

THANK YOU TO OUR 2017 SPONSORS!



The FEST
28700 Euclid Ave.
Wickliffe, Ohio 44092
www.theFEST.us

SPONSORS AND VENDORS

It takes many companies and organizations to make The FEST possible.

From tents to T-shirts, giveaways, food and display booths, there are many ways to get involved and be a vendor or sponsor. The FEST is looking for new sponsors and vendors to support a great cause and to be connected with over 40,000 potential customers! If you are a company owner or know an organization that could use the exposure, contact us for more information.

Any lead is helpful. Contact Jake Bihari: Jake@theFEST.us

A purple rectangular graphic with rounded corners, tilted slightly to the right. It contains white text that reads "Save the Date", "FEST 2018", "Sunday, August 5, 2018", and the website "www.theFEST.us".

Save the Date
FEST 2018
Sunday, August 5, 2018
www.theFEST.us



WINTER NEWSLETTER
& FEST DAY HIGHLIGHTS

There are a thousand stories that I can share about FEST 2017. The pictures, Facebook posts, and all the metrics clearly show that it was a GREAT day of faith, family and fun for thousands and thousands across the region.

Rather than share a story from last August, I will share a story about an email I received last night (end of November). It came from someone who loves The FEST and also knows that because of The FEST we have been working to create awareness on the heroin crisis in our region. Long email short, they just lost a good friend of their family. They wanted to ‘ask for prayers’ and say ‘thank you’ for our efforts to create a safe, healthy, holy community for all of God’s people.

Last week Millie reached out to The FEST asking for some help as well. **She is working to help 150 families who came to Cleveland from Puerto Rico.** They have lost everything and they have come to move in with their relatives in our area. She is looking for some coats, clothes and bunk beds. Four years ago The FEST launched ALPHA Village – an outreach in the city of Cleveland. She knew that we would work to find a way to help these families in need.

We often say that The FEST is more than a day. These two soul-stirring stories are examples of the good we do TOGETHER through The FEST.


For the great day in August and for the outreach that continues all year long – thank you!!! We can only keep The FEST strong, alive and doing great work in the name of the Lord because of the 1400 volunteers, 1600 raffle supporters and 45 sponsors.

Please take some time to review some of the highlights of FEST 2017 and mark your calendar for Sunday, August 5, 2018. We promise GREAT bands, amazing activities, and a great day of faith, family and fun.

As you reflect on the blessings of God in your life, please consider an end of the year donation to The FEST. Given some unforeseen expenses, we ran a little short in 2017 (about \$20,000). Your donation will help us keep The FEST solid and strong for 2018 and years to come.

May God bless you and your loved ones in these holy days of Advent. May your celebration of Christmas be filled with God's grace and peace.

Thank you for your support and help with The FEET


Father Bob Stec

P.S. Please check out the good we are doing together at: www.GreaterthanHeroin.com and www.ALPHAVillage.us

Special thanks to Marc's and their friends for making The FEST possible!
WE CANNOT THANK OUR SPONSORS ENOUGH!
PLEASE HELP US BY SUPPORTING THEIR BUSINESSES.



MORE THAN JUST A DAY



MEET THE SMUDZ

Every now and then you meet people who are game changers.

They make things happen that without them would not be possible. The FEST is blessed to have many of these 'game changers'. Two in particular, Terry and Leslie Smudz, stand out above the rest. Terry and Leslie were recently recognized by Medical Mutual as Outstanding Senior Volunteers. Their work with Habitat for Humanity and Mission Possible are exceptional, but their efforts, hard work and dedication to The FEST are inspiring. For 10+ years the Smudz have helped build The FEST grounds, coordinate hundreds of volunteers and help make The FEST possible, all with smiles on their faces! The FEST is grateful for Terry and Leslie and grateful for all our 1,400+ volunteers.

If you, like Terry and Leslie, are recently retired and looking to give back, please contact us and learn how to get involved. FEST@theFEST.us



ALPHA VILLAGE RECAP

Another ministry of The FEST is known as Alpha Village, an outreach into the Ohio City area of Cleveland. We've been working there over the past 4 years, providing food, coats and basic home repair services to the neighborhood. Over the past few weeks we've collected and distributed over 2,000 coats to those in the neighborhood. Most notably, we're working side by side with several local community organizations to provide warm clothes, food and some furniture to the hundreds of Puerto Rican families who have come to the area to escape the hardships after Hurricane Maria tore apart their homes. Alpha Village is just one more extension of the good we do together through The FEST. To get involved and learn more, visit www.AlphaVillage.us

GREATER THAN HEROIN

There is an epidemic in our region.

