

MID-COUNTY UNITED MINISTRIES

MUM helps people in crisis in Wheaton, Kensington and Aspen Hill communities with food, medicine, eviction prevention and utilities, emphasizing client choice, problem-solving and self-sufficiency.

MARYKNIGHTS STAR IN GIVING SEASON Gala brings donations for the needy

The Maryknights, a Catholic women's charitable organization in Silver Spring, helped MUM achieve a successful fall fundraising season with a ball that raised more than \$16,400 for MUM.

The Maryknights' charity ball drew a large crowd to the banquet room at the Knights of Columbus Hall on Rosensteel Avenue in Silver Spring on November 19. The Maryknights chose to assist MUM at a time when the nonprofit is seeing increasing numbers of clients who are hungry, need prescription medicine, and who are facing evictions and utility cutoffs. Theresa Fitzgerald, chairperson of the gala, said even she was surprised by the total that the Maryknights raised for the Wheaton nonprofit through banquet tickets, a silent auction and raffles.

"I couldn't be happier," she said, adding that the Maryknights name a different organization in the Washington area each year as its charity ball beneficiary. "Something about MUM touched my heart."

The Maryknights' gala followed MUM's own fall fundraiser on Nov. 18 at the Knights of Columbus Hall. Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett stopped by to greet attendees, and the event



DOUG SEELEY

Rev. Ella V. Redfield (at podium) accepted a Spirit of Service award on behalf of New Creation Church at annual MUM fundraiser.

featured a short video about the nonprofit that was produced with assistance from Einstein High School students. Montgomery Police Capt. David Gillespie spoke to the gathering about the work of the late Capt. Joseph A. Mattingly, Jr. MUM's food pantry is named in honor of Mattingly, who had a keen interest in community service.

MUM Board President Susan DeFord presented Spirit of Service awards to New Creation Church of Wheaton and Warner Memorial Presbyterian Church of Kensington for their longtime support of the nonprofit. Macy's of Westfield Wheaton received MUM's Community Partner award, and Joe Begg was named the organization's Volunteer of the Year. Donations from the event totaled \$7,800. **M**

MUM Awarded Freeman Foundation Grant

Mid-County United Ministries has received a \$5,000 grant from the Carl M. Freeman Foundation to serve more of the needy in Wheaton, Kensington and Silver Spring.

MUM is one of 11 Montgomery organizations that received a total of \$50,000 at an awards dinner December 1. Other recipients were grassroots groups such as the Upper Montgomery Assistance Network, Hospice Caring Inc. and Stepping Stones Shelter.

The Carl M. Freeman Foundation, with offices in Olney, makes awards in communities served by the Carl M. Freeman Companies, a real estate developer in Maryland

and Delaware. The foundation has a grants program that supports smaller non-profits.

"These are smaller community-based organizations that need a little bit of help," said Doug Phillips, the foundation's marketing manager.

MUM will use its grant to improve salaries for its part-time executive director and office assistant. It will also use grant money to purchase office equipment such as a copier and laptop computer.

"You can't give to people in need unless you have the operational staff that makes this happen," said Peggy Kane, a MUM board member who prepared the grant application. **M**

MUM is a partner agency with the Capital Area Food Bank.



MUM office hours:

Mon. and Wed.: 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Thurs.: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

MUM serves these zip codes:

20853, 20895, 20896, 20902, 20906

MUM newsletter team:

Editor: Susan DeFord

Designer: Bonnie Becker

Ready for Winter

Food drives held this fall by community groups have helped stock MUM's food pantry as winter nears.

For the second consecutive year, officials at Wheaton Regional Park made MUM a beneficiary of their food drive during the running of the popular Halloween train at the park. As a result, 66 bags of non-perishable groceries were brought to MUM offices.

We continue to receive staunch support from area congregations. Fall food drives held by St. Catherine Laboure Catholic Church, Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church at Leisure World and Georgia Avenue Baptist Church brought in 130 bags altogether.

The Student Government Association at Einstein High School ran a Thanksgiving food



Board member Joe Begg, who helps coordinate the food pantry operation, stands in MUM's storage unit.

drive that collected 40 bags of groceries. MUM's own hunger march on November 20 brought in another 50 bags. GreenWheaton a local environmental group also has been collecting groceries for MUM.

Food drives are an important source of groceries for MUM's pantry, named in memory of Montgomery Police Capt. Joseph A. Mattingly Jr. MUM also purchases food through the Capital Area Food Bank as a partner agency and shops at area supermarkets.

Extra food that isn't on the shelves in the MUM pantry at the Mid-County Regional Center is housed at Acorn Self Storage in Kensington for future use. MUM appreciates community support to feed the hungry! **M**

THE WISHLIST

This holiday season, MUM is grateful for its faithful supporters and its ability to serve more clients. But there is one item we're looking for in the new year—plastic bags!

On January 1, 2012, a new county law will impose a 5-cent charge on plastic and paper bags provided to customers at retail establishments such as supermarkets, convenience stores and shops. MUM has relied on donated plastic bags for groceries distributed to clients of its Wheaton food pantry. We anticipate that the new tax means there will be fewer donated bags coming to MUM as plastic bag use drops.

While MUM searches for a longterm solution, we appreciate any donation of plastic grocery bags. Stop by our office at the Mid-County Regional Center, 2424 Reedie Dr. We'll make sure your bags are recycled for a good cause!

MUM TAKES TO THE STREETS



The 7th Annual March Against Hunger drew about 50 participants, who walked through downtown Wheaton on Sun. Nov. 20 to raise awareness about the need to feed the community's hungry. Marchers brought 50 bags of groceries with them for MUM's food pantry and gathered for a brief reception at the Mid-County Regional Center.



PHOTOS BY MARK EAKIN