

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Birthday Brunch

December 6, 2009  
Verdin Bell Event Centre

### 2010 Kids Start Smart Fair

January 1, 2010  
Price Hill Recreation Center

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# Life in the COMMUNITY

HELPING FAMILIES HELP THEMSELVES SINCE 1897

FALL/WINTER 2009/2010

## President & CEO message



H. A. Musser, Jr.  
MA, MSW, LISW

Signs of progress! Last month I witnessed the dedication ceremony for the long-awaited reopening of the West 8th Street Viaduct. It was an impressive affair with city and county leaders cutting the ribbon to

symbolize the revitalized connection of the Westside with downtown. (I also learned that this bridge is both the longest and widest bridge in all of Hamilton County!)

I left the ceremony and walked back across the bridge to Lower Price Hill where an equally impressive dedication ceremony took place. Santa Maria and our neighborhood

partners dedicated the newly-completed rain garden at the corner of State and Staebler. It was dedicated to veterans who have lived in Lower Price Hill. In the same spot, where for many years a blighted, rat-infested building stood, we now have a small park that makes residents proud. Collected rain water will feed the garden and be an ongoing reminder of life.

As we enter the holiday season of the year, we ask you to please consider an extra gift to Santa Maria. These are tough times for everyone, and we deeply appreciate anything you can do to help us maintain our services to those who have been hardest hit. Thank you so much.

## 2009 Birthday Brunch December 6

*St. Nicholas was a friend to the poor, reputed to be able to help the poor and downtrodden, and save children. His model life inspires compassion and charity, where the focus is on giving more than on receiving. His stories lead people to look beyond their own wants and desires.*

Attend this year's Birthday Brunch and help raise funds for Santa Maria's Meals on Wheels program! This year's event will take place on Sunday, December 6 at the Verdin Bell Event Centre from 10 am - 12:30 pm (**new time!**) In addition to awarding the first Sr. Blandina Segale award to Sr. Sally Duffy, SC, of the SC Ministry Foundation, Santa Maria will posthumously honor five dedicated Meals on Wheels volunteers -- Arthur Briede, Robert Sinnard, Marge Weil, Robert Wurtz and Doris Zeiser.

For more information and to view a list of auction items visit [www.santamaria-cincy.org](http://www.santamaria-cincy.org) or contact Leslie Schultz at [leslie.schultz@santamaria-cincy.org](mailto:leslie.schultz@santamaria-cincy.org) or 513-557-2730 ext. 408.



**Administrative Office**

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**East Price Hill Center**

3301 Warsaw Avenue  
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**Lower Price Hill Center**

718 State Avenue  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45204  
(513) 557-2710

**Price Avenue Center**

2918 Price Avenue  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45204  
(513) 557-2730

**Sedamsville Center**

617 Steiner Avenue  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45204  
(513) 557-2720

## Foundation Corner

*Many worthwhile programs of Santa Maria are supported by local foundations. Since the last update, the following foundations have supported more of Santa Maria's programs:*

**The Meals-on-Wheels Program** benefits this year from the generous support of The Spaulding Foundation, The Helen Steiner Rice Fund of The Greater Cincinnati Foundation, and The Foundation of the Cincinnati Academy of Medicine.

Santa Maria's Meals-on-Wheels program, which began in 1972, is the oldest and largest volunteer-run meals-on-wheels program in Greater Cincinnati. It helps keep people in their homes longer and prevents them from being forced to move prematurely into nursing homes or other assisted living facilities, which actually saves taxpayer dollars. For many of Santa Maria's homebound clients, our volunteers are the only people they see each day. The Meals-on-Wheels program serves Delhi, Western Hills, Covedale, Sedamsville, Fairmount and Price Hill.

While the program has enjoyed generous support from the above-mentioned foundations, it in turn has made some concessions to battle the difficult economic times. Three employees of the program considerably reduced their work hours in order for the program to balance the budget for 2009.

**Santa Maria's Youth Program** benefits from continuous support from the Charles H. Dater Foundation and the Summertime Kids program of the Greater Cincinnati Foundation.

