



SON
MINISTRIES

Serving Our Neighbors

2019 Annual Report

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Nemeth Counseling and Consultation

Jim Swearingen

Founder, City Vision
Christian Community Development Association
Advisory Board

Our Story

We believe that solutions to suburban poverty can be found within our own communities.

Our work started with one mom who learned that 1 in 4 children were experiencing poverty in her SUBURBAN town. God called her to feed these children and bring the community with her.

She LISTENED and learned that it takes more than filling hungry stomachs to alleviate poverty. Poverty presents unique challenges for suburban residents and New Americans facing language barriers. Solving poverty is like a PUZZLE, and you can't complete a puzzle without all the right pieces.

SON Ministries brings many of the puzzle pieces together by mobilizing the community to SERVE OUR NEIGHBORS from close by and around the world. We tear down stigmas and build RELATIONSHIPS through multi-generational education, entrepreneurship, mentorship, and more. As a result, families have opportunities to utilize their gifts and talents to lift themselves OUT of poverty.

Together we LEARN and GROW, and together we are ALL changed.

Want to know more? There's a place for YOU here. Come find your piece of the puzzle!

Suburban Poverty Facts

In Franklin County suburbs 140,000 individuals are experiencing poverty and New Americans are especially vulnerable.

There is a population shift in the USA that is moving families facing poverty into first and second ring suburbs due to the regentrification of urban cities. This is a paradigm shift not seen before.

When poverty is less dense, families can actually pull themselves out of poverty because they can access helpful neighbors who are not struggling.

'Suburban poverty' has unique challenges for families - especially children - including:

- Summer food insecurity
- Lack of accessible resources
- Social stigma
- A desperation to not 'look or be identified as poor'

New Americans (i.e.. foreign-born, immigrants, refugees, political asylees) facing poverty in Columbus Ohio:

- 10% of the Franklin County population is foreign-born (largest % since 1890). A 275% growth since 1890.
- Columbus has the 2nd largest immigrant arrival in the USA (since 2000).
- Over 95% net population growth in Franklin Co. (2000-2016) were persons of color and people living < 200% of poverty.

A Child's View: Serving Our Neighbors

My 5-year-old granddaughter has been coming to SON Ministries since she was 2 years old. She has been to both the Summer Lunch and Family ESL Programs for the last 3 years. She's a part of SON Ministries and she knows everything and everyone there. She came home one night after Family ESL and said:

"Did you know we learn at Kids Club how to serve our neighbors? The orange shirts are teenagers that learn how to be better teenagers and serve their neighbors, the yellow shirts go to college and come play with us and learn how to serve their neighbors, and the green shirts are the bosses and they tell me how to be nice all the time and serve my neighbor. Tonight, I saw a green shirt teacher who I didn't see before, so I asked her, are you a new person? The teacher said no I was a teenager and now I am working here."



SON Ministries Values

- **PEOPLE** are our priority – **RELATIONSHIPS** are our goal.
- We see each person **CREATED** in **GOD's** own image; each has a purpose and a voice.
- We bring **HOPE** to children and families in need by connecting them to people, resources and a hand up.
- We build up **COMMUNITY** one respectful, empowering relationship at a time.
- Through **PARTNERSHIPS**, we strive together for the **BEST** for our community.
- We nurture **DREAMS** to alleviate poverty.

Mission

Serving Our Neighbors (SON) Ministries is a faith-based not for profit partnering with children and families facing the unique challenges of suburban poverty in Hilliard (OH) and beyond. We mobilize life-improving resources and connect families to these resources (some of which we facilitate) and to a network of organizations and people who together strive to help strengthen families and our community. We offer a respect-filled HAND UP to those in need and mobilize the community to Serve Our Neighbor!

Vision

Serving Our Neighbors (SON) Ministries is the catalyst bringing the community together in the Hilliard City School District to be a place where:

No child experiences the hopelessness of hunger.

