



WARM
Westerville Area Resource Ministry

For Immediate Release
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Scott Marier Announces WARM's 50th Anniversary Milestone and His Transition to Retirement in 2022



Executive Director Scott Marier announces that in 2022 the Westerville Area Resource Ministry (WARM) will celebrate its 50th year of serving residents in need in the area encompassing the Westerville City School District. Simultaneous with this milestone achievement of growth, service and ministry Marier adds that after 17 years of service, he desires to transition from leading WARM to his planned retirement in 2022.

As Marier retires, he aims to present his successor with an organization in its best shape ever. Marier became executive director of WARM on January 5, 2005. During his tenure Marier, 67, has led WARM through dramatic expansion to meet the needs of the Westerville community. As thankful as he is for WARM's accomplishments on his watch, Marier said the time is right for him to pass the reins to a new executive director.

"WARM has planned for a careful leadership transition and sustained quality service to the community during its 50th anniversary year and beyond," said WARM Board of Trustees Chairman Michael Heyeck. "WARM's Board commends Scott Marier's leadership and legacy leading WARM to meet the growing needs of our community. What started as a small footprint with Scott Marier has grown to a world-class distribution and conference center to fulfill WARM's mission to sustain lives."

Regarding transition, Heyeck stated, "The Board will begin a diligent search for a new executive director, as Scott Marier will be hard to replace. The expected timeline for the transition will likely take us to mid-2022." The process will be available soon at www.WARMWesterville.org where applicants may apply.

Marier attributed the success of WARM to God. "God's been so fruitful on this journey. I could spout off 1,000 successes at WARM that could never have happened without His intercession," Marier said. "The many thousands of people we have helped, the

facilities, and the equipment we've obtained for pennies on the dollar of their real worth are just a few examples. This is coupled with the scores of talented, faithful employees and volunteers who have given so much of themselves serving others in need, and the incredible unwavering support of donor partners and the people of this community in service and support of WARM's mission. Only God can do that."

Marier's Impact

Though well known for his statistical analysis of just about everything WARM does, Marier hesitates to compile a list of his own biggest accomplishments. He notes that it was all made possible with help from the WARM team of employees, volunteers and donor partners.

He is thankful WARM more than quadrupled the organization's physical size with the 2014 relocation and gratified with the huge growth of the Kids Lunch Club program, which provides meals for children during summer months, when free school lunches are not available. He is also pleased the organization has grown to the point of offering comprehensive programs and services to help even more people in the community needing assistance.

In addition, he is excited about the latest WARM food delivery innovation: The Online Choice Market allows recipients to request their food allocations from WARM online, before coming to the facility. That makes WARM one of only two pantry operations in Ohio offering such a program. Overall, WARM has responded exceedingly well to a huge increase in demand through nearly two years of the pandemic, he said, persevering through a stressful time on agency employees and volunteers.

Marier said that God has done and will continue to do incredible things with WARM. "It has been an honor and a real blessing to be a small part of WARM's continuing story." And although he is retiring from WARM, he's not seeking out a rocking chair. He sees more valuable service opportunities to great causes in his future and knows his faith will continue to lead him.

"I know that God has something more for me to do," he said. "The goal is to finish well." Michael Heyeck adds, "At the end of Scott's journey, he will have accomplished much more than he dreamed, and he will hear, 'Well done, good and faithful servant.'"

WARM's History

Founded as a tiny food and clothing pantry at St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church in 1972, the operation initially was called Paul's Pantry. Several other local churches joined St. Paul's in the cause during the 1980s. They formed the Westerville Area Ministerial Association, which adopted the effort to provide food and other social services to the needy in the community. It quickly outgrew its initial space at St. Paul's.

In 1996, the operation transitioned to become the Westerville Area Resource Ministry (WARM) and relocated to a 1,500 square-foot building at 175 E. Broadway Ave. In 2001, WARM obtained 501(c)(3) nonprofit status as a faith-based social service organization, and more growth beckoned. The community needs quickly outgrew the Broadway Avenue capacity and the building was expanded multiple times into neighboring space, eventually reaching 6400 square-feet.

When leaders determined even more space was required, an exhaustive search produced no viable options. However, God's plan became apparent when at the last moment, WARM's current building at 150 Heatherdown Drive became available at a below market value price and WARM secured and moved to the new location in 2014. The facility offered 40,000 square-feet of space and was capable to handle food storage and distribution for WARM. Additionally, it provided scores of space for more social service programs devoted to employment assistance, life coaching, and other means to fulfill the mission of solving the underlying causes of hunger and poverty.