We are pleased to now have Balanced Housing as part of the WCCS family. Emphasizing the importance of affordable housing in Warren County and making the need for a decent, affordable place to live a matter of conscience for everyone is important to us. There is a desperate need by so many in our community to find a stable and affordable place to live. The entire community benefits when people who work in Warren County can afford to live here.

Tom Salzbrun, WCCS Executive Director, congratulates Elizabeth in realizing her dream of owning a home for her family. Read the story of how Elizabeth’s future became brighter on page 4.

Remembering Dr. Peckham

We dedicate this edition of the WCCS 2013 Annual Report to the Rev. Dr. Charles W. Peckham, Sr. (November 18, 1923 - March 28, 2013). Dr. Peckham was committed to WCCS serving as Board of Trustees Chairman from 1985 until his passing. He left a mark on the agency by advising on affordable housing for seniors and families and on the expansion of community services for seniors and children. He was influential in the community as a clergyman, gerontologist, administrator, and educator.

Tom Salzbrun stated, “The constant values that graced Dr. Peckham’s life were unfailing courtesy toward others, an unwavering commitment to the highest ethical principles, and a willingness to extend a helping hand to anyone who needed it. We are grateful for our connection to a life that was lived with such charity, integrity, and humility.”
Sharing Our Success

- Family Services began a partnership with Dress for Success in Cincinnati to provide interview attire and accessories for Warren County females actively seeking employment. These women also received additional information to better equip them for employment interviews.

- “LinkedIn” training is now part of STEP (Success Towards Employment Program). The instruction is provided monthly for job seekers to enhance their skills to create and utilize “LinkedIn” as a tool to obtain employment!

- The Alden Brown Early Learning Center in Carlisle earned a Three Star Step Up to Quality rating by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services! With this achievement, all four WCCS Early Learning Centers have attained the highest rating for early education programs in Ohio’s licensing system.

- WCCS held its first annual fundraising gala, An Evening Affair, themed Mission: Possible 2012 on Saturday, November 10, 2012 at the TPC River’s Bend in Maineville. This successful event included silent and live auctions, dinner, and dancing.

- Aging Services developed the Intensive Friendly Visitor (IFV) Program. IFV, funded by a $5,000 Healthpath Foundation of Ohio Grant, trains volunteers to visit older adults who may be living alone, be at risk for institutional placement, or may need additional support to maintain independence.

- The South Lebanon Early Learning Center successfully expanded its private pay child care and added a full day classroom. This social enterprise provides a new source of funding.

- Aging Services was awarded a $10,000 grant from Mental Health and Recovery Services of Warren and Clinton Counties to fund the project “Interagency Response to Elder Abuse”. This collaborative effort, with numerous Warren County agencies, improved situations with older adults at high risk for abuse or neglect and provided elder abuse education for local law enforcement and fire departments.

“Tough Work instructors were excellent, knowledgeable, and made the class interesting and fun. There was a lot of interaction, and examples from the field and life lessons. I highly recommend the training for anyone wanting to volunteer in the community.”
- Jill, Family Services/Tough Work Training

Our Service Year in Numbers

119 clients obtained employment after receiving job coaching from the Success Towards Employment Program.

Nutrition served over 350,000 meals to Meals on Wheels™ and dining center clients. A 35% increase over previous years.

HEAP assisted 2,856 households with their heating and electricity costs.

417 older adults commented that they ate a more nutritionally balanced diet and remained living in their own homes since receiving Meals on Wheels™.
(Nutrition Survey 2012)

243 RSVP members volunteered at local community agencies to help meet critical community needs.

Four Dress for Success/WCCS events assisted 54 unemployed and underemployed ladies get ready to work.
Helping Children and Families Succeed

Realizing Her Dream

Elizabeth’s dream was to provide a stable home for her children. When Elizabeth and her husband divorced, she immediately felt an overwhelming sense of responsibility. Being a single Mom with five children, including twin boys with special needs, was not easy. With no job or car, and living in public housing, Elizabeth realized she had to make some changes.

Elizabeth obtained a job working as a shift manager at Penn Station. She then began working toward her dream of becoming a homeowner and started putting money into a Family Self-Sufficiency savings plan through the local housing authority.

After five years Elizabeth had a good down payment for a home and sought assistance from Balanced Housing. With their help she improved her credit score and followed an Action Plan developed specifically for her. She worked hard, made sacrifices, and within a year, was ready to apply for a mortgage.

Balanced Housing referred Elizabeth to a subsidized mortgage loan program offered through the U.S. Department of Agriculture and coordinated Elizabeth’s loan application process. They also helped her navigate her way through an additional program to rehab the house she intended to buy. The house is a three bedroom ranch with a basement that needed repairs to the roof, plumbing, heat and dry wall. “I couldn’t have purchased a home without WCCS,” says Elizabeth.

Elizabeth and her children are thankful for their home. She says, “Living here has had such a positive impact on our family. It has created stability and a place for us to have fun and relax. We have grown closer and enjoy spending time at home. There is room to play games so now we have game night and family get-togethers in our backyard. I love our backyard, it reminds me of Kentucky. Our bonfires are the best.”