Families working their way out of poverty are connected to resources that will meet their basic needs, so that hope is restored, families are stabilized and community is built.

Local churches partner to demonstrate the gospel through their service and by building relationships with people in need. People understand the gospel and some choose to respond positively.

Community Impact

Overcoming Poverty
in OUR Town...

2019

One Child, One
Family, at a Time!



son
MINISTRIES

Serving Our Neighbors



803

Families Served



1,554

Children Served

Serving Families from Around the World



25

Zip Codes



37

Summer Lunch
Countries

35

Full Family ESL
Countries

897



Individuals

Volunteers

11,908

Hours Served



969

Positions Filled

Meals Served in 2019

13,880

Meals Served Since 2007

122,358

Programs and Services:

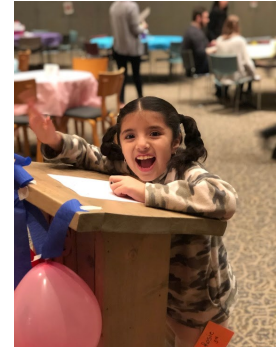
3-Generation Family English as a Second Language (ESL) Program

This program provides FULL family bi-weekly English immersion and education where every family member receives key, age-specific education allowing them to take steps OUT of poverty.

- 3 months-2 years: early literacy
- 3-5 years: preschool and kindergarten readiness
- K-8th graders: gym/recreational time, tutoring/ homework help and entrepreneur training
- Teens: volunteer internship
- Parents/grandparents/aunts/uncles: English classes to improve employability, income security and parenting.

Served 225 families (603 people) from :

- ***35 countries***
- ***4 counties***
- ***22 zip codes***



Teen Internship Experience:

At every SON Ministries' program, high school teenagers from diverse backgrounds receive training and leadership opportunities while devoting hundreds of hours to serving their neighbors.

Results:

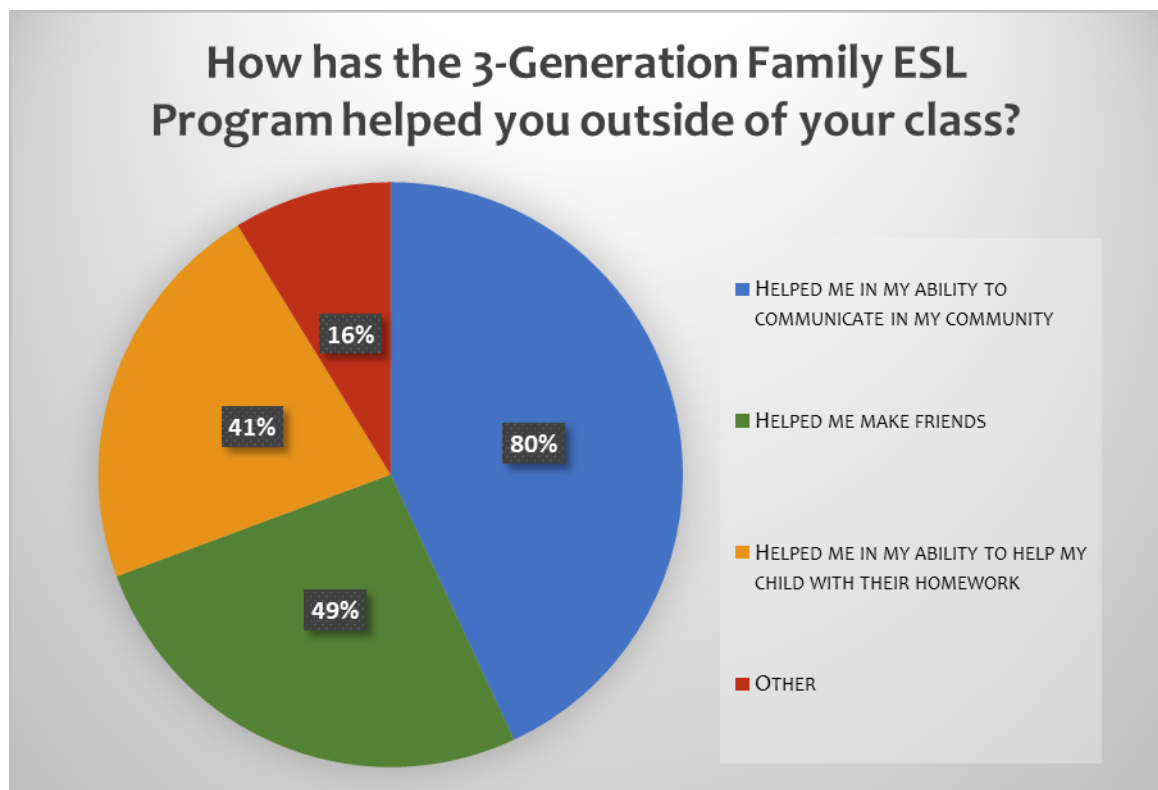
3-Generation Family English as a Second Language (ESL) Program