This year the Summertime Kids program supported Santa Maria's Sedamsville Young Entrepreneurs Summer Camp. During the month of July, Sedamsville youth were taught how to make bracelets, necklaces and pendants. Over the course of the 2-week period, beads, fasteners and leather goods were transformed into products ranging from average to spectacular. A number of the youth's parents, and in several cases grandparents, also participated with the kids. Charles Perdue, local youth mentor and group facilitator, taught the jewelry making skills to the participants.

More than 150 volunteers give nearly 10,000 hours annually to deliver meals to clients' homes. The volunteers do not receive any sort of reimbursement for their mileage, so they really give not only of their time, but also of their financial resources! Ninety percent of these volunteers show up even in inclement weather conditions.

In 2009, Santa Maria expects to serve 49,000 meals to 240 individuals.

**Do you know anyone  
who would benefit from  
a friendly face stopping in  
daily to drop off a  
nutritiously prepared meal?**

**Santa Maria can help!**

If you are 60 years old or older, need help with meal preparation, or are the spouse of an eligible client, you may qualify!  
Income is not a factor for participation!

Call Carol Espelage at  
513-557-2730 ext. 402



A tough decision --  
what kind of bead?



Charles Perdue assists the kids and families in making products to sell

On July 22 a select number of kids and several parents set up a booth at the Northside Farmer's Market to sell their product. The group made \$55, which was divided equally between the participants.

Loyal and generous support from the Charles H. Dater Foundation helps keep Price Hill youth off the streets. Santa Maria facilitates activities that have a violence prevention and/or drug prevention theme (i. e. group meetings, a concert, dances.) You cannot drive through Lower Price Hill and miss seeing youth wearing "Stop The Violence" t-shirts funded by the Dater Foundation. The Youth program teaches the youth to build peaceful conflict-resolution and peer resistance skills. Many attend outings that help build these skills. These outings include University of

*Foundation Corner cont. on page 7*

## Price Hill Pacer 09 A Success!



Price Hill Pacer participants follow the course on West 8th Street

On Saturday, June 6th, over 161 runners and walkers gathered at Elder High School to raise over \$11,000 for the programs of Santa Maria and Price Hill Will. The sun was shining, the humidity was low and everyone had a great time!

Many thanks go to Price Hill Pacer Title Sponsor Macy's, Inc., and additional sponsors SC Ministry Foundation, Cincinnati Sports Medicine, Hart Pharmacy, Price Hill Marathon, The Model Group, Warsaw Federal, Western Hills Window and Hofmeyer Plumbing.

In addition to the many sponsors, thanks also go to those who donated space, food, drink

and other items. These donors include Elder High School, Pepsi Co., Old World Bakery, The Kroger Co., Restaurant Management, Inc. (Arby's), Dicks Sporting Goods, Shake Shack Nutrition, La Petite Salon and Spa, Price Hill Chili, Busken Bakery, Lee's Famous Recipe, Kings Island, Primavista, Baron Engraving, Mark and Colleen Davis, Grace and John Lobono and Rick Schultz.

This event would not happen without the many volunteers that helped that day, as well as the hard work put forth by the race committee, chaired by Betsy Otten. Other committee members include Tom Otten, Eric Hamberg, Kathleen O'Neill, Grace Lobono, Mark Davis, Diana Vakharia (Price Hill Will) and Leslie Schultz (Santa Maria.)

**Make sure to mark your calendars for next year's Price Hill Pacer: Saturday, June 5, 2010.**



Runners and walkers get ready to start the 2009 Price Hill Pacer

## More Opportunities to Help Santa Maria!

**Please take part in these great events and support Santa Maria's programs in need!**



For the second year, Santa Maria has been chosen as one of the beneficiaries of the Rusty Ball, which is hosted by The Rusty Griswolds, one of Cincinnati's best 80's cover bands. The event takes place on Saturday, November 21st from 8 pm - midnight at the Duke Energy Center. Tickets are \$50 in advance and include admission to the event, plus four drink tickets. Last year, at least \$30 of each

ticket that Santa Maria sold went to help continue its programs. To purchase tickets and for more information go to [www.therustyball.com](http://www.therustyball.com).