Early Start...Future Success

Kathy and George Peña are proud of their three children. All three attended the Lebanon Early Learning Center (ELC) as preschoolers. “George and I enrolled Emily, Paul and Maggie in Head Start because we could not afford pre-school,” Kathy says. “At that time, George was going to college part-time and working part-time and I was a stay-at-home mom.”

“We wanted them to be up to speed with other kids who went to pre-school.”

“As parents, we were encouraged to be involved with Head Start. I became active in the parent group and Policy Council. One of the many things we learned as a family was to practice good nutrition. The children learned to wake up early and to love school. They became comfortable with people from all walks of life, including older adults and children with disabilities.”

Emily, the oldest, remembers reading time. “We listened and interacted as the teacher read us stories. I enjoyed craft time, games and outdoor activities.” Paul recalled, “I always looked forward to riding the bus. I could count to 100 or above and the teachers were very impressed.”

Today, the impact of early education is still apparent.

Emily was active in choir and in high school drama productions. She graduated from Brigham Young University with a degree in Psychology.

Paul was inducted into the National Honor Society in high school, and served on student council. He went on to receive a four-year scholarship to Yale University and has been accepted into the Columbia University graduate program. Emily and Paul are both now married.

Maggie will be in the 7th grade, and is considered gifted. She plays violin in the school orchestra, plays soccer, and is active in Girl Scouts.

Kathy, after gaining skills and confidence as a parent leader, went on to graduate from college.
What Does your Funding Do?

Year Ending December 2012

INCOME

Early Learning Centers
Health and Human Services ............................................. $2,288,511.00
United Way ........................................................................ $25,623.00
Ohio Dept of Job & Family Services .......................... $193,987.00
Local Funding and Donations............................................. $786,236.00
Total: $3,294,357.00

Family Services
Community Action Partnership ................................ $138,000.00
United Way ........................................................................ $41,771.00
Local Funding and Donations ............................................. $31,756.00
Total: $211,727.00

Home Weatherization
Community Action Partnership ................................ $255,567.00
People Working Cooperatively ................................ $102,346.00
Total: $357,913.00

Home Energy Assistance
Ohio Department of Development .......................... $718,941.00
Total: $718,941.00

Senior Services
Council on Aging of SW Ohio ................................ $2,993,175.00
United Way ........................................................................ $50,597.00
Corporation for National Service ................................ $50,366.00
Local Funding and Donations ............................................. $349,022.00
Total: $3,443,160.00

Administration and Funding
$763,058 = 9.5%

Program Services
How 2012 Funds Were Spent
$7,263,040.00 = 90.5%

Active and Independent

How does an 87 year old continue to live independently? Ask Peg Davis* and she will respond,

“I couldn’t do it without WCCS!”

Peg has lived at WCCS’ Deerfield Commons Senior Housing since 2002. Peg says she moved to senior housing because “After the war, my husband and I had to live with my parents as there was not enough housing. I would hate to do that to my family.” Prior to moving to Deerfield Commons, Peg was her husband’s caregiver for many years after he had kidney failure. Now Laurie, Peg’s granddaughter, is one of her caregivers. Laurie does as much as she can for Peg between caring for her own children, three and seven years old. Laurie says, “Living with her children would not be a good situation, because GG (short for Great Grandma) likes her independence. She does much better on her own.”

Peg was very active when she first moved into Deerfield Commons, eating lunch and volunteering with RSVP at the dining center five days a week. Peg still plays cards with her friends at the Deerfield activity center twice a week and spends time watching her favorite team, the Cincinnati Reds. With the closing of the dining center, Peg fixed her own meals but was not eating healthy. Since receiving WCCS Meals on Wheels™ and watching her diet, she has been able to stop her diabetes medication.

WCCS Senior Transportation takes Peg to the grocery every two weeks with a group of five friends, and also to her medical appointments due to her arthritis. Peg does use a walker, so the assisted transportation service is invaluable to her.

The support Peg receive from WCCS allows her to maintain an independent lifestyle and assures her family that her needs are being met. “The housing and services are a tremendous help to not only GG but to our entire family,” explains Laurie.

*Mrs. Peg Davis was able to live independently until her recent passing.
2012 Supporters and Donors

Thank you for your generosity! Each and every gift has made a positive difference in the life of a child, family, senior, and a man or woman living right here in Warren County. At a time when stretching dollars gets more challenging each day your gifts are much appreciated.

WCCS Inc. gratefully acknowledges the following individuals, families, foundations, organizations, and businesses that gave financial contributions or donated goods and services from January 1 – December 31, 2012. Please note that this listing honors the request of many donors who have requested to remain anonymous; their names have not been publicized.

Thank you for “Working Toward Brighter Futures.”

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2013 WCCS Board of Trustees

The WCCS Board of Trustees serves as the chief corporate governing body of the agency.