Class Surveys: Students participated in pre and post-class surveys to evaluate perceptions of growth in English language skills and proficiency. Students from ALL class levels reported improvements to their:

- Speaking skills
- Listening skills
- Reading and Writing skills

99% of students reported that they were making progress towards their class goals.

Exams: Students took a pre-exam and post-exam to measure improvement in skills and topics covered in class. Student scores improved 31% from the pre-exam to the post-exam.



From our students:

“This place is the best place I ever been to learn English and meet other people. They respect us, listened carefully. They treat our kids like their own and I'm proud to be here.”

“Each time I understand better, I can communicate at my job, I can help my daughter more. Before it was very difficult for me, now every day it is easier.”

Programs and Services:

Summer Lunch Camp



Summer Lunch Camp:

We provide children ages K-18 yrs. in low-income families free, half-day summer camp daily for eight weeks including: nutritious lunch, prosocial activities, recreation, business classes, and the opportunity to run every aspect of a child invented/run restaurant business inside the camp and improve it weekly.

Ran four camps serving 772 children from 37 countries, bussing 220 to camp

“I just love camp. I’ve never been anywhere that so many people love me!”

-Summer Lunch Camper

Excelerate:

Within our Summer Lunch Camp and Family ESL Program, children (K-8th with Teen Intern’s support) invent and run every aspect of their own restaurant while learning entrepreneurial skills and attending business classes taught by CEO volunteers (mentorship by Junior Achievement). Children begin to identify as future leaders and gain critical skills for overcoming poverty.

