



Columbus Federation
of Settlements

The Community Voice

Spring 2010
Many Communities. One Voice.

A Letter from CFS Inc



By Louise Alluis,
Executive Director

One question I hear from time to time is this: Why are there seven

Settlement Houses in Columbus? Wouldn't it be more 'efficient' to have just one large organization?

Settlement Houses are small and geographically limited by design. Neighborhood residents of one area may have an entirely different demographic make-up and unique challenges compared to another. Also, for individuals and families living with the challenges of poverty—many of whom lack adequate transportation—it is essential that help is near their homes, in their communities.

CFS Inc members know that efficient operations are an essential element

of good stewardship. And, they understand the bottom-line benefits of collaboration and scale. The founding of CFS Inc is testimony to that understanding.

Some of the recent activities and accomplishments of CFS Inc include:

- Facilitated the second Annual Board-to-Board Exchange for representatives from all Member Board of Directors and the first Leadership Board Exchange. This allows Board volunteers from various settlements to share best practices and discuss their accomplishments and needs.
- Acted as a single point of contact for several corporate donations and gifts for member agencies including backpacks and school supplies from Abercrombie & Fitch and healthy living equipment from a local advocacy group.
- Provided 187 total contact hours of continuing professional education tailored to the needs and interests of Settlement House staff.
- Utilized a gift of nearly \$14,000 that was donated in honor of attendees at the Columbus Foundation's Annual Meeting.
- Sponsored a Candidates' Night during the 2009 election season and sponsored the first CFS Inc Legislators Breakfast with city, state and federal officials. CFS Inc also sponsored the first state-wide meeting of Ohio Settlement Houses.
- Made significant progress toward bringing state-of-the-art client tracking and outcome measurement technology to all seven Settlement Houses through a comprehensive and unified Management Information Systems (MIS) project. Generous grants supporting this effort have been committed from the William J. and Dorothy K. O'Neill Foundation, Nationwide Insurance Foundation and the JP Morgan Chase Foundation. The pilot phase of the project has launched in March 2010.

Columbus Federation of Settlements Inc Members

Central Community House
www.cchouse.org
1150 E. Main St. 43205

Clintonville-Beechwood
Community Resources Center
www.clintonvillecrc.org
14 W. Lakeview Ave. 43202

Gladden Community House
www.gladden-us.org
183 Hawkes Ave. 43223

Godman Guild
www.godmanguild.org
303 E. 6th Ave. 43201

The Neighborhood House
www.neighborhoodhouseinc.org
1000 Atcheson St. 43203

South Side Settlement
www.ssshhouse.org
310 Innis Ave. 43207

St. Stephen's
Community House
www.saintstephensch.org
1500 E. 17th Ave. 43219

The Columbus Federation of Settlements enhances the capacity of its members and works collectively to support neighborhoods so that individuals and families are strengthened.

Member News

CFS Inc Members Impacting Columbus and Beyond

The Godman Guild's Camp Mary Orton turns 100 in 2010. The Guild will spend this hundredth year in efforts to reach camp alumni, raise awareness in the Columbus community, and raise funds to help support the operations of camp so that it can continue for another 100 years. A celebration will kick off on Friday, April 30, and Saturday, May 1 with entertainment, games and food. Camp Mary Orton invites alumni to share memories and stories of the meaning of Camp Mary Orton in a memoir of 100 stories as a tribute to the first 100 years. If you have a story, please email it to 100years@campmaryorton.org.



Neighborhood House Inc. is now operating the former Sawyer Recreation Center where several programs have expanded. The rec center site has allowed additional individuals to be find assistance in programs such as Outpatient Counseling Group Sessions, the Neighborhood Nest (support for pregnant women), youth afterschool activities and senior services program. In addition, a program called CHOICES thru the Tobias Project, Inc. is partnering with NHI, to offer free HIV, syphilis, and hepatitis C testing. Hours are Mondays & Wednesdays between 3:00-7:00 p.m. or by appointment. Call 614-252-4941 ext. 34 for more information.



