

Our West Side Story



May Dugan
Center
Est. 1969

A LEGACY OF CARING A TRADITION OF RESPECT

FALL 2021



MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

For the past year, the **May Dugan Center** has continued to serve thousands of individuals and families through our six core programs. The number of individuals served has continued to grow, particularly with our *Food Distribution* and *Behavioral Health Program*. We are proud to partner with the Greater Cleveland Foodbank, and recently learned we are the largest food pantry within their six county jurisdiction.

Our *Behavioral Health* and *Trauma Recovery* staff have been working diligently to ensure that those individuals impacted by anxiety and other *Behavioral Health* disorders are taken care of during this stressful time. We are grateful to be able to work closely with the Cleveland Police Department to assist individuals who have been victims of crime and to assist them during their stabilization period.

As we begin to plan for the New Year, our *Education & Resource Center*, *Seniors on the Move* and *MomsFirst Programs* are preparing to expand our services that will help people prepare and find jobs with livable wages, prevent infant mortality and isolation of seniors.

All of this great work that we do is made possible by the philanthropic support from individuals, foundations and faith based communities. We are forever grateful for your support and hope that you will keep us in mind as we continue our mission "to help people enrich and advance their lives and communities."

Sincerely,

Rick A. Kemm, MNO
Executive Director



Ricardo wants to provide a better life for his daughter.

RICARDO'S STORY

Ricardo learned about **May Dugan Center** because his mother has been participating in the food distribution for years. Ricardo enrolled in the *Education Resource Center* to earn his GED and find his career path. Ricardo wants to provide a better life for his daughter. Ricardo breezed through the first three sections of the GED and struggled with math. The flexibility of the hybrid schedule at *May Dugan Center* allowed him to schedule evening and weekend tutoring sessions around his work schedule. On his third attempt at the math test he passed. He brought his mother and daughter to the graduation ceremony in June. Ricardo has continued working with the staff at *May Dugan* while he is exploring different careers. Currently, he is working with his tutor on writing a resume and is looking at a truck driving school.



Lucy Linares has been a force advocating and working with clients to keep them from homelessness.

KEEPING A ROOF OVER THEIR HEADS

Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic new clients have walked through the doors, many faced with unprecedented challenges related to the pandemic. Lucy Linares has been a force advocating and working with clients to keep them from homelessness. Their stories are not unusual – company downsizing, reduced hours, no childcare options, mental and physical health concerns. Through it all rent and utilities are still due and with the eviction moratorium ending, Lucy’s appointment book is scheduled into January.



Brenda will be greatly missed by our close-knit May Dugan Center family!

SPECIAL THANKS TO BRENDA

Thank you to Brenda Saridakis Development Director for leading the **May Dugan Center** fundraising efforts. Your leadership, strategic thinking, and compassion will be greatly missed.

Thank You!

“I am 22 years old with custody of my 14 year old sister. I fell behind in rent when I lost my job temporarily due to Covid-19. I am a bartender. I don’t receive any assistance, and I just need help getting out of this hole.”

~ MDC client

May Dugan Center is working with the landlord to help this young lady remain in her home and support her sister.



GIE Media



Shook Construction



Trane Technologies

A Glimpse into the Lifesaving Work of Lucy and the May Dugan Center!

A single mother May Dugan Center client writes;

“While employed at my most recent job, I tested positive for Covid-19. Since the whole group home tested positive they told me to still come to work in order to get paid. Covid-19 has been a cause of great strain.

CORPORATE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
Does your team want to make a difference? Does your team want a volunteer experience that is rewarding? Come volunteer as a group at the **May Dugan Center**. Check out our website for volunteer opportunities.

JOB COACHING

May Dugan Center offers support services that meet clients with what they need when they need to find sustainable employment. Tiffany is a single mom facing challenges to stay employed in customer service this past year while caring for two young children at home during the Covid-19 pandemic. She worked with **May Dugan Center** staff to find resources to acquire internet service and a laptop which allowed her to work from home. She now has a dispatcher job for a delivery company that allows her to work from home and have flexibility around her children's schedule.

STAFF PICNIC

May Dugan Center staff celebrate all their hard work at this year's Annual Staff Picnic on September 24th at Lakewood Park. As we continue to grow to meet the needs of our community welcome to our newest team members, Dylan LGBTQ+ Therapist and Glenn Odenbrett Workforce Development Coordinator.



Annual Staff Picnic!

Success Story!

"Edith" found her house shot up again and again. In the spring of 2020, however, a Cleveland detective decided to reach out to **May Dugan Center** on her behalf. The detective explained that she was not the target, but his concerns grew for 78-year old Edith as the neighborhood violence increased. Edith was grateful when **May Dugan Center's** victim advocate called to offer assistance with moving, as it is not easy to move during a pandemic.

Her assigned **Trauma Recovery Center** worker was even able to project house listings on her television so she could view them. They talked through locations and prices as she ventured out to view housing options. With much trepidation she finally agreed to a building for seniors. Within a week of the move she was calling to talk about her welcoming neighbors and her refurbished apartment. While raving about her granite countertops, she also talked about the relief she feels sleeping and living free from gunfire.

WESTLAKE PTA

Thank you! Thank you! For over 10 years the **Westlake PTA and May Dugan Center** have partnered for to provide food and personal care items. Thank you to the students, staff, parents and PTA volunteers who helped make this event a success! Special thanks to Erin Baesel for taking the lead and helping us continue our work.



LOURDES ACADEMY REUNION

The **Lourdes Academy** celebrated 50 years by coming back to "the Rock" at the former location of Lourdes Academy, now the site of the **May Dugan Center**.



The Rock!



Trip to the Cleveland Botanical Gardens this summer!



SENIORS ON THE MOVE ENJOYING TIME TOGETHER

Seniors On The Move are back together and enjoying every minute!



Halloween Celebration!



4115 BRIDGE AVENUE • CLEVELAND, OH 44113
maydugancenter.org

TO MAKE A DONATION PLEASE VISIT:

maydugancenter.org/donate

FOLLOW US ON:



TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY AT MAY DUGAN CENTER
THURSDAY DECEMBER 2, 2021 AT 5PM

May Dugan Center will be hosting its **12th Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony** on December 2, 2021 beginning at 5pm. A ginormous Christmas Tree will be lit up @ 5:30pm following a **Neighborhood Santa Tour** at 7pm. All ages are welcome to join us in celebration!

Generous
Jacques!



WE ARE HERE TO HELP!

VACCINES

Please call the number below if you would like to schedule your vaccine.

(216) 631-5800 ext. 300

THE JACQUES

Betty & Henry Jacques have been supporters of the **May Dugan Center** for the past 11 years. This year Betty knit 160 scarves and donated 63 hats and 10 pairs of gloves to share with clients in need.