

Our West Side Story

A LEGACY OF CARING, A TRADITION OF RESPECT.

Spring 2022



Message From Our Executive Director

I am very proud that throughout the past two years, the May Dugan Center has continued to "help people enrich and advance their lives and communities." The pandemic created many challenges but helped make us an even more viable human service organization.

It is more than heartwarming to know that the number of clients served through our food distribution program had more than a 250% increase over the previous years and that we were successful in recruiting over 200 volunteers to help prepare and distribute thousands of bags of groceries, fresh produce, and other necessary supplies. It is also heartwarming to know we assisted hundreds of individuals through our behavioral health counseling, served individuals through our Trauma Recovery Center, Education Resource Center, and Seniors on the Move Program, and helped prevent Infant Mortality through our Moms First Program. In this Newsletter, we are proud to have stories told by those people serving the community, our staff.

As we look ahead, our plans are to continue and expand our services as we remember our legacy of helping those in need. Our capital campaign is close to the final stretch and shortly, we will begin the long overdue renovation and expansion of our building. We are very grateful to the City of Cleveland for transferring the ownership of the building to the May Dugan Center. This will allow us to continue our services in a modernized facility that our clients, volunteers, and staff deserve.

We are forever grateful for the support we have received from our individual donors, foundations, corporations, and the faith based community. Without your support, we would not be able to serve the thousands of clients that we do serve annually. To learn more about how you can help, please visit our website or contact me directly.

Sincerely,

Rick A. Kemm, MNO
Executive Director



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

A community in need: May Dugan Center heeds the call

*2021 by the
numbers*



17,510
Individuals
served
through:

Basic Needs
(Food Distribution, Clothing Closet,
Utility Assistance, Covid Rapid
Response)

**Behavioral Health
Services**

Trauma Recovery Center

**Education Recourse
Center**

MomsFirst

Seniors on the Move

**Over 20% of
clients
engaged
with more
than one
program.**



BY DANNY TREICHEL

May Dugan Center has been at the forefront of fighting food insecurity throughout the pandemic. When I got the opportunity to participate in MDC's food distribution I was excited and inspired to be able to give my time to make a difference.

On a cold and snowy Wednesday morning, I started my day outside where I helped put produce in cars. There I met Ryan, a volunteer. I asked him, "What's your connection to May Dugan Center? To which he replied, "I just live in the neighborhood." May Dugan Center inspires and cultivates a sense of community. As the temperatures dropped and the snow fell, I stood with a smile on my face because I had a purpose, and my purpose was to help the community.

As new volunteers arrived, I transitioned inside where a group of five volunteers were busy packing produce. They immediately welcomed me on their line and I began to pack bags with them. As the time passed I asked the same question. "How did you end up volunteering with May Dugan Center? I received many answers, "I live in the neighborhood", "I just want to make a difference", "and I have a family member who works for MDC." The Food Distribution gives these volunteers an opportunity to serve their community and give them something to be proud of. I know I left that day feeling proud.

Since 1969 Food Distribution has been a staple of the May Dugan Center. When food became scarce for the community, residents knew they could count on the May Dugan Center. When the Covid-19 pandemic shook the world May Dugan Center saw its numbers triple when it came to recipients of the distribution. There was no decrease in demand since March 25, 2020. May Dugan Center is projected to distribute its ONE-MILLIONTH meal to families in need. If you or someone you know is facing food insecurity, contact May Dugan Center at 216-631-5800, we are here to help.

**Interested in volunteering? Contact Danny Treichel at
dtreichel@maydugancenter.org**



Trauma Recovery Services

Healing happens as a community

BY SUE MARASCO

On Friday at 8pm the Trauma Recovery line rang as a detective at the 4th district Police station called looking for support for a car-jacking victim. He was thrown from his vehicle, beaten, and his glasses broken before he was rushed to University Hospitals with many serious injuries. The perpetrator had taken the man's house keys as well as the car. Within the hour, a locksmith had been called to secure his house. By Monday, the Trauma Recovery Services had secured new glasses. Staff also worked with his wife to manage needs around his recovery and understand his rights as a victim. He is home and with the help of his family his healing has begun. Supporting him takes a community, and the rapid connection between police, locksmiths, and optometrists among others helped the family focus on supporting him as May Dugan's trauma recovery team took care of the rest.

"I have tried other programs, but this is the first one that has actually helped me." Healing happens as a community and we are honored that our May Dugan clients are able to find their community here.

