcare field, they received a special message of encouragement and congratulations from Mayor John Cranley at their graduation ceremony. MNM is a partner in the Mayor’s Hand Up Initiative, an ambitious anti-poverty program that partners the City of Cincinnati with best in class job readiness programs to address the problems of long term unemployment and poverty. Other special guests included Daniel Kalubi, City of Cincinnati Community Development Analyst; Joe Curry, Executive Director of Everybody Rides Metro; and Jane Hils-Shea, MNM Board Chair. We are proud of our newest graduates as they begin their careers by providing their own special “Touch of Mercy” to help MNM fulfill its’ mission of supporting senior to age in place.

Union Savings Bank Supports MNM’s Food Pantry

Thanks to the energy and enthusiasm of Union Savings Bank Employee, Gina Partin, MNM’s food pantry is well stocked with much needed personal care items like toilet paper, body lotion, shampoo, and soap as well as canned protein like tuna and chicken. Gina rallied her co-workers during the month of July to collect identified items for the pantry and held a bake sale in support of MNM. In early August, three car loads of donations and a check for over $1,000 was delivered to us. Many thanks Gina and everyone at Union Savings Bank for sharing your kind and generous spirit with us.

Save the Date!
Taste of the Neighborhood
October 25, 2015 ~ Purcell Marian HS
All the details in our next issue!