

Advocacy for Mercy Neighborhood Ministries

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LC 6



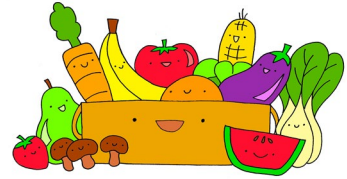
Who is MNM and Walnut Hills?



Local non-profit with a mission to **promote the empowerment of individuals***



- Provide educational, financial, and food assistance to impoverished communities in Walnut Hills
- Aim to foster self sufficiency and support enhanced quality of life



*Special focus on **disadvantaged women and seniors**

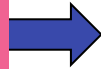
What was our Service Learning Project?

Social Determinant of Health: Social Isolation

Community Factors

Short Term:
COVID pandemic

Long Term:
Gentrification of
Walnut Hills



MNM concern
Social
isolation in
seniors



Understand and assess barriers

*What are key drivers of isolation in
Walnut Hills?*

Interview senior citizens

- Record their life stories
- Quantify social isolation and loneliness via survey



Our Seniors

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What were the challenges?

- Options for access to the community was limited
 - Old age
 - Technological challenges
 - Limited transportation
- MNM resolutions:
 - Social Distancing Grocery Drop-offs
 - Required COVID vaccinations to attend in person events like Creative Aging
 - Including giving access to vaccinations
 - Weekly phone check-ups
 - If community members visited pantries in person, MNM staff made a point to converse with them and write notes on their health and wellness



MNM's Impact on the Community

MNM impacts the lives of more than 1000 individuals each year. Of these, 65-85 individuals are involved in their Senior Services program.

Senior Services and Pantry Program:

Weekly phone calls for seniors

- Serve any senior in 06/07/12 zip codes if over 60 years old
- Around 65-85 people in total
 - One of the most impactful ways the seniors are socially engaged (when delivering food)
 - With an expanding pantry size, here is room for this program to grow in the future, may reach into Avondale neighborhood
 - To attract participants, they have hung posters/flyers and held presentations in senior apartment buildings
- Monthly parties for seniors, Creative Aging
 - Used to have monthly parties with entertainers
 - Provided information on social support services (MNM and community)
 - Arranged transport to the facility




MNM's Impact on the Community cont.

- Workforce Development services:

HCAT - Home Care Aide Training Program

STNA - State Tested Nursing Assistant program

HWRP - Hospital Worker Readiness Program

- MNM Home Care Services
 - Aspire Program
 - Assessment/Testing Services
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Role of Advocacy

The elderly population of Walnut Hills has difficulty accessing:

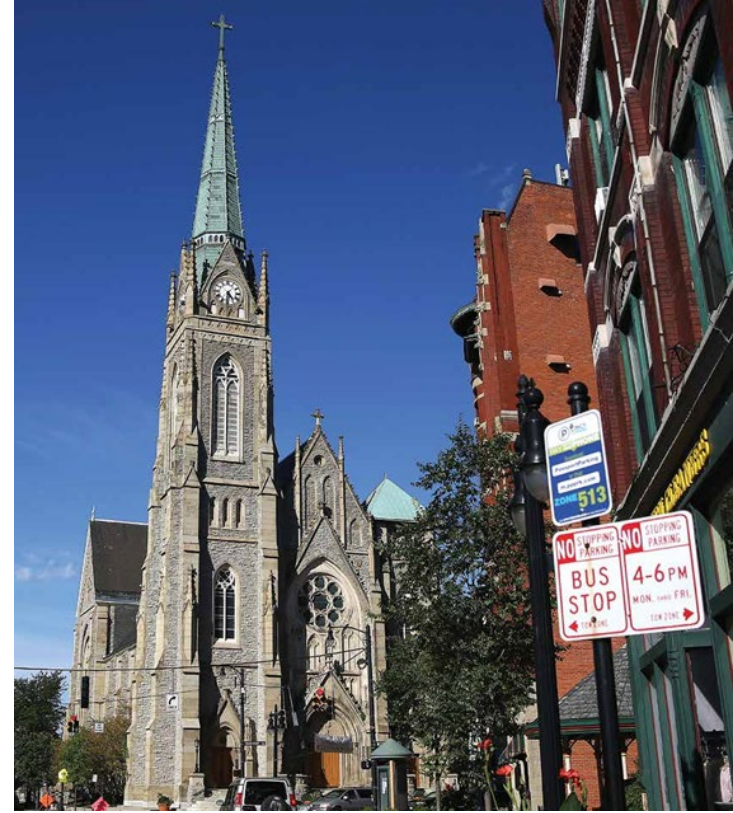
- Affordable housing
- A reliable source of fresh groceries
- A reliable mode of transportation
- Community engagement




Role of Advocacy

These disparities were exacerbated by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, especially in terms of social isolation. Despite the relative improvement in the pandemic, these issues still persist. The elderly population has difficulty advocating on their own behalf due to issues of technology illiteracy, lack of knowledge or access to available resources, and/or lack of financial resources.

The role of LC6 as medical students is to advocate on the community's behalf and bring their concerns to the council.



What Council can do!

- Support initiatives to create affordable housing in the Walnut Hills area
 - Subsidize groceries, and transportation for more vulnerable populations such as elderly and the formation of a local grocery store.
 - Incentivize programs that encourage engagement with the elderly and underserved populations of Walnut Hills such as volunteer programs with local high schools
 - Partner with local organizations like Mercy Neighborhood Ministries to create opportunities for seniors to access financial, foods, housing and other resources.
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Social Isolation



MNM



Our Project

