Friends of the West Side Catholic Center

Led by a strong civic-minded businesswoman, Friends of the West Side Catholic Center is a grassroots, 100% volunteer, non-profit group, that conducts an annual fundraiser for the sole purpose of giving back. In 1986 Evelyn Allen, former Senior Vice President, and Co-owner of Cleveland powerhouse ad agency, Liggett Stashower, sought ways to make an impact with a local organization who needed support and funding. After much research, she created the “Friends” group of like-minded women who believe in the initiatives of the West Side Catholic Center, but more importantly, would eventually focus on Moriah House, which accepts single women and homeless families who have resided in substandard living conditions, or are victims of domestic violence. Learn more about Moriah House below.

https://www.wscccenter.org/women-children-shelter/

The initial goal was to secure awareness about the excellent work that the West Side Catholic Center does in Northeast Ohio, while raising funds to support the organization financially. With Allen’s advertising background and network, she was the right person to lead the charge. The group of Friends flourished with time and focused on a single annual fundraiser for their donation to the WSCC. As time progressed, the membership grew, and the events swelled in attendance. This led to significant donations made to the WSCC on behalf of the Friends group. The Friends group then added two more desperately needed programs, “Friends Coming” and “Friends Going,” that provide Moriah House residents with essentials required for temporary living, as well as items to launch their new life upon their departure.

Today the group continues their good work to support the financial budget required to keep Moriah House afloat. In March 2018, with over 535 in attendance of their annual luncheon, the Friends of the WSCC group celebrated 30 years of fantastic accomplishments. Further, it was their most successful event for the Friends group, to date. Since that time, the group has moved to a steering committee program, along with Allen. They recently made an investment in event fundraising software to propel their outcome well beyond prior years’ donations – industry trends show, that when using such software, a dramatic increase in fundraising effect. This year, attendees can expect online registration, silent auction bidding, credit card payment via an app, and many more benefits including pre-event communication about items for auction. The 2019 date is set for Sunday, March 3rd – so please mark your calendars!

Friends of the WSCC provides many ways volunteers and members can make an impact. Here are a few:

- Donation of your time: Annually, the luncheon is the primary focus of the group. There are only four (4) group meetings per year to plan the event plus volunteer time in preparation of the event, as well as the event day itself.

- Members are recruiting new members and luncheon attendees: The event is an amazing shopping bonanza of beautiful items, both handmade and bought. Friends encourages members to invite friends, family, co-workers, and neighbors to join us for a sell-out event.
• Leadership, Committee Chairs, and Co-Chairs team involvement: This is a fundraising organization where committees sell items for profit and appeal to other members and friends to volunteer their time and services for donations. Some items are handmade, and some are donations while others are bought through charitable contributions and re-packaged. These include things such as a silent auction, theme baskets, sideboards, baked goods, handmade chocolates, floral, artwork, jewelry, plus additional raffles and games with fabulous prizes!

• Solicitation and coordination of donations, errand running, and organization skills: “Friends Coming” and “Friends Going” are two programs led by committee chairs where contributions are solicited from inside and outside of the group and packaged and provided to Moriah House. These items include personal / cleaning / household items they need for their stay or launching into their new life.

• Why you should join Friends of the West Side Catholic Center: If you are compassionate about our community and serving others, this is an amazing group with a deep passion. You will learn about our mission while working alongside others with diverse talents.

Please join us at our event on Sunday, March 3rd, 2019. Secure your seat or book a table for your circle of friends and family to see, firsthand, the impact we are making while having fun and giving back by visiting: https://one.bidpal.net/shop4friends/welcome. The Friends of the West Side Catholic Center is an incredible group of women who want to perpetuate our mission by continuing our good work. Contact us today to join: friendswscc@gmail.com.