

Wellspring

interfaith
social services inc.

Empowering Lives Fulfilling Needs

THE BOUNTIFUL SOURCE OF HOPE

Built on a history of over 55 years of interfaith collaboration, Wellspring is the bountiful source of hope and stability for families walking on the precipice of poverty. We provide families the ultimate safety net between stability and homelessness while breaking poverty's predictable generational cycle on children through empowerment, connection, and love.



GOING UPSTREAM



Life on the edge of poverty can be disrupted by something as simple as a snow day, a sick child, a car repair, or an unexpected bill. These small crises can quickly become major setbacks.

Wellspring certainly cannot solve every challenge families face. However, we provide critical, stabilizing services that anchor households, remove barriers, and create hope when life feels overwhelming.

Our measurement of success is not only measured by the number of families served, but by the number of people who never fall into homelessness or “the system” in the first place.

Investing in Wellspring means going upstream. It means addressing root causes before they become emergencies.

Supporting working families in their homes costs far less than responding to homelessness later. More importantly, research shows the strongest predictor of adult homelessness is childhood homelessness. Hence, our major focus is on the health and wellbeing of the children who can then feed of the stability, safety, and structure of home.

This is why we exist.

Mission of Wellspring: People of faith serving the social, physical, and educational needs of the community in Allen County.

After School Program



Now:
69 children enrolled

61% more kids served

After Building Expansion

Kids are transported daily from school to the Wellspring After School Program where they receive snacks and dinner, individualized education, homework assistance, and various development opportunities.

Summer Day Camp



Now:
306 kids enrolled

57% more kids served

After Building Expansion

The 6-week Summer Day Camp offers free transportation and activities like hands-on learning, outdoor play, arts, STEM, and field trips, addressing a vital need for working parents during school breaks.

Food Assistance Programs:

Food Bank, Wellspring on Wheels, and Wellspring Nutrition Program



Now:
19,000+ served
351,000 lbs distributed

300,000 more pounds of food

After Building Expansion

Every week, over 400 families rely on us for meals.

"Being able to choose foods I know my family will actually eat means everything to me. And receiving fresh fruit; well, that is a blessing I never imagined we would have."

Wellspring Shoppe



Now:
4,700+ served
55,000 items distributed

2,000 more served

After Building Expansion

Each week, individuals leave our clothing bank prepared for new jobs or school years, gaining dignity and a fresh start. Over 1,000 children receive clothing each school year, boosting their confidence to learn.

EXPANDING OUR IMPACT



Wellspring provides essential services for over 22,000 unique individuals, solidifying families on the precipice of poverty and actively preventing the slippery slope of potential homelessness. More important, we engage children in their intellectual, emotional and relational development to ensure that generational cycle of poverty ends here.

Our programs work. Families stay housed; children are fed and clothed; confidence increases; health improves, academic performance rises, and parents maintain employment. Stability is strengthened, and we are the safety net for thousands of local families. The greatest limit to our impact is space.

Dedicated and designed space will not only increase efficiency, storage and access, but it will allow us to expand. It will give all children the space they need to learn and play. Better nutritional food options can be provided daily along with more consistent nutritional education and resources. School and job ready clothing for the season will be readily available.

Campaign Goal: \$11,000,000

Facility - 16,700 sq. ft.- \$10,000,000

- Additional parking for clients, staff, and volunteers
- Universal design principles used in construction
- New furniture, equipment, warehouse racks, and technology

Endowment- \$1,000,000

- Future building maintenance

BREAKING THE MOLD

There is no national template for Wellspring. It was born from the creativity and collaboration of five downtown churches and the vision of Reverend William “Bill” Moody, built on innovation, compassion, and meeting unmet needs. That spirit continues today.

We strive for measurable impact while always doing the right thing and meeting people where they are. Families are empowered to choose what best supports them whether selecting their own items from our food pantry, shopping with dignity in our clothing bank, or enrolling their children in our youth programs which provide academic support, enrichment, mentorship, and a safe place to grow after school and during the summer.

Our relationships are what drives our connections. We understand the critical role control and independence plays for not just the parents, but the children. We tap into their stories through engagement, conversation and connection.

LIFELONG LESSONS

I grew up in the West Central area of Fort Wayne as one of eight children in a low-income household. What is now known as Wellspring helped instill in us a sense of self-awareness, self-respect, and confidence that allowed us to mature and flourish.

I am a strong believer in Wellspring because I am living proof that its work changes lives. I went on to spend my entire professional career as a high school teacher and coach with Fort Wayne Community Schools. Looking back, Wellspring helped me discover my life’s calling: helping young people grow and develop both academically and emotionally, and it is an honor to continue to serve the mission.

– Board Member Steve Smethers



Ermina Mustedanagic, CEO

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My Promise to You

I was ten years old when the Yugoslavian war began. Overnight, my peaceful childhood was replaced with fear, hunger, and uncertainty. My family fled from place to place searching for safety, often without food or clean water.

I still remember when we received a small sack of flour only to discover it was contaminated with mouse droppings. My mother faced an impossible choice: throw it away and let her children go hungry, or risk using it. She chose to feed us. By God's grace, we were safe. That moment taught me the depth of a parent's love and sacrifice.

Those experiences shaped me and ultimately led me to serve as CEO of Wellspring. While families here are not fleeing war, many face daily instability and impossible choices of their own.

At Wellspring, we offer more than food, clothing, and programs for children. We offer dignity, stability, and hope. The joy on a child's face, the confidence that grows, the relief a parent feels is my reward.

This is why we exist.

I am grateful for the grace my family received, and I am committed to paying it forward, ensuring children and families in our community are given not just help, but hope and a future.

Ermina Mustedanagic

Ermina Mustedanagic, CEO

Every gift to the Wellspring Capital Campaign is an investment in stability, dignity, and opportunity for children and families in our community. We are creating a space designed to expand hope and transform lives for generations to come.

NAMING OPPORTUNITIES

- Youth Center
- Classrooms
- Hope and Nutrition Center
- Clothing Shoppe
- Outdoor Play Areas
- Kitchens and Nutrition Spaces
- Offices and Meeting Rooms
- Transportation Vehicles

Customized recognition opportunities are also available.



Scan the QR code to learn more and make your charitable investment today.

www.wellspringinterfaith.org

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Together, we can build stability, strengthen families, and create hope.



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“Wellspring helped us get through one of the hardest seasons of our lives.”

“For the first time in a long time, I felt like someone truly cared about my family.”

“My kids never have to worry about going to school hungry after coming here.”

“The clothing bank gave my children confidence when they needed it most.”

“Wellspring gave me hope when everything felt impossible.”

“Because of Wellspring, I could keep working during the summer.”

“My son’s grades improved so much after joining the program.”

“Each month I didn’t have to choose between groceries and bills.”

“When life felt overwhelming, Wellspring reminded us there was still hope.”

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