

Our Mission

We are called to be an instrument through which the whole Body of Christ in Northside can be a visible, dynamic, and transforming presence in the community of Northside.

Northside is a vibrant neighborhood that prides itself on acceptance and celebration of diversity. It has a mix of income, educational backgrounds, ethnicities and lifestyles. Like many Cincinnati neighborhoods, it also faces challenges of crime, drugs, blight and poverty.



Churches are important assets in strengthening communities.

Cincinnati Magazine observed, “There are dozens of Protestant and Catholic churches . . . in our town — city churches with aging members and shrinking resources, churches growing old on beleaguered streets, struggling to keep their doors open and to serve their neighborhood with integrity.”

(March 2003)

**“At CAIN I was treated
with dignity and compassion,
not contempt or pity.
Now it is my turn
to support the people
in my community
through the efforts of
Churches Active In Northside.”**

— former guest who donated \$1,000

Churches Active In Northside is a 501(c)3 faith-based organization of neighborhood churches that strives to love and serve God and all God’s people.

Through CAIN, local churches can do more together than individually. We meet the emergency needs of Northside’s most vulnerable residents and encourage them and all citizens to work together to improve their lives and neighborhood.



***“Help for Today —
Hope for Tomorrow”***

CAIN Feeds Bodies and Souls

Each month, CAIN provides basic necessities like food, emergency financial assistance for rent and utilities, clothing, household and hygiene items, diapers, and furniture for more than 300 low-income individuals and families. CAIN connects people to resources and help for mental illness, substance abuse, domestic violence, unemployment, lack of education, and emergencies such as fire, illness or death in family, and job loss.



CAIN Cares for Children

CAIN makes a special effort to encourage children and youth. CAIN supports church and neighborhood youth efforts by providing snacks, helping to publicize events, and helping families pay participation fees for their children's activities.

"Kids Corner" during evening pantry hours gives children encouragement and an opportunity for a fun activity while their parent or guardian visits the Crisis Assistance Ministry.



CAIN Builds Community

CAIN builds relationships across racial, economic and cultural lines. CAIN strengthens individuals and works with them to strengthen our community. CAIN hosts and supports neighborhood events.

History

CAIN churches have been meeting emergency needs and planting seeds of hope for Northside's most vulnerable citizens since the 1970s. Northside United Methodist Church member, Jewel Davis Smith, started a food pantry in response to her pastor's Sunday sermon. She ministered to her neighbors in need and set an example for all to live their faith by serving others.

After Jewel Smith's death in 1991, Northside churches formalized their association and created CAIN: *Churches Active In Northside*. CAIN has grown beyond its humble beginnings as a food pantry to be a vital community resource. In July 2000, St. Phillip's Episcopal Church purchased a former beauty salon for CAIN to create the Jewel Smith Ministry Center. CAIN raised over a quarter of a million dollars to design and construct an addition that opened in March 2002. The new space is centrally located and accessible. It allowed CAIN to increase hours of operation for emergency assistance, expand services and support efforts to strengthen our community. CAIN is a testimony to people putting their faith in action by helping, sharing, caring, listening, and lifting in prayer.

CAIN milestones

1993 - present
ANNUAL SECRET ANGEL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
Currently serving more than 350 families

1996
WORLD RELIEF COMMITTEE OF THE AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES
First Ohio agency grant recipient

1998 - present
CITY OF CINCINNATI DEPT. OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Funded Agency

1999-2003
COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PARTNERS GRANT
Received in partnership with Northside Community Council & Northside Business Association from Fifth Third Bank, Greater Cincinnati Foundation, Procter & Gamble Fund and United Way & Community Chest

2003
VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services,
1st Round Recipient: Capacity Building Grant

2004
"AGENCY OF THE YEAR" OHIO ASSOCIATION OF
SECOND HARVEST FOODBANKS for the Freestore Foodbank