Clients Respond Positively to May Dugan Center Services

In the annual client survey, 82% of respondents reported that accessing services during COVID-19 was acceptable under the circumstances or easier. 2021 had more participants in mental health group programming than before the pandemic. With safety procedures in place, and remote options available as needed, group programming grew and diversified. From intensive recovery programming, to supportive step-down aftercare and specialized groups like grief and art therapy, clients are partnering with staff for the resources they need to fully engage in their families and communities. Groups have proven to be an important place of support as clients develop the tools they need to thrive. As we progress throughout 2022, we are well positioned to deliver services in a form that a client prefers. As we progress throughout 2022, we are well positioned to deliver services in a form that a client prefers.



The Kilbane Family Story

By Patty Kaplan

The May Dugan Center is a family place. You see it every day – families on Food Distribution Day, families in crisis, family members visiting a counselor, families donating to support the Center's work in the community and families sharing the beauty of the holiday season at the Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony.

This is the story of the Kilbane family, parents Edward and Angela and their eight children, who grew up in the neighborhood. They went to church at St. Patrick's, they studied at local schools, and they were told that charity starts at home and is spread to your neighbors and friends.

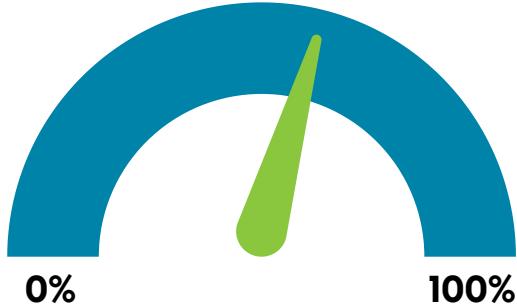
Edward and Angela taught their children to love their family and their community and to do good for others. And this octet – Patricia, Jean, Bridget, Edward Jr., Eileen, Mary Josephine, Peggy, and Sean – chose their paths, going into public health, nursing, retail grocery, etc.

Edward Jr. married V.A. (Virginia) who led them to May Dugan for an art show, and eventually, she joined the Board of Directors where she served for five years. Edward and Sean also served several years on the board.

They honor their parents every year by supporting the efforts of the May Dugan Center's mission "to help people enrich and advance their lives and communities." Standing as a testament to their family and community. Thank you to the Kilbane family for your many years of support and service.

Capital Campaign

May Dugan Center is now the proud owner of our building! This provides the physical anchor for our mission and is an exciting step in our capital campaign.



To date we have raised 58% of our 7 Million Dollar goal.

Help us build our legacy by donating today!



SCAN ME



For more information on the May Dugan Center and our programs please visit [www.maydugancenter.org](http://maydugancenter.org)

Honoring Carmen Nieves

BY VANESSA JACKSON



This winter Seniors on the Move lost a dear member, and friend Carmen Nieves

Carmen had an adventurous nature. She was always ready to participate in group activities and suggest new ones. Carmen was dedicated, volunteering her time to the clothing closet here at May Dugan

Her strength and tenacity was awe-inspiring. When she saw an injustice she pursued a solution with zeal. She shared her knowledge with all of those who needed it, the attributes of a true leader.

Carmen was the heart of our group; a friend to all and ever-present help. Most of all Carmen was kind, loving, and fun.

May Dugan Center Celebrates a successful 12th annual Tree Lighting

May Dugan Center Celebrated a successful Tree Lighting on December 2nd, 2021. The event was attended by 300+ people and was blessed by beautiful weather for a December night. Attendees enjoyed live choral music performed by Urban Community Schools and the Seniors on The Move Program. After the magical moment of the lighting Santa arrived to tour our beautiful neighborhood. This event was enjoyed by all ages.



Development Staff



Nicolle Bellmore Pierse

Director of Development.

Nicolle has her BA in Social Work from Mercyhurst College. Her Master's in Social Work from Case Western Reserve University and her Master's in Adult Learning from Walden University. She has spent the last 14 years in development and program management in Lorain County.

Danny Treichel

Marketing and Development Specialist

Danny attended Baldwin Wallace University for his BA in Political Science. He currently attends The George Washington University for his Master's in Political Management. "I am excited to be a part of something so wonderful for the community"

Interested in supporting the May Dugan Center?

Scan the QR code or Contact the Development team at 216-631 5800 ext 124.





4115 BRIDGE AVENUE • CLEVELAND, OH 44113

maydugancenter.org

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Upcoming Events

Annual Flower Sale

**Proceeds benefit
May Dugan Center
Order Deadline:
Friday, April 22nd**

**Flower Pick up:
Thursday, May 19th |
12 pm-6:30 pm**

**Food distribution:
2nd & 4th
Wednesday
of each month.
Call
216-631-5800**

Irish Roots



Friday, June 17th, 6-10 PM

**Music Box Supper Club
1148 Main Ave
Cleveland OH, 44113**

**Save The Date
More details to come!**