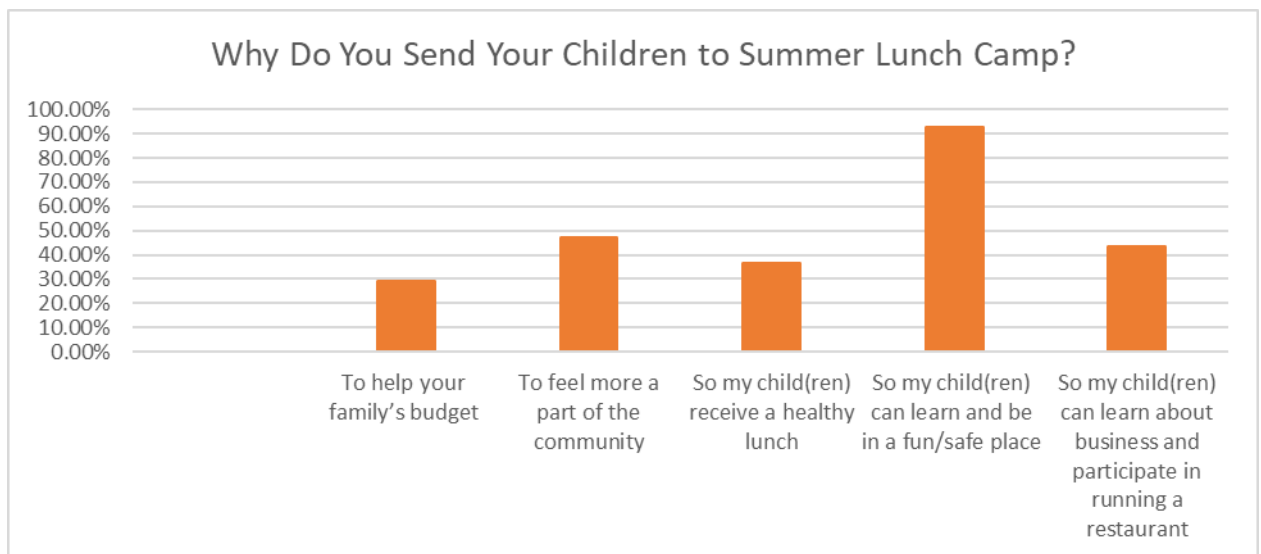


Results:

Summer Lunch Camp

Parent Surveys: We asked parents to evaluate their children’s experience at Summer Lunch Camp:

- 100% of parents stated that the staff was welcoming and that they felt good about bringing their children to camp.
- 100% of parents reported that their children enjoyed the camp activities, and 60% reported that their children learned new information about business and running a restaurant.
- We asked parents why they send their children to Summer Lunch Camp. Most chose multiple reasons, with the most popular being: “So my children can be in a fun/safe place.”



“This program is beautiful and helpful for the family because our children can share with other children and learn new things. Thanks so much.”

-Summer Lunch Parent

“My son was very excited to make new friends. There aren't many children his age in our neighborhood.”

-Summer Lunch Parent



OPEN YOUR HEART

July 18, 2019

This year we hosted our very first Open Your Heart “luncheon” – The BIG Taco Bell Jr. We hope all who attended were as inspired by the amazingly gifted and talented children as we were. Open Your Heart donations will fund our Summer Lunch Camp, then will allow us to start a “training/conference department” to replicate our flagship ‘program model’ (i.e. Summer Lunch Camp and 3-Generation Family ESL) across Columbus, then throughout Ohio.

Our goal is to lift children and their families OUT of poverty toward a future where they can thrive.

A few of the Encourage-mints left by our guests:

- **God loves each of you. You are all so special. He has wonderful plans for your lives! :)**
- **You are the light our world needs. Please keep shining!**
- **The Guacamole! Winner! This was a great idea & venue! You rock!**
- **This was the best service & food I’ve ever had! Can’t wait for next time!**
- **What hardworking children you are! Thank you for making my day better, along with all these other folks, great work, great smiles! :)**



Programs and Services

Good Tidings Christmas & Coat Store

December 3-7, 2018



2018 Good Tidings Christmas and Coat Store story:

A mother was attending our Good Tidings Christmas and Coat Store with her two children and approached a SON Ministries' staff person requesting a special favor. She was scheduled to shop that night and knew it would be a bit of a wait before it was her turn. With her hands covering her young son's ears due to one of his disabilities of noise tolerance, she politely and emotionally asked if she could quickly shop with her child. She explained that her husband was still at work so she had no choice but to bring her children and that large crowd settings were extremely hard for her son.

We invited her to take her son and his sister up to the "children's craft room" which is a much quieter setting. With hesitation, mom went to the craft room and was surprised when BOTH of her children looked at her and said, "Bye mom, have fun shopping!" She rushed to shop and pick out toys, clearly worried about how her son was doing. Less than ten minutes later, mom came back to pick up her children to find BOTH coloring, laughing and socializing with other children and staff. Mom's eyes filled with tears of joy and she said she had NEVER seen her son interact with children like he was right now. Her parting words to staff were, "This is the best day of my life!"