Santa Maria also has the opportunity to raise funds through Applebee's Dine to Donate program during the weekend of December 11-13! Applebee's will donate 10% of all paid check tabs when guests present the flyer (see right) when ordering at the **Crookshank Applebee's**. The flyer will be given out at the Birthday Brunch and can be accessed at [www.santamaria-cincy.org](http://www.santamaria-cincy.org). It can then be printed in black and white, reduced and emailed to friends and family. **However, it cannot be handed out at the restaurant.**

## Santa Maria Honors Sisters

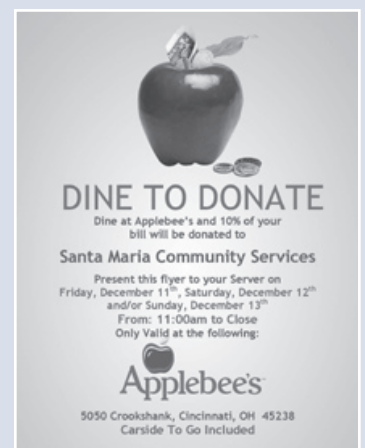
In recognition of the Sisters of Charity's 200th Anniversary, staff at Santa Maria decided to hold a brunch in honor of all Sisterhood Orders who have worked with Santa Maria. Over thirty guests



enjoyed a bountiful feast on Saturday, August 15. All who attended enjoyed reminiscing about times at Santa Maria and remembering those who have passed, including past Santa Maria Executive Director, Sr. Jane Ellen Shappelle. Thanks to all who helped at and donated to this event!



**Good only at the Crookshank Applebee's December 11-13.**





## Donations in Memory of:

Dr. Henry C. Beekley,  
MD  
Mrs. Elsie Beekley

Norma Berringer  
Carroll Berringer

Sam Capozzolo  
Anonymous

Martha Dannemiller  
Bill and Nancy Remke

Pasquale Daria  
Charles and Georgia Daria

Ruth and Pasquale Daria  
Patricia Gerke

Marietta Ginocchio  
Norman Lewis

Marian Gribi  
M. GERALYN Gribi

Edward Gundrum  
Ed and Lois Wandstrat

Harry and Vivian  
Haverkos  
Dr. Steve and Judy Haverkos

Helen Hemingway  
Dorothy Krumme

Helen Hock  
Dr. and Mrs. Robert A. Hock

Judge John W. Keefe  
Mrs. John W. Keefe

Pegge Langemeier  
Bob and Joan Friedmann

Margaret Larson  
Robert Larson and Joanne Glaser

Loraine Lauck  
Dr. and Mrs. Robert A. Hock

Del Martinelli  
Anonymous



Long-time Santa Maria volunteer, Charlene Roark, takes care of Halloween festivities at Santa Maria's Sedamsville Center

## Child Development Programs Visit Price Hill Library and Parky's Farm

On October 22 the Price Hill Library hosted a monster-themed story time for several members of Santa Maria's Family Child Care Network. Elisa Gallon, the children's librarian, read monster books to the twenty-one children who were present. The children also danced to "The Monster Mash" and created monster puppets out of colorful paper bags. Afterwards, everyone enjoyed a brown bag lunch and the child care providers entered a raffle to win supplies for their family child care programs. Overall the event was a success with many providers commenting on what a nice time they had that day.



Elisa Gallon, children's librarian, reads stories to children of Santa Maria's Family Child Care Network



Santa Maria Child Development staff enjoy a day at Parky's Farm with program families

Over sixty mothers and babies from Santa Maria's Every Child Succeeds (ECS) and Promoting Our Preschoolers (POP) programs attended the annual trip to Parky's Farm pumpkin patch on October 30. Participants received lunch, a wagon ride, and a pumpkin to take home and had fun in the play barn. This is the third year of the trip and is one of the most popular events Santa Maria's ECS and POP programs offer.

## Spooky Times at Santa Maria's Sedamsville Center

If you've never visited Santa Maria's Sedamsville Center during Halloween, you are missing a fun, frightful sight! For the past seven years, long-time Santa Maria volunteer, Charlene Roark, has taken pride in decorating Santa Maria's Sedamsville Center for the Halloween holiday. Charlene enjoys decorating the Center so that the neighborhood children



The stage area at the Sedamsville Center is fully decorated for Halloween

can celebrate Halloween with a party. Each year she adds new decorations and has even enlisted the help of more volunteers, including Betty Cook, Becky Cook, Rae Ellen, Kimberly Roark, Pat Sharp, Edgar Garner and Jim Holmstrom.