Teens of the Transit Arts program and students from The Ohio State University joined together at Central Community House in a service-learning design course to create solutions and assets for the renovation of the agency's former longtime home at 1251 Bryden Rd. Together the two groups of students explored principles of Visual Communications, Industrial Design and Interior Design. Neighborhood youth were able to tour OSU campus and learn about higher learning, while the college students learned about urban arts and the settlement house philosophies.

Over 2200 families' lives were brightened this Christmas through St. Stephen's Community House with the help of volunteers and groups such as the AFL-CIO. On December 18, over 300 volunteers played Santa Claus as they carefully chose toys, stuffed animals, games and dolls to be placed under Christmas trees all over central Ohio. Volunteers also helped to prepare special boxes of food, including canned goods, frozen meals, turkeys, milk and eggs. On December 19, another 300 volunteers braved the cold to load up local families' cars with baskets of food and toys.

Clintonville-Beechwood Community Resources Center will hold an EAS 5K Run/Walk on May 31, 2010 at the Whetstone Park of Roses. Supporters of all ages are invited to participate in this family-friendly event. For more information, call (614) 268-3539.

CFS 2010 Spring Conference

Friday, April 30, 2010

8:30 am – 4:00 pm

Columbus Department of Public Service, 1881 E. 25th Ave. Columbus, Ohio 43219

Management/Administrative Track: Labor Law, Effective Management Techniques, CFS Performance Evaluation Tool

Youth Track: Angel in You Girls Leadership Development, Art in the House, Step Up to Quality Child Care Training, Summer Learning Panel

Basic Needs/Employment Track: Choice Food Pantries, COWIC Job Builders, Employment Transitions

Seniors/Volunteers Track: Active Seniors, Volunteers in the Settlement House, Hospice Services, Intergenerational Programming

Full Conference Lunch Presentation: "More Than Just a Meal" - A look at how food programs can offer social connectivity and access to valuable resources. Each track offers a total of 5 CEUs. Lunch presentation is an additional 1 CEU.

Art is Blooming at the Settlement Houses of CFS Inc

The Transit Arts program is thriving at the member Settlement Houses of CFS Inc. Art in a wide variety of forms including writing, dance, digital creations, gardening and much more is made available to youth as a safe, healthy alternative to many of the negative life experiences that they encounter in daily life.

While the program was created primarily for teens, a partnership with the Greater Columbus Arts Council has allowed art opportunities to be presented to younger children through a program called Art in the House. Through Art in the House, programming is offered at five Columbus Federation of Settlements' member agencies, along with other neighborhood partner sites, for children ages 5 to 11. Accomplished professional artists work with apprentice artists at each site to provide hands-on introductions and exploration of various art forms to students after school and during the summer. Art in the House allows participants to begin their connection to lifelong learning through the arts.

A special exhibition of works by participants in the Gladden Community House program call Blue in Bloom is currently in place a COSI. Gladden youth created chalk, watercolor and oil pastel pieces featuring blue flowers of all kinds. The exhibition highlights the Franklinton neighborhood's official color, which is blue, and the work is symbolic of the neighborhood's efforts to provide a positive, cohesive image. The show will run through June 27.

Transit Arts continues to offer a creative and entrepreneurial outlets to teens and young adults throughout Columbus. The success of the program was recently recognized when the United Way of Central Ohio granted funding for Transit Arts through 2012.



For the Blue in Bloom show, lead artist Queen Brooks and apprentice artists Debbie Erwin and Jazmine Blaney, of Columbus, worked with the children at Gladden Community House to create the exhibition now on display at COSI.

Spring opportunities include:

- Digital Storytelling at Central Community House Tuesdays at 4:30 p.m.
- Hip Hop Dance with DJ BHB at South Side Settlement Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.
- Dance with Malik "Balance" Willoughby at Neighborhood House/Sawyer Rec Center Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.
- Writer's Block with Jai Carey at Neighborhood House/Sawyer Rec Center Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.
- Art with Duarte Brown at Neighborhood House/Sawyer Rec Center Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.
- Art with Aaron "Monastic" Thomas at South Side Settlement Thursdays at 6:45 p.m.



Date: Sunday, May 9, 2010
Location: The Ohio State University - Fred Beekman Park
Registration begins: 8:00 a.m.
Registration fee: \$20/person online or at event
Start time: 9:00 a.m.