We gave the gift of dignity to parents from *239 families* at Christmas who selected and wrapped gifts for their *715 children!*



Programs and Services

Connecting Families to Resources:

We respond to family requests by phone and in person. SON Ministries founded and maintains **www.HilliardHelps.org**, a centralized list of local resources to link families to caring local organizations. In 2019 we connected **153 families** to community resources.



FREE Legal Clinic:

Provided in partnership with the Legal Aid Society of Columbus

98 individuals served

UALC Community Garden:

Free organic produce grown and harvested by neighbors given to local families in need from the UALC Community Garden

9,647 pounds grown and distributed

Job Jump-START: This program is a work in progress. Families are approaching us with job-related needs and companies are approaching us with hiring needs. We are working to determine the best way to provide job skills training and to connect people with potential employers. Volunteer human resource professionals are now providing case management services to adults who are entering or re-entering the workforce. Adults are learning critical skills including resume design, interviewing, responding to posted positions, and application processes.

16 hours of case management provided to 4 adults in 2019

We Are All Being Changed Here

How I've Been Changed by SON Ministries

I first became involved with SON Ministries when my mom decided to join their ESL classes in 2014. I was a Kids Club member from autumn 2014 - autumn 2015. Once we were informed that SON Ministries holds a free Summer Lunch Camp for children and teenagers, my mom immediately signed my siblings and me up. After closely observing the teen interns at the Kids Club and the Free Lunch Summer Camp, **I became inspired to become one myself; someone who wanted to learn how to help and lead others.** I was a very timid, inexperienced individual when I first started. However, **after volunteering with SON Ministries and being given a wide variety of opportunities to serve and lead, I became a changed person.** I was elected Vice President of SON Ministries' newly founded Youth Board, through which we were able to plan a "Release" event that provided the students of SON Ministries' ESL classes stress-relieving stations through the form of yoga, dance, art, exercise, and education. **I now gladly serve** as an interpreter for SON Ministries, interpreting between English and Arabic at their registration events. I will forever be grateful for the countless opportunities that SON Ministries has given me to change and grow. **I have been transformed from a shy individual who lacked confidence, to a leader that isn't afraid to interact, speak with, and present in front of adults and other teens and children.**

SON Ministries Bio:

- Autumn 2014 - Spring 2015: Member of Kids Club at ESL Classes
- Summer 2015: Summer Lunch Camp Camper
- Autumn 2017 - Present Day: Member of Youth Board
- Summer 2017: Teen Intern at Summer Lunch Camp
- Autumn 2017: Cofounded Youth Board
- Summer 2018: Teen Intern at Summer Lunch Camp
- Summer 2018: Planned Mini Multicultural Fair at the End of Summer
- Autumn 2018 - Spring 2019: Vice President of Youth Board
- Autumn 2018, Autumn 2019: English to Arabic Interpreter During ESL Registration Night
- March 7th, 2019: "Release" Event



We Are All Being Changed Here

A Life Changed that Now Changes the Lives of Others

A young man who has attended the SON Ministries Family ESL program, then Summer Camp annually since **he was in 3rd grade is 19 years old now and comes to volunteer at our Summer Lunch Camp as an adult volunteer.** He has never missed a summer. He was involved with Taco Bell JR. each summer. When he was in high school, he **talked to staff about a dream** to be a chef and go to the technical school during high school to learn more. Staff **partnered with Cameron Mitchell Restaurants** so he could get a behind the scenes tour of three of their five-star restaurants to see the life of a chef. He then shared with staff his interest in law enforcement and detective work. We arranged for a police detective to come to meet him and share about his career. He began as a camper then as he grew, he was an “orange shirt” teen intern then after high school graduation has remained, now as an “adult volunteer.” During the summers as an adult, **he must now work three jobs but still makes time to come volunteer multiple days a week at summer camp because it is that important to him.** He is driven to continue because of the deep life-changing relationships he has made and his yearning to give back. He is attending Columbus State now and is considering criminal justice (law enforcement) or culinary for his future career. He is a strong, quiet leader respected by all.



