

Our West Side Story

A LEGACY OF CARING, A TRADITION OF RESPECT.

Summer 2022

Message From Our Executive Director



May Dugan
Center
Est. 1969

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As the community continues to grapple with high inflation and other economic downturns, May Dugan Center staff and volunteers have been responding to the growing needs of our clients. In particular, with the rising cost of food, and with the support from the Cleveland Foodbank, Westlake School District, St. Mark Catholic Church, United Way of Greater Cleveland, and many local foundations and donors, we have been able to help thousands of individuals experiencing food insecurity. In fact, in just the first six months of the year, we served more people than all of 2019 combined.

It is amazing to see the dedication of so many volunteers who join our staff to pack hundreds of bags of non-perishable groceries and fresh produce twice a month and help distribute and deliver to low-income seniors and other individuals who may not have transportation. For nearly 54 years, our food pantry has served thousands of Cleveland residents. We are proud to know that we are one of the largest food pantries in the Cleveland Food Bank's six-county jurisdiction.

I am very excited to report that we are now in our "final stretch," of our capital campaign. Upon completion of the renovation and expansion of our building, we will have a new food pantry with updated refrigeration and needed space for storage, packing, and distribution. Demolition and construction are scheduled to begin in late September. This has been an amazing journey for the past four years and the May Dugan team is grateful for the support that we have been able to secure from local foundations, corporations, individual donors, the local and state governments, and members of our Board of Directors.

Along with the Basic Needs food distribution, we continue to serve many individuals through our Education Recourse Center, Trauma Recovery Center, Seniors on the Move, Behavioral Health, and MomsFirst program. We can only continue this critical programming with your continued support.

Thank you,

Rick A. Kemm



The Mission of the May Dugan Center is to help people enrich and advance their lives and communities.

Education Resource Center Celebrates Honors and Graduation

Honors

21 ESOL students earned awards for the number of classes attended. One student attended 372 classes between June 2021-May 2022.

4 General Education students were recognized. Our 82-year-old student received a Lifetime of Learning Award.

6 Workforce Development students earned honors for career development.

9 students earned their GED between June 2021-June 21, 2022. 6 passed in 2022.



On June 22nd, May Dugan Center's Education Resource Center celebrated a successful Honors and Graduation ceremony. This year the ERC included the general education students in the honors ceremony, in recognition of the hard work and effort they put forth daily to achieve their goals. The pure joy of the students made the event special and you could tell the students were thrilled to be honored. An attendee of the event expressed her joy to us.

"I wanted to thank you again for such a lovely evening! I was so proud of my brother and all of the other recipients. I sent all of our friends a picture of my brother with his award. One friend looked up some information about May Dugan Center and is also thinking of joining for herself! I was thrilled."

The May Dugan center is proud to be able to help our students, and inspire excellence. As the night went on over 40 awards were handed out.

Janice Eatman-Williams of Case Western Reserve University gave an inspiring speech about moving forward, it was the perfect message for the evening. We are proud of all of our students!





Seniors on the Move Provides Outreach for Older Americans Month

By Vanessa Jackson

On May 27th, May Dugan Center's Seniors on the Move distributed 127 hygiene kits they had created to local seniors in recognition of older Americans month. In addition to personal care and household items, the kits contained valuable information about programs and services vital to keeping older adults healthy and active in the community as they age.

For low-income seniors, personal hygiene and household cleaning products can be unaffordable. Costing an average of \$74.00 per month, personal care and household items can be as much as 23% of seniors of disposable income.

The May Dugan Center Senior on the Move team includes a Behavioral Health Counselor who specializes in mental health services for older adults, a bilingual Case Manager, a Senior Wellness Coordinator, and two program assistants. The program distributes food and CSFP senior food box provide healthy nutritional options to the senior community. Together this team offers services to help seniors live active, healthy lives so they can remain in their homes in the community. The May Dugan Center Senior on the Move program offers those 55 and over (disabled adults 50 and over) an opportunity to enjoy life, explore new creative passions, and learn skills to make aging an exciting part of life. The Seniors on the Move Program was launched in 2015 to provide socialization for older adults as well as guidance on issues that affect their lives including wellness information, workshops, health screenings, and group sessions. Over time the program has grown to include learning opportunities in technology, creative arts, and group activities and topics of interest members of the program would like to learn more about.

"I Love the camaraderie we have with each other, even when new people start they are welcomed." - Ronetta



If you or someone you know is interested in joining Seniors On The Move contact Vanessa Jackson at vjackson@maydugancenter.org | 216-631-5800 x139



IRISH ROOTS

By Nicolle Bellmore Pierse

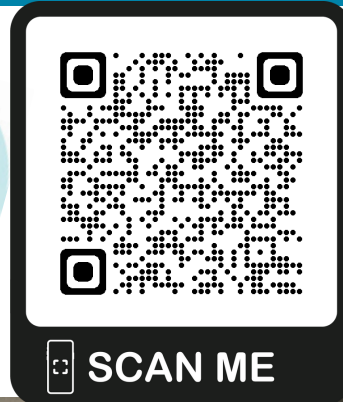
On June 17th, May Dugan Center returned to Music Box Supper Club for its 7th annual Irish Roots Celebration. Nearly 300 people came together to support the mission of May Dugan Center- and have a good time! Generous support from the community was evident in the 22 raffle baskets and 7 silent auction items. May Dugan's own grandson won the handsome bar basket – a fitting tribute to his grandmother's days as a local tavern owner. 80's Alternative kept the dance floor hopping with their collection of 80s classics. Emcee Peacock dazzled the crowd with his attire, even Rick Kemm could not resist the brilliant jacket. The evening was full of fun, laughter, and generosity with over \$30,000 raised for May Dugan Center.



