



The Apartment Association OUTREACH, Inc.

www.gcnkoutreach.org

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Our Mission

"To provide basic needs and emergency assistance to families and individuals in crisis."

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Letter From Our President

By Jeff March, BRG Apartments, Outreach President

Welcome to 2021, and like most of you, I am glad that 2020 is now in the rear view mirror! I remain extremely proud of our collective efforts as we contributed more than \$250,000 back into our community to help thousands of our citizens who were severely impacted by the pandemic.

I also know that the needs have not diminished, and that Apartment Association Outreach (AAO) will continue to rise to the challenge and provide the vital financial support to our community partners. We are well positioned to accomplish this as we finished up the most successful fundraising year in our history thanks to the incredible generosity of our membership. Our balance sheet is strong, and we have more good news from December to share with you!

First, many thanks to Tonya Beckner, Gerry Johnson, their dedicated committee and our very own Michele Klusman for their herculean efforts to hold our first ever Holiday Cheers Virtual Event. The event was a tremendous success and exceeded our expectations!

And second, we learned that we were awarded a \$30,000 grant from the L & L Nippert Charitable Foundation which is dedicated to help our food pantry partners. These funds will be used to provide financial support, to assist our partners that do not have refrigerator / freezer units, and to assist Gateway Community College in forming two food pantries on a couple of their campuses. Many thanks to Susan Peck, Patty Braun and the amazing Outreach team for this successful grant request. Thus, with all of this wonderful news, AAO generated a record level of total income in 2020 ... approximately \$350,000! Thanks to all of you for elevating your game during COVID-19!

5K 4 Rent: Please hold the date of Saturday, April 10, 2021 for the Cincinnati Coin Laundry 5K 4 Rent. We are still in the midst of the pandemic so we will keep the membership informed as the date approaches. We are hopeful that we can all be together in April.

AAO Board: I would like to thank the Board for their efforts during 2020, and it is important for our donors to know that every Board member contributed personally to Outreach last year, and the total gifts from Board members and their sponsor companies totaled more than \$80,000. I am extremely proud of our Board members and their company's commitment to AAO!

I am grateful that Megan Lawhon (PLK Communities), Sean Blythe (Heritage Hill Capital Partners), Jordann Morgan (Fath Properties), and Janie Evans (Cassady Schiller CPS's & Advisors) all agreed to serve for another 3-year term. In December, the Board voted unanimously to welcome Justin Seger (Hills Properties) to the AAO Board, and we will benefit from his experience and leadership. Lastly, Mark Franks was voted in as Vice-President and Emily Howard as Secretary for 2021. Janie Evans will continue to serve as Treasurer, and I am honored to serve as President in 2021.

Find Us On



Apartment Association
OUTREACH





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PLK's "Hunger is Real" Food Drive

Philanthropy is a core value at PLK and we are always looking for opportunities and ways to give back. Our PLK "GIVE PROUD" program provides associates the opportunity to spend 2 days each year working with partner organizations on paid volunteer time. We close our communities and corporate office twice a year and bring all 150 associates from across the company together to volunteer. By way of this amazing program, we have partnered with great local organizations including Boys and Girls Club, Matthew 25: Ministries, March of Dimes, Talbert House and Easterseals.

This year was a little different and since we could not gather together to give back, we hosted the "Hunger is Real" Food Drive from September 28th through October 8th. We notified our residents and neighbors and they generously donated so much food! We were able to deliver to 7 different local food pantries: Brighton Center, Life, Anderson Ferry, John Parker School, SON Ministries and CAIN in Northside.

This was such a success that we will likely add the food drive to our list of "GIVE PROUD" events going forward.

Outreach and Jewish Family Service Help Those Facing Food Insecurity

Jewish Family Service Heldman Family Food Pantry and Outreach (AAO) are helping feed more people in need, during this pandemic, in the Cincinnati Jewish community, and who live near the Clifton pantry.

"Since the onset of COVID-19 last March, demand for food has grown by 25 percent," said CEO Liz Vogel. "We are providing groceries for families who never thought they would need help, but have lost jobs due to COVID. We're here for them, because of support from organizations including the Apartment Association Outreach."

There are many older adults who need help, too, and who have trouble getting out because of COVID health risks. A JFS social worker went to a client's home this past spring and found the cupboards completely bare, and no supply of toilet paper or essential supplies. When she left, she stopped by the Heldman Family Food Pantry, loaded up on supplies, and delivered basic necessities.

Ellen Daniel, MSJ
Marketing & Communications Director
Jewish Federation of Cincinnati



For His Glory Pantry

For His Glory Pantry is part of Bloc Ministries serving the needy in the Price Hill community of Cincinnati since January 2017. We are a three day emergency food pantry that provided food and hygiene products to 1893 families, feeding nearly 8,000 people in 2020. Some of these families are grandparents raising their grandchildren, one parent households, families undergoing treatments for life threatening diseases, families suffering from loss of jobs, and the homeless.

It is a blessing for us to be able to serve as directors of For His Glory Pantry. Our volunteers are the best! Some of them suffering from illness and financial hardships themselves while helping others in their community.

Since the Covid-19 pandemic in March of 2020, we have had to adjust the operation of the pantry to ensure safety to both our clients and volunteers. We have plastic barriers in place, we prepare our bags on a separate day than serving, and our normal family of volunteers was cut from 17 to 6 due to their age. Presently, due to the pandemic, we are now also serving families outside of the Price Hill community.

We are grateful to The Apartment Association Outreach to enable us to serve as needed.