We Are All Being Changed Here

Serving Together

The writer of the Book of Hebrews instructs us to “not neglect to show hospitality to the stranger, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.” Our response to this charge gives us great joy as we participate in the SON Ministries’ Family ESL program. Here we share God’s love by helping to welcome and acclimate those internationals who have chosen to reside in Central Ohio.

-Don and Edie, Family ESL Volunteers

*The couple began looking for ways to serve internationals when their daughter moved to Turkey and began working with refugees. They wanted to find similar work in the United States. **The two found out about SON Ministries through UALC while living in Marysville and have since moved to the community to play a larger role in the movement in Hilliard.** Edie provides support in the preschool while Don assists in the language development of the adult learner. Don and Edie have become crucial volunteers within the ministry!*



My Life’s Journey—Learning English

My English was zero, for that reason I went to study the basics at Columbus State Community College (CSCC). I started from level three (she, he, it). I stopped learning English because of my babies. After three years I went to study English at SON Ministries for three years. **It helped me a lot because it has childcare, this itself was amazing for me as a mother.** At the same time, I was going to Columbus adult school to boost my English level further, because I believe learning English needs more practice and passion. For no doubt, it was not easy for me, but I did not give up. After that, I went to CSCC to do the ESL test to go to college. I passed the test, and I register for my classes to study English academically and deeper as well. When I finished my English classes this summer, **I applied to OSU to study master in (Teaching and Learning).** I wrote my letter of purpose by myself. The good news was, they accepted me, so now I am a graduate student at OSU. Thanks, Pastor Dave and to all the staff of SON Ministries for your helping, especially for mothers like me.



We Are All Being Changed Here

Fear Becomes Love

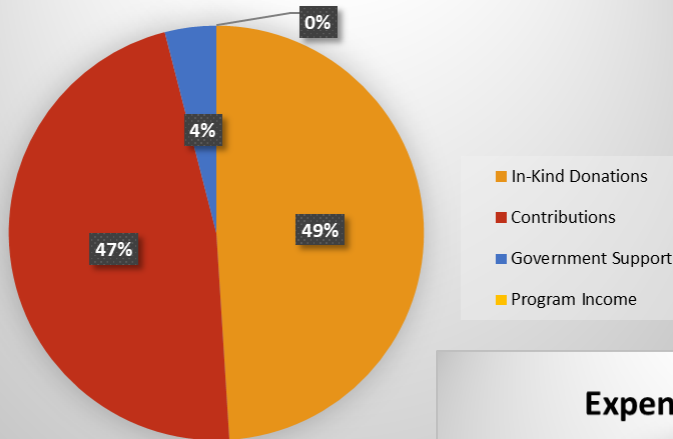


A summer seasonal staffer told the story that she was 10 years old when 9/11 happened and she remembered it well. It terrified her and made her very afraid of Muslim people from the Middle East. For years she felt that way each time she even saw someone who was Muslim. Then she worked during college for SON Ministries Summer Lunch Camp (for multiple summers) because she loved children. There she found all types of children, including ones from the Middle East. **She got to know them and their parents and learned that they were lovely and that she had more in common with them than she thought. She said it completely healed her of the fear she had had for over a decade! Now she loves to learn about how our differences tie us all together.**