Sedamsville children enjoy a Halloween party

## Lower Price Hill Home Ownership Initiative

For Melissa Cornelius and David Baker, Sunday, September 27th was a culmination of years of hard work. This was the day that they moved into their new home on State Avenue as part of the Lower Price Hill Homeownership Initiative. Melissa and David don't have any neighbors yet, but in time four other families will join them in the row of five new single-family homes built by the Model Group in partnership with Santa Maria and the Homeownership Center of Greater Cincinnati. The goal of the development is to help increase the home ownership rate in Lower Price Hill and give current residents the opportunity to purchase their own home and build wealth.



Melissa, David and their boys look down from the porch of their new home

Melissa and David's story is truly one of hard work and perseverance. For ten years, Melissa lived in Brickstone Properties, a subsidized housing project also owned by the Model Group. Melissa has worked at Child Time Learning Center since 2007; She also works part-time for the Lower Price Hill Community Council as a Community Organizer. David has worked at Cincinnati Sports Services at the Great American Ball Park for twenty-one years.

Melissa and David have three children. Justin, 13, is in the 8th grade at Oyler Community Learning Center. When asked what he thinks about his new house, he says, "It's awesome! I love the alcove in my new bedroom." Robert, 13, is in the 7th grade at Oyler. Robert thinks the new house is "cool." Emily, 19, is a senior at Oyler and plays volleyball. She

was at volleyball practice on the day of the interview, but her family assures us that she is thrilled to have her own bedroom!

In preparation to become first-time homebuyers, Melissa and David attended Homebuyer Training classes where they learned about the mortgage loan process, homeowners insurance, home inspections and more. Their brand new three-bedroom home has a fifteen year tax abatement. For being Lower Price Hill residents, the family also received a sizeable soft second mortgage from Santa Maria that will be forgiven after they live in the house for five years. These incentives mean that the Cornelius-Baker family is paying less for their mortgage than they were paying in rent.

Melissa says, "It's different being a homeowner. When you're a renter, you have somebody who takes care of all the maintenance issues. Now, when something needs fixed it is our responsibility. What I really like is that this home has energy efficient appliances." Justin chimes in to add, "It helps the environment!"

For David, this is truly the American Dream. He says, "All the years of working hard have paid off. This shows that you can have what you have always dreamed of if you work hard."

To learn more about the Lower Price Hill Homeownership Initiative, contact Kayla Camp-Warner at 513-557-2710 ext. 510.



Additional homes at Hillside Place on State Avenue, a project in which Santa Maria was one of the lead partners. The ribbon cutting took place on June 17.

## Memorials (continued)

### Barbara Acheson 1932-2009

Santa Maria said goodbye to one of its most devoted supporters, Barbara Acheson, when she died on August 2, 2009.

Mrs. Acheson's family, including husband, Ed, a sister, eight children and seventeen grand and great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews, as well as friends and community leaders gathered to pay their respects to this very special woman, who gave back to her community even in her death. Mrs. Acheson asked that memorials be given to Santa Maria, as well as the Diabetes Foundation, and friends of the family have contributed generously to Santa Maria. Her surviving daughters describe their mother as a voice and helping hand for all the people who had fewer means than she had.

Mrs. Acheson contributed everything she could -- caring and resources -- in order to make other people's, "especially the children's" lives better. "Some day I'm going to go and meet those people," Mrs. Acheson told her daughter Marsha before she died. Cindy Acheson added, "Mom even gave her body to science as a testament of her generosity and immeasurable giving."

Santa Maria thanks Barbara Acheson for her kind, generous, caring spirit.

### For Santa Maria's Child Development Programs in Memory of Barbara Acheson

Anonymous  
Ed and Carol Beimesche  
Dick Binzer  
Norma Creighton  
Victoria Gentry Crook  
Anita and Rodney Crowder  
Anthony Emerson  
Jim and Carol Fierro  
John and Miriam Hill  
John Hill Construction, LLC  
Wayne G. Jones  
John and Suzy Ladd  
Nola Miller  
Lois McGuinness and Teresa Imholt  
June Oliver and Family  
David and Sharon Rice  
Bill and Georgia Ruchwein  
Blair Schoen  
Bethany Thomas  
Carol Wolf and Jan Smith



## Call to Service



Fifth Third Bank employees helped clean up the adjacent lot at Santa Maria's Price Avenue location

Many have answered the 2009 Presidential "Call to Service" by involvement at Santa Maria, who has hosted volunteer groups from Elder High School, Xavier University, Fifth Third Bank, General Electric, LaSalle High School, Franciscans for the Poor, Northern Kentucky University, Cincinnati State Technical College, Starfire, and the University of Cincinnati. As of this date, Santa Maria has engaged over 650 volunteers, who have logged more than 12,000 hours of service to the community.