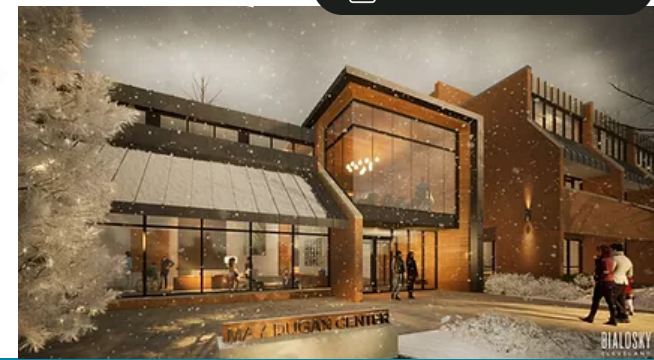
Capital Campaign

Construction is slated to start this fall and be completed by the end of 2024. Be sure to follow us on social media to receive updates.

Become part of the legacy by donating today!



As of July 1st, we have raised 90% of our 7 Million Dollar goal.



For more information on the May Dugan Center and our programs please visit www.maydugancenter.org

May Dugan Center Celebrates its LGBTQIA+ programs and Cleveland Pride



On June 4th May Dugan Center staff, volunteers, and members of the Board of Directors came together to march in Pride in the CLE 2022. Pride in the CLE aims to lift the voices of the community and advocate for social justice for the LGTBQIA+ community. LGBTQIA+ people are at increased risk of experiencing shame, discrimination, and potentially adverse traumatic events. May Dugan Center provides specialized LGBTQIA+ care through the behavioral health services program. This includes individual counseling, case management, prevention and education in two local high schools, and Ryan White case management and mental health counseling for eligible HIV clients.

Currently, Dylan Dickinson MSSN, LSW, provides specialized LGBTQIA+ services at May Dugan Center. They help clients navigate stigma, expression, and relationships while encouraging clients to be their truest most authentic selves. May Dugan Center is proud to be a safe, caring space for all clients.

Staff Spotlight

Without Larry and Kerwin, May Dugan Center's maintenance team, May Dugan Center would not be what it is today! They are the heart and soul of the agency, always willing to lend a helping hand and tackle any task with a smile. From hanging banners to hauling food or simply unlocking the doors. Larry and Kerwin do it all.

"I love working for May Dugan Center because of the people, they make coming to work worth it. I also love the work we do to make the community better" - Kerwin



"My Favorite thing about May Dugan Center is our food distribution. I love how I am able to give back to our community, and make a difference to families who are in need of food." - Larry



Interested in supporting the May Dugan Center?
Scan the QR code or Contact the Development team at 216-631 5800 ext 124.



A community partner since 1960



The May Dugan Center and Step Forward, formerly The Council for Economic Opportunities in Greater Cleveland, have shared a history going back to the late 1960s. Together the two organizations battled the war on poverty. May Dugan Center was one of Step Forward's Neighborhood Opportunity Centers and has always addressed the needs of poverty in Cleveland, which has one of the highest poverty levels in the country. Combined these two organizations addressed the need, helping low-income families move from poverty to self-sufficiency. The commitment of both of our organizations has never changed: serve low-income families. During the Pandemic Step Forward was able to help significantly increase funding for May Dugan Center to be able to offer rental assistance and utility assistance. These funds made a tremendous difference in the lives of clients. 206 clients were provided rental assistance and 443 were provided utility assistance. For many, this was the difference between remaining in their home or becoming homeless. The partnership with Step Forward is key to May Dugan Center's mission as a multi-service agency. Step Forward maintains an office at May Dugan Center for energy assistance programs including the home energy assistance program (HEAP) and Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP). Step Forward is led by Dr. Jacklyn A. Chisholm.

Dr. Jacklyn A. Chisholm has been an advocate for many years in Cleveland. She began her career at Case Western Reserve University, starting as an admission counselor and working her way up to the Director in Minority Programs.



Following a move back to Cleveland from Atlanta, Dr. Chisholm heard that The Council for Economic Opportunities in Greater Cleveland was searching for a new CEO/President. Hired because of her reputation for developing and improving existing programs, with Dr. Chisholm's leadership, Step Forward was born. Why Step Forward? Because that is what the organization does, it helps people step forward.



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maydugancenter.org

Save the Date!
14th Annual Tree
Lighting Ceremony on
December 1st!



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