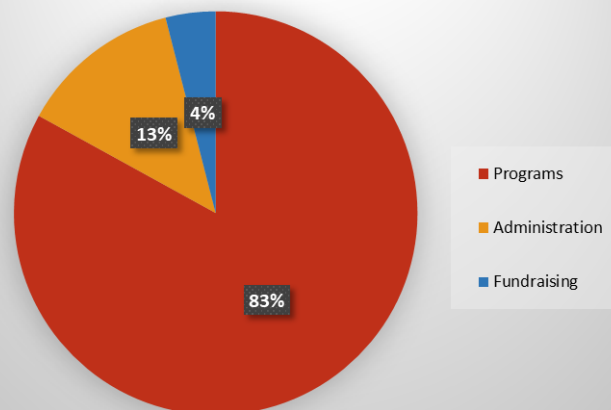
What Things Cost

\$43,000	Run ONE SON Ministries Summer Lunch Camp Site for the summer	\$1,080	Annual technology & communication support to connect with families and participants
\$16,000	Two busses including drivers to bus children to Summer Lunch Camp site	\$500	Monthly cost to connect families to resources
\$5,375	Run ONE Summer Lunch Camp Site for one week	\$300	Send ONE child to 3-Generation Family ESL Program for the entire school year
\$2,000	Run 3-Generation Family ESL Program for one week (including children's academic support and recreation)	\$175	Send ONE child to Summer Lunch Camp for the summer

Revenue Summary \$1,020,959



Expense Summary \$952,674



2020 – Community Partners

The work of Serving Our Neighbors (SON) Ministries is possible because of our committed community partners. Our partners are engaged in many ways: financial and in-kind contributions, donation of space, volunteer service, expert consultation, and more.

ADAMH (Alcohol, Drug, and Mental Health Board of Franklin County)	Franklin County Sherriff's Department	Ohio Department of Education
AEP (American Electric Power) Foundation	Giant Eagle	OhioHealth Home Care
Agape Community Fellowship	Griffin Lantz Insurance Agency, LLC	The Ohio State University
AmeriCorps – VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America)	Harry C. Moores Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • College of Education and Human Ecology • College of Social Work • Department of Agricultural Communication, Education, and Leadership • Fisher College of Business • The Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity
Amlin United Methodist Church	Hilliard Area Realty	Olive Garden
Arlene's Cuisine	Hilliard Church of Christ	OneHope Foundation
Baker & Associate Insurance Agency	Hilliard Church of the Nazarene	Panera Bread
Big Lots	Hilliard City Schools	Powell Prints
BMW Financial Services	Hilliard Kiwanis	Public House Church
Cameron Mitchell Catering	Hilliard Presbyterian Church	Reinberger Foundation
Cameron Mitchell Restaurants	Hilliard United Methodist Church	Rock City Church
CareSource	Honda of America Mfg, Inc.	Rotary Club of Hilliard
Carsonie's Restaurant	Ingram White Castle Foundation	Safelite Auto Glass Foundation
Charley's Kids Foundation	Jack Lewis – Webmaster	Shepherd Church of the Nazarene
Chick-fil-A	Kimball Midwest	Siemer Foundation
Children's Hunger Alliance	King Business Interiors	St. Brendan the Navigator
Christian Community Church	Legal Aid Society of Columbus	Ten Pin Alley
Church Next Door	Life Community Church	Tree of Life Play & Cafe
City Campus Church	Lil Donut Factory	Two Men and a Truck
Coffee Connections	Mango's Place	Upper Arlington Lutheran Church (UALC)
The Coffee Mess	Med Life – Pay It Forward	United Way of Central Ohio
Columbus Blue Jackets	Mercator Club	Upper Arlington City Schools
Columbus Metropolitan Library – Hilliard Branch	La Michoacana	Veritas
Cornerstone Christian Fellowship	Moms Club of NE Hilliard	Willis Spangler Starling
Credit Union of Ohio	Morrison Sign Company	
Cypress Wesleyan Church	Movement Church	
Dick Masheter Ford	New Hope Reformed Church	
Fifth Third Bank	New Life Church	
	No. 1 Gyro	
	Norwich Township Fire Department	
	Ohio Association of Foodbanks	

How You Can Help

Learn More

Visit us Online:

Website: www.SON-Ministries.org

Blog: sonministriesblog.wordpress.com

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Donate

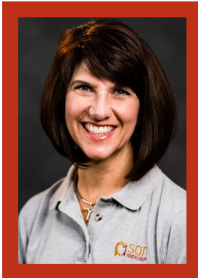
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