

WSEM

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News Release

West Side Ecumenical Ministry

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Great Lakes Derby Dash and Kentucky Derby Party: Two Fun Ways to Fight Hunger in Cleveland

Two great events will honor one great cause on May 2 in downtown Cleveland. The new Great Lakes Derby Dash 5K Run and 2K Relay will be joined with the ninth annual WSEM Kentucky Derby Party to benefit West Side Ecumenical Ministry (WSEM) Food Centers at Brookside, Community Corner and Near West.

“In these most challenging times it’s wonderful to see the innovative ways that Clevelanders are helping Clevelanders,” says WSEM CEO Judith Peters. “The need is great and the time is now for able citizens to step up in any way they can – and these two events are fun ways we can help.” Ms. Peters said that last year WSEM’s three Food Centers served over 750,000 meals and linked or provided children and families to over 14,000 outreach and supportive services. This year the need has already increased by about 27 percent and is growing.

About the Great Lakes Derby Dash:

Initiated by WSEM’s Junior Advisory Board and sponsored by Cleveland Plays Racing and Great Lakes Brewing Company, the May 2 Great Lakes Derby Dash 5K Race will begin at noon in front of Great Lakes Brewing Company at 2516 Market Street and take runners through scenic Ohio City. The 2 K Five-Person Relay, which begins at 1:30pm, will take place at the St. Ignatius track. WDOK 102.1 will be promoting the event.

The 5K entrance fee is \$20 in advance or \$25 the day of registration. The 2K entrance fee is \$50 per five-person team. All 2K relay teams must register by April 25, 2009. The entry fee includes a t-shirt, goody bag, and one Great Lakes Brewing Company pint of beer to all race finishers!

There will be cash awards for the top male and female finishers in the 5K and additional prize packages to the winning 2K Relay team. Derby Dash spectators will be able to bet on each 2K Relay Team. Packet pick-up on race day begins at 10:30am outside Great Lakes Brewing Company. To register to run, go to www.clevelandplaysracing.com.

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About the WSEM Kentucky Derby Party:

Derby Dash runners and spectators will have a short break to freshen up in time to attend the ninth annual WSEM Kentucky Derby Party at the Great Lakes Brewing Company Tasting Room that runs from 4:00-8:00pm. “The party has become a Cleveland tradition and is important to WSEM’s ability to provide emergency food and support services to our neighbors in need,” explained WSEM CEO Judith Peters.

A \$60 ticket entitles participants to valet parking, authentic derby fare including hors d’oeuvres, mint juleps, wine and beer from Cleveland’s own Great Lakes Brewing Company. Win great prizes by picking your favorite horse or participating in raffles, a hat contest and the silent auction.

Event Emcees Andrea Vecchio and Michael Cardamone of WKYC-Channel 3’s “Good Company” will keep the party rolling. You can order tickets on-line via the WSEM website at www.wsem.org. To register, go to the Online Donations” link and select Derby Day Party from the drop-down menu.

Event Sponsor Acknowledgments:

The following community-minded organizations and individuals have stepped forward to help make these events possible: Community Impact Official Sponsors: Charter One Bank Foundation, Kirkwood Holding Inc.; Community Impact Supporting Sponsors: Precision Environmental, KeyBank Foundation; Community Impact Event Sponsors: Chuck Niles, Milton A. Wolf Investors; Derby Dash and Kentucky Derby Event Sponsors: Jones Day, Dubick Fixture and Supply, Neundorfer, Inc., Lakewood Hospital, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Nock, Barrett Benefits Group Inc., Great Lakes Brewing Company, WDOK 102.1, and WKYC-Channel 3.

About WSEM:

Founded in 1966, West Side Ecumenical Ministry (WSEM) is a non-profit 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.

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