

News Release
West Side Ecumenical
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**WSEM HOSTS TENTH ANNUAL KENTUCKY DERBY PARTY
TO BENEFIT WSEM FOOD CENTERS**

CLEVELAND (February 16, 2010) — It's an event ten years in the making when West Side Ecumenical Ministry (WSEM) brings the excitement of Churchill Downs to Cleveland at its tenth annual Kentucky Derby Party fundraiser to benefit the WSEM Food Centers. The event will be 4-8 p.m. on Saturday, May 1, 2010 at the Great Lakes Brewing Company Tasting Room, 2516 Market Avenue in Cleveland.

“The WSEM Kentucky Derby Party is the closest you’ll come to being at the race in Cleveland,” says Judith Z. Peters, president and CEO of WSEM. “Everyone dresses in their best Derby attire, women wearing large floppy hats with a mint julep in their hand. And when the race begins, everyone crowds around giant screens at the event to cheer on their horse. There is so much excitement and anticipation in the air, it’s electric!”

Event proceeds support the WSEM Food Centers, Cleveland’s largest food distributor on the west side, which provide 750,000 meals a year and more than 14,000 outreach and supportive services to families and children. The WSEM Food Centers are also the only food pantries on the west side that provide information, referrals and outreach services to help individuals meet basic needs.

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The WSEM Kentucky Derby Party will feature authentic Derby fare, including hors d'oeuvres, mint juleps and Cleveland's own Great Lakes Brewing Company beer. The event will also feature reverse and lucky choice raffles, wagering on your favorite horse and a silent auction.

Tickets for the event are \$50. For more information, call 216-651-2037, or go to the WSEM website at www.wsem.org. Order tickets online via the "Donate Online/Event Registration" link from the WSEM homepage and select "Kentucky Derby Day Event" from the drop-down menu.

About WSEM

Founded in 1966, West Side Ecumenical Ministry (WSEM) is a nonprofit social service organization working to help individuals and families become more self-sustaining through programs that provide emergency food and outreach services, employment training and placement, early childhood education and counseling solutions. For more information, visit www.wsem.org.

About the WSEM Food Centers

WSEM Food Centers of Excellence provide 750,000 meals a year and more than 14,000 outreach and supportive services to families and children. Outreach advocacy includes crisis support, referrals to community resources, job readiness and educational services.

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