



# Our West Side Story

Winter 2020

**May Dugan Center**  
Est. 1969

*A Legacy of Caring, a Tradition of Respect.*

The Mission of the May Dugan Center is *“to help people enrich and advance their lives and communities.”*

## SIX CORE PROGRAMS AT MDC



**Behavioral Health Services**  
Counseling  
Case Management  
Substance Abuse Treatment



**Food, Clothing, & Fresh Produce Distributions**



**Education Resource Center**  
Adult Literacy  
Workforce Development



**Trauma Recovery Center**  
Critical Assistance to Survivors of Crime



**MomsFirst**  
Reducing Infant Mortality  
Educating Young Mothers



**Health & Wellness Program**  
Senior Drop-In Center  
Health Screenings

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**Executive Director**

Rick A. Kemm



### WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

**RECEIVE: CALL FOR SERVICES**  
**VOLUNTEER: TIME & TALENTS**  
**GIVE: IN-KIND & FINANCIAL**

### In this Newsletter:

Director's Letter  
That Reading Thing Article  
SNAP Article  
Upcoming Events



For more information on the May Dugan Center, our programs, and how to participate please visit [www.maydugancenter.org](http://www.maydugancenter.org)

# From Our Executive Director

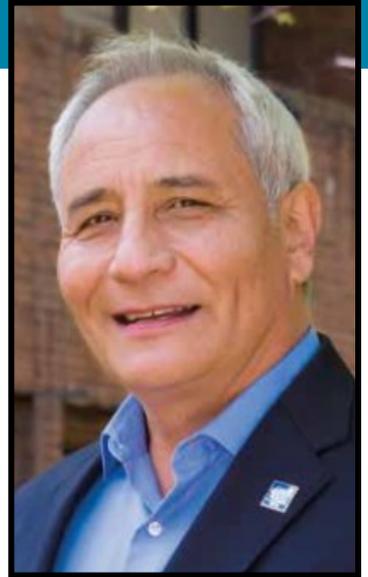
This past year, the May Dugan Center has been celebrating “fifty” years of service to the near Westside and surrounding communities. It has been an amazing adventure for nearly twelve years to serve as the Executive Director and to know that thousands of individuals have benefited from one or more of our core services. This is all made possible by a very talented and skilled staff, leadership from our board of directors and countless volunteers.

Throughout this newsletter there are many examples of how this organization impacts the lives of our community members. We are here to provide vital resources every day that help people achieve wellbeing. One of our seniors, Nova, recently told our staff, “This is a place that I recommend to people right away when they are in trouble.” In this edition, we are proud to feature clients like Keith and Malachi whose lives have been transformed because of your support of the May Dugan Center.

Your commitment has led to successful operations and programming over the last 5 decades! We have working relationships with over 30 community partners and our network continues to grow. Your dollars helped pave the way to gain the support from United Way, and other foundations who are helping May Dugan Center work with individuals who are living in poverty and who were affected by traumatic situations in their lives. It is heartwarming to know that the May Dugan Center is resourceful by providing basic human services, education, counseling and so much more.

The May Dugan Center fully appreciates the responsibility we have in being good stewards of your support. We are proud to share that the May Dugan Center received from **Charity Navigator** our fourth consecutive **4-star rating**. This is the highest possible rating and indicates that our organization executes our mission in a financially efficient way. Only 20% of the charities evaluated by Charity Navigator receive four consecutive 4-star evaluations.

Please continue to **help people enrich and advance their lives and communities**. May Dugan Center programs are common sense solutions to complex problems. For every dollar that you contribute, \$.88 cents goes directly to helping people achieve well-being. As the Charity Navigator ranking indicates, we maximize the impact of your generous donations. As we continue to celebrate our **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**, we hope that you will support May Dugan by making a donation or volunteer with one of our programs. Together, we can grow our services and reach more in need! Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to our Center.



*Rick A. Kemm*  
**Rick A. Kemm, MNO**  
**Executive Director**



# Meeting the Increased Need

## May Dugan Center Anticipates Higher Need for Food & Fresh Produce With Projected SNAP Cuts

By: Loren C. Anthes,  
Fellow Health Planning  
Center for Community Solutions

In my work at the Center for Community Solutions, I try to understand the impacts that public policy can have in our communities. And, as a member of the May Dugan Center's Program Committee and as a resident of the neighborhood, I can see these impacts first hand.