Dr. Don Juszczyk, Lebanon
Chairman

Jack Collopy, Lebanon
Secretary

Bob Alexander, Carlisle
Treasurer

Liz Buchanan, Franklin
Nominating Committee Chairperson

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Arthur Murray Dance Studio - Cincinnati
Baybore’s Flower Shop
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Blooms Florals and Interiors - Sherri Chasteen
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Bravo! - Mason
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Cincinnati Ballet
Cincinnati Bengals
Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park
Cincinnati Reds - Sarah Contardo
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Council on Aging of Southwestern Ohio (COA)
Covedale Center for Performing Arts
Creech’s Landscaping
Deerfield Commons Residents
Deerfield Towne Center
Deerfield Township Fire and Rescue Station 58
Doe’s Dance Closet
Derringer Food Services
Dewey’s Pizza
Doc’s Place
Domino’s Pizza – Lebanon
Dorothy Lane Market
Early Express
Edwards Furniture - Springboro
Elegant Car Wash
Elite Automotive LLC
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FECON, Inc.
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Friends at TPC River’s Bend
Friesinger’s Chocolates
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General Electric
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Graeter’s
Greg Truesdell Insurance Agency Inc.
Hair Color Authority
Helping Hands Healthcare
Herskine Schuler Realtors - Daryl Dunn
Heritage at Miamis Bluffs (HM) Men’s Club
Hess Jewelers
Home Care by Black Stone
H.O.M.E.
Hospice of Butler & Warren Counties
Houston’s Restaurant
ING Financial Partners – A. David Smith
It’s a Dog’s World
Jaguar Land Rover Cincinnati
Jansen’s Sweet Sinsations
Kiwanis Club of Mason
Kohl’s – Store 1145
Kroger Gift Rewards Program
LCNB National Bank
Lebanon Optimist Club
Liberty Western
Lloyd Danner Guenther & Ellis PLL
Magnolias On Main Boutique
Mandy’s Dog-O-Mat
Marvin’s Organic Gardens
Mason Family Pet Hospital - Ruthann Fox Carr
Mason Health Care Center
Massage Envy - Mason
McDonald’s Restaurants – Maineville & Mason
Miller-Valentine Walsh Fund
Mims Off Main
Mon Chien Grooming
My Thirty-One - Jen Brewsaugh
Norton’s Nursery Outlet
Nemeth Insurance Agency
On Broadway
Otterbein Lebanon Lifestyle Community
Otterbein Lebanon U.M.Church
Outback Steakhouse – Mason
Papa John’s
Penn Station – Lebanon
People Working Cooperatively (PWC)
Philip Bortz Jewelers - Marie Bortz
Picture This
Pitrelli’s Italian Ristorante
Porky Capone BBQ
Premier Health Partners
Premier Health Partners – Athos Medical Center
Provident Tours – Joe Ramos
Quatman Café
Romar Management
Seeger’s Meats and Deli
Shared Harvest Food Bank
Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati
St. Leonard’s Faith Community
South Auctions Company
State Farm Ins. & Financial Services Inc. – Pam Damewood
State Farm Insurance Agency – Greg Meineberg
Suds Snips & Steaks Salon
The Cincinnati Marriott Northeast
Thank you for your continued support.

All attempts have been made to ensure the accuracy and completeness of this list. WCCS has honored the request of donors wishing to make an anonymous gift.

If your name has been omitted inadvertently, please accept our apology and contact:

Vel Hux
Director, Development
513-695-2206 or velli@wccsinc.org

“Since my child has been going to the Helen Centers Early Learning Center she uses more sentences and does more activities. I’m very pleased with the teachers and how well they work with her.”

– Nicki, Early Learning Center Program
Our Programs

Helping Children and Families Succeed

Balanced Housing – Provides homeownership opportunities to low and moderate-income persons within Warren County.

Early Learning Centers – Provide a high quality early learning program to prepare eligible 3 and 4 year-olds for success in school. Early Head Start is available for infants, toddlers and expectant mothers.

Family Services – Provides support and information to families overcoming serious challenges.

HEAP (Home Energy Assistance Program) – Provides financial assistance to help meet the energy needs of low income households.

HOME – Provides home maintenance to seniors living in their own home.

Housing – Provides affordable housing for families and seniors in Warren County.

Equipping Older Adults to Remain Active and Independent

RSVP Volunteer Program – Provides meaningful opportunities for adults, 55 and over, to help meet critical Warren County community needs through volunteer service.

Senior Nutrition – Delivers Meals on Wheels™ lunches to homebound seniors and serves lunch at five Dining Centers in Warren County.

Senior Transportation – Provides assisted medical and non-medical transportation to Warren County seniors.

Supportive Services – Provides individual assistance with applications, insurance, and referrals to benefits and services, including prescription programs for seniors.

The 741 Center – Enriches the lives of older adults by offering an array of programs and activities that focus on senior wellness.

“The 741 Center is my home away from home. I live alone and without the center for socialization and friendship I would be very lonely and depressed.”

– Carol, 741 Center Member

“I love my job. Thank you for all your help finding this job, it fits me well. I thank God for all you do there.”

– Dawn, Family Services/STEP Program

“Mr. Shutts is so excited about the wonderful meals he receives from WCCS. Every day he watches the clock waiting for Mr. Gene to bring his lunch. The visit each day is a highlight.”

– Darrell, Meals on Wheels™

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