Recently, during the United Way Community Care Month, Fifth Third Bank involved

sixty-one employees on two projects in the Price Hill area. Santa Maria also hosted five Xavier University students for their Community Action Day. These students completed a beautification project on Price Avenue in the pouring rain.



More volunteer work in the rain to help clean up a lot in Price Hill

## International Welcome Center is Open

Santa Maria's International Welcome Center (IWC) at Robert's Academy is now open! Thanks to The Women's Connection, PNC Bank, Cincinnati Public Schools, Family Service, Local Initiatives Support Corporation and all attending guests, Santa Maria celebrated the Grand Opening of its newest site on October 1. For approximately seventy-five visitors, the Grand Opening provided a chance to meet new friends, learn about programs and share ideas about upcoming IWC events.

The welcome center will link international families with community resources and services. Resources that are currently available at the IWC are:

### 1. Ohio Benefits Bank site

The Ohio Benefits Bank (OBB) is a program that helps Ohioans to increase their income by applying for benefits and tax credits. The OBB offers;

- Potential eligibility calculator
- Simple, confidential application for benefits including food assistance, health care programs, child care assistance, etc.
- Free applications in English or Spanish
- A "Quick Check" for eligibility, completed in a few minutes!

*Please visit the IWC at 1702 Grand Avenue or call 513-363-4693 to schedule an appointment. Applications require verification documents, and may take up to one hour to complete.*

### 2. International Coffee Hour

Every Friday morning from 9:30 am - 10:30 am the IWC will host a bilingual "coffee hour" for parents and families. Free beverages and snacks will be provided, with child care on site.

### 3. Bilingual Outreach Specialist

Beginning November 4 on Wednesdays from 1 pm - 3:30 pm, Daniel Rodriguez from Freestore Foodbank will be in the IWC to assist families with Medicaid and other benefit applications and interviews.

### 4. Bilingual Housing Specialist

Beginning November 5th on Thursdays from 10 am - noon, Kurt Krahn from Santa Maria will provide assistance in obtaining affordable housing, tenant/landlord advocacy, foreclosure and eviction prevention outreach, and other housing information.

### 5. Translation/Assistance with applications

Monday - Wednesday, 8 am - noon, Friday, 8 am - 4 pm. Appointments are accepted -- call 513-363-4693 to schedule. Walk ins welcome on a first come first serve basis.

### 6. Weekly Nutrition Classes

Mondays from 5 pm - 6:30 pm. Pam Dixon from the YWCA will conduct a bi-lingual nutrition class. This fun and informative class will cover basic nutrition information with FREE SAMPLES to taste!



Santa Maria's Kurt Krahn gives affordable housing information to a guest at the IWC Grand Opening



Visitors enjoy conversation at the IWC coffee hour

## Las Posadas Celebration!

Bring your family and enjoy family, food and fun at this Latino Christmas tradition.

Thursday, December 17  
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Elder High School  
3900 Vincent Avenue

## Foundation Corner *continued from page 2*

Cincinnati football games, Xavier University basketball games, tubing at Perfect North Slopes, the Cincinnati Museum Center, fishing, bowling, the Cincinnati Red's Hall of Fame Museum, Kings Island, Cedar Point, and the Butterfly Exhibit at Krohn Conservatory.

For the third year Youth program partici-

Santa Maria was among the first grantees of the Weathering the Economic Storm Fund, a partnership of sixteen funders, managed by The Greater Cincinnati Foundation.

During the month of September ***Santa Maria's Wellness/Bienestar*** (meaning *well-being* in Spanish) **program** was able to assist forty-seven individuals with health screenings, prescription assistance, and health education. The Wellness program witnessed an increase in the number of individuals seeking assistance, which is largely due to the loss of households primary source of income.

