

## **Why the St. John the Baptist, Harrison – “BEST IN THE WEST” – 5K Run\Walk Race?**

The economy continues to hammer away at our jobs, our savings and our very dreams. Friends we have known for years are suffering in silence dealing with a lay off or aware they are on collision course with unemployment soon. The impact may hit even closer to home perhaps yourself or even your children. This past June college students flooded into the job market eager and hopeful. Graduates with great degrees and awesome grades found the entry level jobs scarce. The jobs found may be accepted, but not in their degree field and paying far below what they went to college to obtain. What is the point and where is this letter taking you?

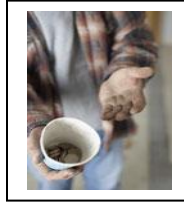
Our point is that ***“in these tough economic and uncertain times almost anyone may need a helping hand”***. The faces asking for help today are not the faces you would have imagined in years past. Many assumed, I include myself, that someone without a job was someone not really looking. Often the callous exterior we built around ourselves conveniently blinded us to those we passed with hands, cups and signs out in despair. We believed that a dirty appearance, unclean clothes and poor hygiene was the package the face came in that we expected to see needing help. But instead now that face is coming packaged in 3 piece suits, college clothes with book bag on shoulder or folks who remind us of our own kind grandparents. They arrive at a place where pride has been broken, reality has crept in and there is nowhere to turn.

For over 150+ years our church has been making a difference in our community. We have decided that we can do more in response to the additional needs of these “new faces”. The best news is that we have an easy way for you to personally, and immediately, impact our local Harrison and Cincinnati area. St. John the Baptist, Harrison will be hosting a 5K run, 1-Mile youth run and Kiddie fun run in conjunction with our annual festival. We anticipate 300-400 runners will attend this first ever 5K event. We offer you the chance to sponsor our running event, participate in the run and then enjoy good music, cold drinks, hot food and family fun afterwards.

Please take a moment and review the following brief descriptions of the charities we have selected to partner with in our event. Now ask yourself if you can find the time to help someone and have fun at the same time. Join us to settle once and for all, WHO IS THE BEST IN THE WEST.

Sincerely,

The St. John the Baptist Harrison 5K Committee



## **Charitable Organizations to be benefitted:**

### **Love INC**

<http://loveincharrison.homestead.com/>

This is a Christian ministry that helps local churches reach out to people in need in their community. It connects volunteers from partner churches that connect our neighbors in need to appropriate help. It serves as a clearinghouse, receiving requests for help from those in need, verifying the need and connecting those individuals and families to churches and other agencies for help. It gives no monies directly to clients for rent, utilities, medications, etc. but are given directly to whom the money is owed.

### **Reachout Pregnancy Center (ROPC)**

<http://www.reachoutpregnancy.com/>

This group offers free pregnancy testing, diapers and wipes, instant formula and baby food, infant furniture, clothing for young children and parenting classes and professional referrals as needed. ROPC may be the only aid and bright spot to a struggling new family or frightened first time single mother. Their goal of mercy, love and charity touches many new born lives every year.

### **St. Vincent DePaul**

<http://svdpcincinnati.org>

Neighbors helping neighbors is what the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is all about - caring people helping their neighbors in need of the most basic necessities - food, shelter, clothing, transportation and emotional comfort. There are heartbreaking circumstances right here in our own community, but practical, compassionate person-to-person caring can make a world of difference.

### **St. John the Baptist Church (SJB)**

<http://www.sjbharrisonparish.org/>

SJB has been serving the Harrison area for over 150+ years. It has grown not just with the city but deeply into the heart of the city. Its parishioners have been or are fire fighters, policemen, mayors and councilmen, area doctors and local businessmen. Its doors have always been open and it has been a steady arm, on its own, or assisting the charities listed above to help those in need.

*We encourage you to visit these charities web sites and see for yourself the work they do that may directly benefit you or someone you love right here in the Harrison area. If you find you can't help with the SJB effort there are plenty of ways you may help these groups.*