



# COMMUNITY MATTERS

## VOLUNTEER NEWS

### COMMUNITY MATTERS HOSTS FIRST MONTHLY COMMUNITY CLEAN UP

Streets were scoured and many bellies filled with delicious food on Saturday, March 18, at the first monthly LPH Community Clean Up. Breakfast was served following the hour-and-a-half clean-up time. "It felt great, even though the weather was gloomy," says one attendant. "It made me so happy to come together after working to improve the place we live and just hang out with my neighbors, sharing a meal around the table."

The project was planned as a joint effort between Community Matters Staff and the Youth Program Staff at Joe Williams Family Center. The events are intended to bring neighbors together to work on a community-centered project and create space for conversation about each others' talents, skills, interests, and passions.

"Our hope is to find these stories that everyone has, no matter their circumstance, and make connections." says one Community Matters staff member. "Everyone has an interest; a talent that can be applied in the community. Sometimes it's a matter of creating opportunities for conversation to give energy to those relationships. This is the type of thing that takes two people who once just lived next door to each other and transforms them into neighbors."

The next LPH Community Clean Up is scheduled for Summer 2017. Everyone is invited to attend.



### VOLUNTEERS AT COMMUNITY MATTERS

Like many non-profit organizations, Community Matters values the contribution of volunteers to make our programs great. Volunteers bring their A-game when they give their time in the Community Market Pantry—stocking shelves and ensuring guests are cared for as they select their items. Volunteers bring their expertise when they engage in the gardens—planting seeds, maintaining buildings and structures, and showing young people how to tell the difference between a weed and food. Volunteering is for everyone and can be a great way to get to know new people and places in your community

You can join the fun by visiting our website at <http://cmcincy.org/get-involved/>



LPH Residents, Meka and Charnette, Laugh together as they pick up trash around their neighborhood

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### Jenna Hippensteel

Director of Community Programs

513-244-2214 ext 209

[volunteer@cmcincy.org](mailto:volunteer@cmcincy.org)

### VOLUNTEER BIRTHDAYS

**Monica Bonecutter**

May 26

### AT A GLANCE

#### *Wake up the Gardens*

- Mulch Paths
- Pull Weeds
- Plant Seeds
- Clean and Maintain

#### *New Opportunity Hub*

- Sort and Organize
- Move Furniture
- Decorate

#### *Pantry Forever!*

- Welcome and Reception
- Personal Shopper
- Stocking and Sorting

2110 SAINT MICHAEL ST  
CINCINNATI, OH 45204

[WWW.CMCINCY.ORG](http://WWW.CMCINCY.ORG)

## LPH LOOKS FORWARD TO ANNUAL COMMUNITY PICNIC

Every year, Community Matters hosts our friends and neighbors for a picnic. This year's event will be held in the newly constructed Sassafras Garden for the first time since its opening and will also double as the kick-off event for weekly Garden Parties and Monthly Family Nights in the Garden. Planned activities for this year's picnic include corn hole, face painting, and music. After the meal, Green Acres Farm of Indian Hill, a long-time partner of the LPH Gardens, will lead the community in filling the Sassafras garden beds with seeds and starts that will grow into vegetables for the summer.

Community Picnic begins at 2:30 PM on May 12. All are welcome.



## HABITAT FOR HUMANITY TO UNDERTAKE SEVEN LPH RENOVATIONS

Habitat for Humanity is slated to renovate historic homes in Lower Price Hill through a partnership with Community Matters, former owner of many of the properties, and Oyler School. The project began as part of an undertaking to create affordable housing and home-ownership that is dignified, bright and beautiful in the neighborhood. "Our primary goal is to house families that already live in LPH," says one spokesperson for the project. "We want people who aren't able to become homeowners right now to be afforded that chance."

Seven homes will be renovated, two or three at a time, over the next three years. Each Habitat home will rely on volunteers during the build. To become a volunteer or learn more about the projects visit our website at

<http://cmcincy.org/volunteer-inquiry-form/>



## LPH NEIGHBORS ARE "COOKING TOGETHER"

Community Matters takes pride in the way each of our individual programs fits together with all the rest. A shining example of this concept, "Cooking Together," one of Community Matters' newest undertakings driven forward by AmeriCorps member, Katelynn Blake, brings LPH residents together in the Sanctuary to learn about and cook the foods they can find in the CM pantry and gardens. Once a month, community members take turns teaching and learning from each other. Neighbors reconnect and laugh over the food they make together, telling stories while exploring new and different recipes. All community members are invited to contribute, teach or just listen and learn while enjoying a family-style, home-cooked meal.



LPH residents smile after a potluck-style feast at the most recent Cooking Together

The next Cooking Together will be a grill-out, May 24, 6PM-8PM. All are welcome.

**Mission:** To create a thriving and more just community by removing barriers to opportunity.

**Vision:** A city where all people hold the power to create opportunity.

## IN KIND DONATIONS WISH LIST

*Community Matters thrives on the support of generous donors and volunteers like you. Thanks!*

- Garden tools (especially digging shovels, garden forks, pitch forks, metal rakes, hand trowels, hand pruners & loppers)
- Buckets
- Twine & plant stakes
- Gardening gloves
- Trash pickers
- Plants or seeds
- Snacks and drinks for Garden Parties
- Assorted art supplies (colored pencils, paper, paint, yarn, etc.)



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