While there is certainly a story of growth and renewal in Ohio City, there is also a story of continuing need. Based on our most recent research, over 42 percent of Ohio City residents are below the poverty line, including more than 64 percent of children - numbers higher than the average, citywide. It is no surprise, then, that nearly 4 in 10 Ohio City residents access food stamps through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to make ends meet. What is often not known is that this critical program also adds resources that support our small businesses, such as grocers and food vendors.

Late last year, the federal government changed long-standing policy to require additional paperwork of SNAP beneficiaries before being covered. Now, in order to qualify, recipients must undergo asset verification and determination, interviews and recertification and work or participate in job training to qualify for benefits. Evidence suggests that these sorts of policies increase food insecurity in a community and, disproportionately affect children, seniors and those with disabilities.

The May Dugan Center is preparing for an increased demand in emergency assistance as a result of these changes. We need your help! Please consider volunteering or donating to make sure our neighbors have access to the food they need. The Center provides common sense solutions to complex problems. The Food, Clothing & Fresh Produce program is such a solution for a family facing hunger.



## Food & Clothing Distribution 2019 Impact



**5,837**  
people  
served



**5,157**  
Households  
served



**898**  
Seniors  
served



**923**  
health  
screenings



**135,516**  
meals

### A Client's Perspective

When I needed help, the May Dugan Center was the only place to pick up the phone and not go to a voicemail message. The Center made it so easy for me to just get my life back together. All you got to do is show up and have a willingness to change and to be better. If you're trying to do something positive with your life. This place can help you. ~Keith



# That Reading Thing Delivers Success

## Meet Our Very Own Mr. Bivins and Learn About *That Reading Thing!*



Mr. Bivins explaining the sound chart for letters in *That Reading Thing*

Mr. Robert Bivins joined the Education Resource Center (ERC) in November 2015. He has over 40 years of diverse teaching experience ranging from preschool to graduate school. Mr. Bivins is now a permanent staff member of the ERC, who uses his teaching expertise to work with adult learners of all types. He sat down with us to talk about the ERC and highlight a special teaching tool called *That Reading Thing*, which is used with adult learners who are just beginning to learn how to read.

### ***What type of students do you see in the ERC?***

The students in ERC are primarily adults 18 and older. The oldest student is turning 80 this year! We see adult learners of all ages. The ERC provides educational services for adults for various reasons.

Students' educational needs can range from help with basic literacy skills, including reading, writing, and arithmetic, up to help with online college coursework. The Center also works with students that speak English as a second language (ESOL), who come from all over the world. There are many students who come into the ERC that need help passing the high school equivalency exam, also known as the GED.

### ***The ERC uses many educational tools to help assess student learning and for teaching adult learners. Can you tell us a little bit about That Reading Thing? What is it and how is it used?***

That Reading Thing (TRT) is a reading program developed by Tricia Millar in England, which helps older learners who cannot read. TRT helps adult students make progress in their reading and spelling. It is an adult program because it assumes the person already can fully speak and hear language. And that the learner just needs to be able to decipher and produce written words." It emphasizes letters and vowel sounds; therefore, the sound of each letter is important instead of each syllable. "You put words together based on their individual sounds of the letters and blend them so that you hear what sounds like a word then you know what the word is because you already know the language." Mr. Bivins is excited about this program because you can use this tool with any reading material that the learner may have on hand and be familiar with, such as comic books or postal mail. It is a one-on-one tool used with the teacher and student in a quiet setting for concentration. Students are deciphering words by sounds, and the teacher can encourage trying different sounds out until they reach a word that makes sense.

**The ERC is open Monday-Friday from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm and Monday to Thursday from 4:30 to 7:30 pm. If you know an adult learner that needs some tutoring and instructional help, please contact us! 216-631-5800**

**The ERC welcomes adult students of all backgrounds and educational levels.**

### ***How long does it take to master this tool?***

A learner can make significant progress within a couple of days of learning. With TRT, students can break down almost any word that they are familiar with. Everyday common words or even words students know from their profession can be used with TRT. Mr. Bivins explained that if a learner is a plumber they would be able to break down written plumbing terms, plumbing material vocabulary, and different parts that relate to their occupation. Just like with any learning the more the student is committed to follow through and practice, the better they do and the faster. Most students who come to the ERC a couple of times a week to go over lessons and work on their assignments at home are able to complete the TRT program in 2-3 months.