Another change the Wellness program has noticed is that many households are being forced to consolidate: families and friends move in together to save on housing costs. This leads to many questions and requests regarding the availability of benefits, such as food stamps, and how the change in household numbers affects those benefits.

***Santa Maria's Housing program*** was able to help six families obtain affordable housing and help six families remain in their homes in September.

The Weathering the Economic Storm grant also helped the Housing program hire two Public Allies. Sean Wright has been placed as Santa Maria's Housing Access Specialist, working with families to obtain affordable housing. This includes assisting families with deposits, helping them develop a budget to determine how much rent they



Sean Wright

pants, who have benefited from the Dater Foundation funded programs, have also been asked to give back to their community and foster "service learning." More youth than ever did so via community clean-ups and neighborhood improvement projects. Youth are learning the value of "giving back" and improving their neighborhoods in the process.

can afford, giving them access to rental listings and making connections with landlords.

Danielle McIntyre has been placed as Santa Maria's Eviction Prevention Specialist, working with families to ensure that they remain in their homes.

This includes providing rental assistance, helping families develop a budget for managing their financial obligations and communicating with landlords.

Both Sean and Danielle began teaching sections of Santa Maria's Tenant Education class in October. Danielle was excited to see her very first client, who attended the tenant Education class in September, attend the Best Budgeters meeting in October. Sean is excited because five of his clients have attended the Tenant Education class and are now on the verge of moving into their new homes.

Former Santa Maria Board member, Glenn Miller, who consults with Santa Maria's tenant Education class said, "I was so impressed to see how participants networked with each other during these classes. They exchanged information about how to use food stamps, where to get necessary assistance, etc." One of the Tenant Education participants said, "I know now how to actually budget my money and know how much I should pay for rent with my income."



Danielle McIntyre

## Memorials *(continued)*

**John Nardella**  
Dr. Steve and Judy Haverkos

**Phylliss Nolan**  
William and Nancy Remke

**David Pavey**  
Tim and Nancy Doyle

**Paul H. Plagge**  
Ed and Mary Ann Rathman

**Larry Sandman**  
Bob and Nancy Bruns

**Janet Schwing**  
Richard Schwing

**Sr. Jane Ellen Shappelle**  
James Shappelle

**Jim Stock**  
Charles and Marlene Paff

## Donations In Honor Of

**Agney Gilbert**  
Bonnie and Garry Miller

**For the 200th Anniversary Sisters of Charity**  
Maureen Maxfield

**For Wedding Anniversary H. A. and Rhonda Musser**  
Douglas and Virginia Wright, Jr.

**For Birthday H. A. Musser, Jr.**  
Yan and Nune Krayterman

**For 90th Birthday Marv Stock**  
Guy and Del Langenbrunner

**To the Friedmann Fund For the 50th Wedding Anniversary Anna Mae and Joe Shappelle**  
Martha A. Steele



## Santa Maria Community Services

*Helping families help themselves since 1897.*

Administrative Office

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Cincinnati, OH 45204

(513) 557-2730

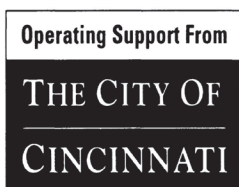
[www.SantaMaria-cincy.org](http://www.SantaMaria-cincy.org)

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## Lower Price Hill Veteran's Rain Garden Dedication



Guests who attended the dedication of the Lower Price Hill Veteran's Rain Garden on October 22 listen to various speakers



## Connect to Santa Maria!

Connect to Santa Maria online:

- [www.santamaria-cincy.org](http://www.santamaria-cincy.org) -- learn more about our programs, support us and sign up to volunteer through our secure website
- Search for Santa Maria at [www.VolunteerMatch.org](http://www.VolunteerMatch.org) for volunteer opportunities
- Search Facebook for a Cause (<http://apps.facebook.com/causes>) called **Help Make Price Hill a Better Place to Live**
- [www.GoodSearch.com](http://www.GoodSearch.com) and select Santa Maria as your charity
- Search for Santa Maria on YouTube at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=UzjiliBTBic](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UzjiliBTBic) -- 654 people have watched our video already!

Congratulations to Juliana Baquero of Park Hills, KY, who won a \$50 MArathon gift card for responding to April's newsletter question "what would you like to read in the next issue of our Newsletter?" Happy driving, Ms. Baquero!