Blessings,

Wayne and Joanie Webb
Directors- For His Glory Pantry



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Free Food Is Not Free

by Terry Camele, Supervisor at Anderson Ferry Food Pantry

Anderson Ferry Food Pantry was started over 20 years ago, in Delhi Township, by a few church members wanting to help those in need at their church. They donated items from their very own pantries. Over the years, the pantry operated in various locations, before moving into the basement of their church office. Their basement location is their biggest obstacle - moving nonperishable food up and down the stairs; however, they continue to serve those in dire need.

The pantry's statistics are alarming! In 2020, Anderson Ferry served 2,191 families- a total of 4,883 individuals. 258 NEW families (477 people) are included in their total served. They serve and assist 12 zip codes on the west side of Cincinnati!

One of their volunteers once said to Terry, "free food is not free." Terry thinks this is so profound because so many people do not realize the amount of money it takes to operate a food pantry. They truly appreciate the financial and nonperishable food donations the Apartment Association Outreach has provided their pantry for many years.



Apartment Association Outreach Board Spotlight

Megan Lawhon has 19 years of experience in the multi-family industry serving in various capacities within Operations. She began her career with Hills Properties as a Leasing Consultant and moved forward as Assistant Manager, Property Manager and finally District Manager. Prior to her most recent role as Chief Operations Officer with PLK

Communities, Megan served as VP of Operations with PLK, Regional Supervisor in companies including Lifestyle Communities, Associated Estates Real Estate Corporation and Fairfield Residential. She is a graduate of Bethel College with a major in Business Management and a minor in Psychology. Megan has been involved in various markets including Houston, TX, Louisville and Lexington, KY, Columbus, Dayton and Cincinnati, OH. She has been responsible for stabilized, value-add renovated communities and lease-up product throughout her career, with unit counts ranging from 1700 to her current portfolio of 5000+. Megan was named a 2016 Rising Star of YWCA of Cincinnati Academy of Career Women of Achievement, a Forty under 40 nominee with the Cincinnati Business Journal, participated in the BizWomen mentoring event in 2020 and most recently, was recognized as a top 8 finalist in the Chief Operations Officer category within Cincinnati. In October 2020, Megan launched a podcast, everyday badass, to celebrate the everyday individual and share individual and unique stories. Megan believes everyone has a story to share and others can learn from, celebrate and feel less alone, hearing the triumphs, heartache and life lessons, from others. She has proven herself as an accomplished and influential leader who is passionate about the development and promotion of others. PLK Communities has recently surpassed 5,000 units of Owner Managed product, in addition to the company growing to 150 employees. There are currently six developments underway, as well as the team continuing to seek viable acquisitions to add to their growing portfolio. PLK's goal is to be 9,000 by 2029!





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Our Story

The Apartment Association Outreach, Inc., also referred to as "OUTREACH," is a major charitable organization. Each year, we hold 3 fundraisers to support 5 programs. Our social service partners and we provide assistance to disadvantaged families and individuals in our community. The Board of Directors wishes to extend our appreciation to our many volunteers and for donations from businesses and individuals. Their support provides a significant impact on our neighbors in their greatest time of need.

Where The Money Goes

The Apartment Association Outreach is a 501(c)3, non-profit charitable organization. Our OUTREACH was originally founded in 1991 to provide clothing and household items to families in need. Since 2000, we focus on 6 major programs to provide basic needs and emergency assistance to families and individuals in crisis. Our partners include: Freestore Foodbank, CAIN (Churches Active in Northside), Jewish Family Service and Santa Maria Community Services; and, they identify the needs in their communities.



Board of Directors

Jeff March, President; Mark Franks, Vice President; Janie Evans, Treasurer; Emily Howard, Secretary; Brian Hendy, Jamie Thiel, Tonya Beckner, Sean Blythe, Justin Seger, Jordann Morgan and Megan Lawhon. Patty Braun, Outreach Administrator; Susan Peck, Outreach Assistant.

Our Programs

RENT ASSISTANCE

Rent assistance payments are for people who cannot pay their rent, due to a personal emergency or conflict beyond their control.

FOOD DONATIONS

Non-perishable food items are purchased and donated, by OUTREACH, to 20 food pantries throughout the year. Our program includes direct funds and direct food distribution to each pantry.

EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships are awarded to apartment industry candidates for educational designations in multifamily housing. Post-secondary scholarships are awarded to college students.

BACKPACKS & SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Each year our back to school program donates backpacks and school supplies for over 1,500 children. This very successful program is in partnership with Santa Maria Community Services.

SENIOR EVENTS

OUTREACH provides lunch, drinks, desserts, music and games for many seniors.

EMERGENCY FUND

Each year Outreach provides funds for individuals and organizations that experience urgent situations and need immediate assistance.

Fundraising

5k 4 Rent

Our 5k 4 Rent is Saturday, April 10, 2021, at the TM Bery Friendship Park, in Downtown Cincinnati. We raise funds for our Rental Assistance Program. This event includes a timed 5K run, a walk, and brunch.



The Night Out For Outreach

The Night Out for Outreach, scheduled for September 25, 2021 is a dinner event that raises funds for our 5 programs. This event includes: great music, fabulous food, good friends, industry leaders, and fundraising for our programs.



Holiday Cheers

The Holiday Cheers event is held by the Associate Council of GCNKAA. This event is Thursday, December 9, 2021 at the Kenwood Country Club. This fun evening includes a rapid raffle, silent auction, raffle auction and live auction.





You Can Help Outreach Every Time You Shop at Kroger!

community rewards



Kroger is donating \$4 million to local organizations

How to sign up:

- Visit www.KrogerCommunityRewards.com
- Sign in to your online account or create an account
- Search for "The Apartment Association Outreach" and click save!

Remember to re-enroll every August!