

News Release
West Side Ecumenical
Ministry
5209 Detroit Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44102
www.wsem.org

WSEM

For more information, contact:

Ilia Estremera
West Side Ecumenical Ministry
216/651-2037, ext. 309
iestremera@wsem.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WSEM FOOD CENTERS FIGHT HUNGER AT REELS FOR MEALS BENEFIT

CLEVELAND (October 3, 2009) — The fight against hunger will take center stage when the West Side Ecumenical Ministry Food Centers host *Reels for Meals*, their annual fall benefit beginning at 5 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 12 at the newly reopened and renovated Capitol Theatre, 1390 West 65th Street, Cleveland. The event is sponsored by Community West Foundation, Kirkwood Holding Inc., Charter One Bank, Precision Environmental and Fairview, Lakewood and Lutheran Cleveland Clinic Hospitals.

“This event is so important to raise funds in our fight against hunger in Greater Cleveland,” says Judith Z. Peters, WSEM President & CEO. “The current economic climate has placed a strain on resources. In just the past year, our Food Centers have seen an average of 80 additional families each month. Through the generosity of our donors, we have been able to meet the demand, but not as generously as we have in the past. The funds raised from this event will help us to continue to provide life-sustaining food to families in need this holiday season.”

At the event, nearly 200 attendees will enjoy a reception from 5-7 p.m. featuring heavy hors d’oeuvres from Detroit-Shoreway restaurant Latitude 41n and an open bar. Following the reception, attendees will choose admission to one of three featured films to be announced included in the \$65 admission fee. Attendees will also have a chance to win \$500 cash or airline tickets for two by participating in a prize raffle.

The Capitol Theatre reopened on October 2 after an extensive renovation and is Cleveland’s only West Side art and independent film cinema.

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Like a year-round film festival, the three-screen Capitol features independent, foreign and documentary films. Built in 1921, but vacant for the last two decades, the historic structure is a state-of-the-art movie theatre. Detailed wall murals, classically-inspired architecture, and a vaudeville stage were restored to recreate the atmosphere of the 1920s-era movie palace, but with all the amenities of 21st century technology.

Since 1966, The WSEM Food Centers, one of Cleveland's largest food distributors on the West Side, has supplied the hungry with a three-day supply of emergency food, hot meals and other services. WSEM Food Centers provide 750,000 meals a year and more than 14,000 supportive services including employment and educational services to families and children.

Event admission is \$65 and includes heavy hors d'oeuvres from Latitude 41°n, open bar featuring beer, wine and soft drinks, admission to one of three films and parking. For more information or to register, go to www.wsem.org and select "Donate Online/Event Registration" from the homepage or call 216-651-2037.

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 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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