



Economic Impact: Mary Rigg Neighborhood Center

For nearly 100 years, Mary Rigg Neighborhood Center has been helping individuals and families impacted by low-income and urban poverty in inner-city Indianapolis.

While the current downturn in the economy is affecting all Americans through loss of jobs, retirement savings, and investment income, it has had especially devastating effects on poor and economically fragile individuals and families. It has also placed a significant strain on agencies, like Mary Rigg Neighborhood Center, who are on the front lines providing direct assistance.



Over the past six months, we have seen a dramatic increase in the number of neighbors seeking assistance in meeting their family's basic needs for food, clothing, and shelter. In fact, over 40% of those who have turned to us for help in the past six months have never sought services from us before. Many have seen their work hours cut dramatically or have lost jobs, and many are in danger of losing their homes or of not being able to pay their rent. And still others are making difficult choices between paying for medicine or paying for food.

But in the midst of economic uncertainty, one thing remains certain: MRNC is dedicated to meeting these challenges. Our staff, administrators, and Board of Directors is committed to maximizing all available resources by utilizing all of our existing resources to their fullest potential and also by building new, strategic partnerships to provide resources and opportunities that will meet the immediate and long-term needs of the neighbors who we serve.



Included with this letter are just a few of the ways we are responding to the needs of our neighbors. We invite you to support us in whatever way you can, whether volunteering to serve a meal to a neighbor in need or supporting our Summer Day Camp program.

Thank you for believing in Mary Rigg Neighborhood Center and thank you for believing in neighbors working toward a better tomorrow.

Best,

Clark Lienemann, Executive Director

Paul Lindemann, Board President

Sarah's Story:

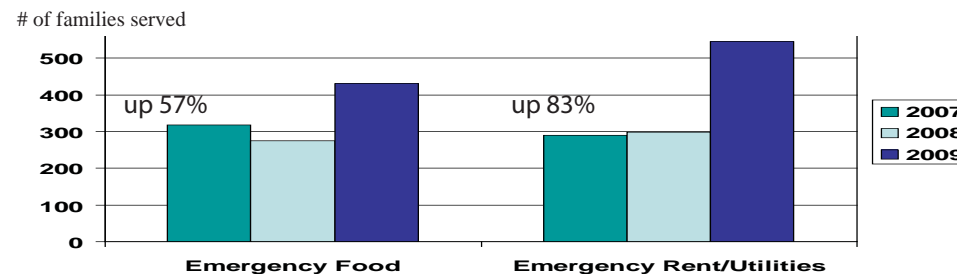
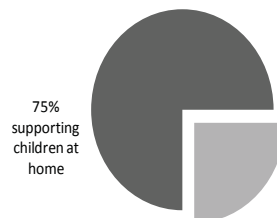
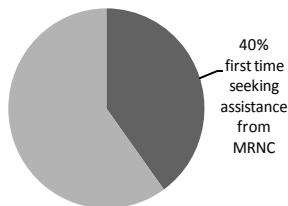
In late January 2009, a 29 year old, single mother came to Mary Rigg Neighborhood Center. Having recently lost her job, Sarah was beginning to panic--with a young daughter to care for, rent due in just a few days, and an unreliable car, it seemed all the odds were stacked against her. With no family in the area, Sarah had nowhere else to turn. She had several job interviews scheduled, but her car would not start and the city bus route wouldn't take her as far as she needed to go for the interviews.

Through the generosity of donors and funding partners, Mary Rigg Neighborhood Center was able to offer help and hope--Sarah received financial assistance to cover a portion of car repair costs and her rent for the month. She was referred to the center's employment and money coaching services for on-going assistance.

A few days later, Sarah stopped by, with tears in her eyes, to simply say a deep, heartfelt thank you--she said she now felt "hope" for the future. And in these uncertain economic times, hope may just be the most valuable asset of all.

Snapshot of Tough Times

Select statistics from 10/2008-present with year-to-year comparison



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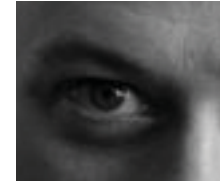


Access to Community Economic Relief Funds

In early December 2008, five leading Central Indiana philanthropic organizations came together to create a \$3.2 million Community Economic Relief Fund to assist individuals most hard hit by the economic times. Mary Rigg Neighborhood Center was one of 45 “first-responders” to receive funding to directly assist neighbors.

Since funding was awarded in December, Mary Rigg Neighborhood Center has provided direct financial assistance to 79 families--assistance has helped families in crisis pay for childcare, medical expenses, eyeglasses, car insurance payments, and utility bills to prevent disconnect.

Over 50 of these individuals have been referred to Mary Rigg Neighborhood Center’s employment and financial coaching services as a result of this generous funding.



Addition of Financial Coaching

Some neighbors who are struggling to meet their family’s basic needs may be recently unemployed or they may have been unemployed for quite some time; other neighbors may be working multiple jobs to make ends meet or may be earning too much to qualify for government assistance, yet not enough to meet household needs. But no matter what the situation, we know that for families to become self-sufficient and economically stable, they must have sustainable employment and a solid plan for managing their money.

In mid-2008, Mary Rigg Neighborhood Center added a financial professional to the center’s staff who offers one-on-one financial coaching in combination with employment training and coaching to neighbors seeking to increase their family’s earnings and savings. Financial coaching and services focus on developing a family budget, establishing savings and checking accounts, accessing credit reports, screening for benefits eligibility, and financial planning for the future (homeownership, college savings, etc).

Additionally, MRNC served as a 2009 “Free Tax Preparation Site” for the city of Indianapolis, preparing 86 tax returns and providing low-income neighbors with over \$81,000 in refunds.

Visit www.maryrigg.org today to:

-Sign up to volunteer

-Donate on-line

-Set up recurring monthly gifts

Free/Low-Cost Health Insurance

From October-February, only 43% of neighbors seeking assistance from Mary Rigg Neighborhood Center had health insurance to cover all members of their family. In response, Mary Rigg Neighborhood and the Health and Hospital Corporation of Marion County, have partnered to provide on-site benefits screening one day per week. Families meet one-on-one with program representatives to determine eligibility for free/low-cost health insurance.

Launch of After-School Meals Program & New Food Pantry

In January 2009, in partnership with Second Helpings, Mary Rigg Neighborhood Center began providing free, healthy dinners to kids in our After-School program. Four nights each week, volunteers serve the kid-friendly meals to youth and their parents. In just four months, we’ve served over 2,000 meals and engaged over 30 volunteers.

Also, on April 1, we opened an expanded food pantry which has doubled the size of the center’s pantry. This “shopper’s pantry,” organized and run by volunteers and staff allows neighbors to “shop” for food items for their family. Significant assistance was received from Jackson Oil & Solvents, Lilly Technology Center, Mu Alpha Latreian, and Life Church in establishing the new pantry.



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Community Partner