Fight Against Poverty 5k is intended to raise awareness and funding to combat poverty in central Ohio. The 5k race/1 mile walk is being organized by The Ohio State University College of Social Work and the College of Social Work Student Association. The event will be held on Sunday, May 9 at Fred Beekman Park on the campus of The Ohio State University. Funds raised by the event will benefit the Columbus Federation of Settlements. Special thanks to the social work students organizing the event and sponsors: Spinelli's Deli, FrontRunner, YMCA, Jason K Burke Designs.

For more information and to register online:

www.premierraces.com/2010Races/FightPoverty.html

*The Community Voice
is produced and distributed by the
Columbus Federation of Settlements*

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Need for Food Aid on the Rise for Columbus Families

Several recent nationwide and local surveys have showed that during the past year one-in-eight U.S. households have turned to food pantries or other emergency food assistance to help make ends meet. The Mid-Ohio Food Bank recently reported that 5% of those seeking aid with food have college degrees and that 18% have held managerial/professionals jobs. In the Columbus metro area, a January Gallup poll showed the number seeking food assistance at one-in-five households. Thousands of these individuals in need have been able to find help at the Columbus Settlement Houses.

Food Pantries operate at Clintonville-Beechwald Community Resources Center (CRC), Neighborhood House, St. Stephen's Community House, South Side Settlement and Gladden Community House. In addition several creative food programs can be found at all seven settlement houses including community dinners, take-home groceries, summer meals for children enrolled in camps and discounted food programs.

One alternative national program called Angel Food Ministries available through Central Community House allows families to stretch monthly food budgets by purchasing bundles of groceries each month at a near 50% discount over retail prices. The Signature Box valued at over \$65 includes enough food for a family of four for a week for just \$30. The program is open to anyone who wishes to participate. More information and online ordering can be found at www.angelfoodministries.com.

The Clintonville-Beechwald CRC operates a Choice Food Pantry as part of the Family Services Program. The Food Pantry operates Monday through Friday including two late evenings. Once a month through this program CRC provides food for 7 days (21 meals) for each individual in the house which they choose for themselves. 2009 saw an increase in the number of individuals and families who accessed CRC's food pantry. In May 2009, 270 households were served, but by December the number had grown to 411 households for the month.

The various food pantries and other basic needs programs throughout the Settlement Houses have reported seeing larger household sizes because families are doubling-up with relatives or friends to avoid homelessness and with hope to make ends meet. In addition, more individuals accessing food and basic needs assistance are aged 60 and over.

The Basic Needs Supervisor at CRC, Beth Stewart-Magee, reported, "We are experiencing an increase in families without health insurance, who are unemployed, underemployed, and those who are seeking assistance for the first time."



Clintonville-Beechwald CRC Choice Food Pantry offers stocked shelves of grocery staples so that families can select food that makes sense for their tastes, diets and household make-up.

In response, CRC increased its Ohio Benefit Bank activity with the help of a full-time worker from Americorps VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America). The Ohio Benefit Bank, in place at several of the Settlement Houses, offers a guided one-stop-shop computer program to determine for families many of the resources for which they qualify and even allows remote applications for some government programs. Individuals and families needing assistance can get connected with food stamps, utility assistance and 16 other benefits through this online service. It is available within their own neighborhoods, at the local Settlement House, eliminating the need to make a trip to a downtown office or large government center.

The wide variety of food assistance programs and the comfortable environment of the neighborhood Settlement Houses, mean more families can find the aid they need. Going to the local community center, or accessing food aid through other youth and family programs removes much of the stigma one might encounter by utilizing soup kitchens or food lines. Choice pantries, celebratory community dinners and food-purchasing programs further foster dignity and empowerment because individuals are better able to provide for their own families in the ways that make the most sense for them.

The Columbus Federation of Settlements was recently recognized as a convenient vehicle to support the food assistance work of the member Settlement Houses through a supporting gift made by the Columbus Foundation. Those who wish to reach the people in the underprivileged and forgotten neighborhoods of the city need only to work with CFS Inc for a quick, effective and dignified route toward helping to ensure quality of life for all citizens.

Would you like to receive our e-newsletter? Please send your request to E-news@CFSettlements.org. It is the policy of CFS Inc to not sell, distribute or otherwise share our mailing lists.