### ***Why do you find this tool so easy to use?***

It's easy to use because the tools in TRT are very basic and simple. Once you learn them, you keep using them over and over. You can use them and apply them in all the different ways. You do not have to memorize with this program. You learn sounds and then you can put words together. "It's a simple tool that's easy to put together for a student who has never read before."

### ***How many teachers are trained to use TRT, and how many students use the tool?***

There are three teachers in the ERC that use it. Last year, there were 10 students that successfully learned how to read using the tool. Imagine the impact this tool has had for these individuals who can now read!

### ***Can you share a success story with us?***

There was a Hispanic student who understood English sounds and started using TRT. He was reading at a third grade level within a month of starting the program. This young man was very excited that he could finally read in his twenties!

### ***How does TRT help support both the mission of ERC and workforce development?***

The mission of ERC is to help everyone with whatever

adult learning skills they need. Whether it be reading, math, writing, or other subject areas, the ERC helps them become productive adults in their community. TRT certainly does that because it has a strong writing, spelling, and listening component to it. Those pieces are built into this tool. As TRT students are learning to read, they are learning to spell correctly. For jobs, one needs to be able to read and spell for applications. "If you can't read, then you can't fill out an application!" When our students can fill out an application on their own, it makes them feel very independent and confident. This gives ERC learners the confidence to take on new challenges beyond job placement and makes our students very trainable.



Meet Malachi. He started with TRT and is now writing full paragraphs by himself and studying for his GED at the ERC.

**Please consider making a life-changing donation to the May Dugan Center. With your support, staff like Mr. Bivins can ensure people will reach their full potential!**

Go to <https://www.maydugancenter.org/donate/> and follow the prompts at checkout.

# May Dugan Center Happenings

To stay up to date on the May Dugan Center, check out our website or social media!



Ohio Attorney General David Yost visits the May Dugan Center to learn about the Center's Victim Services.

Valentine's Day party with MDC's Seniors and Preschoolers from the Ohio City Salvation Army Preschool Program.



Thanksgiving Turkey Distribution courtesy of GIE Media. Over 450 families received turkeys that day!



Facebook.com/maydugancenter



Twitter.com/maydugancenter



Instagram.com/maydugancenter

# 10th Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony

**The 10th Annual Community Tree Lighting Proved to be a Very Special Night!**

**A Special Thank you To our Sponsors!**

## Garland

*Julie Rehm & Bruce Szabo & Microsoft  
Marous Brothers Construction • Turner Construction  
Credentialing Corporation • AmeriHealth Caritas  
GIE Media*

## Jingle Bell

*Jeff Ramsey • Lutheran Hospital Cleveland Clinic  
Dan & Deborah Jenks • Matt Kosarko & Stephanie Kent*

## Ginger Bread

*Mayo Society of Greater Cleveland • Zimmerman & Co. CPAs  
CR Gagliano Enterprises • Neighborhood Family Practice  
Cuyahoga Community College / Tri-C • Tucker Ellis LLP  
Steel Valley Credit Union • The Alpha Group-OneDigital •  
Paramount Advantage • Clear Choice Booth • Rick A. Kemm*

## Candy Cane

*Buckeye Health Plan • Angela Vannucci & Justin Ray • Frantz Ward  
LLC • Pamela Li & Christopher Smolock • Ohio Savings Bank  
Rick Weigle • Randall / Whitman / Woodbine / John Block Club  
Sandi Cox • Pamela Charlton*



*Garland Sponsors, Julie Rehm and Bruce Szabo with Rick Kemm.*

*A special thanks to Urban Community School's Choir for the wonderful holiday music!*

**This year's Special Guest:  
Santa Claus!**



*Over 300 people enjoyed a night of meeting Santa, singing and of course, the Tree Lighting!*



4115 Bridge Ave.  
Cleveland, OH 44113



## Irish Roots Festival



# Celebrate 50 years of the May Dugan Center!

Friday, June 12th, 6-10pm

at Music Box Supper Club

1148 Main Ave, Cleveland, OH 44113

*Save the Date, More details to come!*

## Annual Flower Sale!

Sale proceeds will benefit  
the May Dugan Center

Order Deadline:

Friday, April 24th at Noon

Flower Pick up:

Thursday, May 7th | 12pm-6:30pm

at the May Dugan Center

Questions? Call 216-631-5800 x125

**Flower Ordering Online:**

[App.myteamworks.org/  
maydugancenter-4](http://App.myteamworks.org/maydugancenter-4)