Thousands of people in Ohio and across the country have died this year due to heroin and other opioid overdoses. Greater Than Heroin is an outreach ministry of The FEST focused on building coalitions of faith and civic leaders.

We're passionate about raising awareness and providing resources to faith leaders and their communities.

This past fall The FEST and Greater Than Heroin provided resources and information to hundreds of churches in the region in addition to promoting 'Drug Takeback Day', an initiative for citizens and residents to turn in their unused and unwanted to their local Police and Sheriff Departments. We also partnered with 11 other churches to host regional prayer services for anyone who has lost a loved one to an overdose.

To learn more and to get involved, visit us at: GreaterThanHeroin.com



WHAT PEOPLE SAID ABOUT THE FEST 2017:

"The best day of my life!! I have placed my life in the Lord's hands!! I have been reconciled to Himself!! My BEST friend has wrapped His arms around me again!! This year was a special day for me. To be a Eucharistic Minister among the people at Mass broadens my love for Jesus as I looked into the eyes of those who received Him through me. I hope to do it again next year!!" - **GIA MARIE**

"This was our first year at The Fest!! It was such a blessing!! Thank you to all who made it possible!! The musicians had such passion for the Lord.....so evident in their music!! There was such a spirit of unity....a reminder of our future home in Heaven.....where we will worship our King forever with brothers and sisters in Christ!! The people who worked there were so kind and loving! I was overwhelmed by the generosity of the Church who hosted this! May you be blessed!! Thank you!!" - **KRIS**

"Gets better every year! Second time to it and will not miss one. To top it off it is FREE!" - **JARED**

"So many opportunities to worship in various ways, have a great time and Marc's 6" sub for \$1!!! Enjoyed meeting many of our brothers and sisters - especially those who are not Catholic but are still very welcome." - **MARY**

"Thank you, KING Nut Company! I worked the King Nut peanut trough at the East entrance this year and had a blast chatting it up with all the Fest visitors. They were excited to be at the Fest and so many commented that they loved the FREE peanuts that King Nut so generously donated, as they filled a bag for munching on during the concerts! Also, thank you Len and Sara from 95.5 The FISH! You guys are always such great hosts!" - **JODI**

"The best family oriented experience of the year! Even if they started charging to go it would still be worth it! My family had a blast and the music was amazing as always!" - **CHAD**

"The Fest is one of the biggest highlights of our summer as a family. We are truly blessed to get to experience it every year." - **COURTNEY**

"It was my first year attending, and I loved it. I will definitely be going back next year for some more entertainment." - **RACHEL**

"This event is literally life changing God showed up big time!! So excited what God is going to do in Ohio" - **MATTHEW**

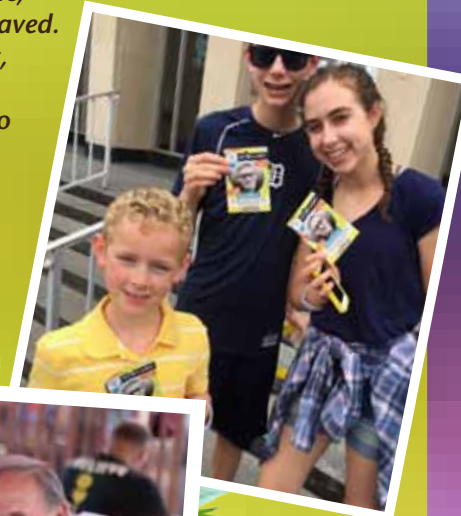
"To whichever organization was giving out the CD's on how to pray the rosary: As I was leaving for work I saw my 9 year old sitting in his room with his rosary bracelet praying along with the CD. Thank you!" - **JEFF**

"The most awesome experience! Top notch worship bands, amazing giveaways, super reasonable food, lots of interesting, friendly vendor booths with giveaways, family friendly atmosphere, all Christ centered. And it's all FREE! I can't say enough in praise of this experience! Thank you, Marc's and Chick-fil-A for your sponsorship." - **LYNN**

"My grandma and I both won Marc's Mom baskets. So blessed." - **JESSICA**

"I was incredibly blessed by this event! I was so impressed with the generosity of the sponsors. Free admission, free parking, free goodie bag, great music and responsible event attenders made it AMAZING! Seeing all denominations come together to praise GOD was refreshing!! I loved everything about this event!" - **DEB**

"Thank you for a phenomenal FEST 2017. The weather was perfect, the lineup was terrific, and the crowd was well behaved. Thanks to Marc's, PNC Bank, all the other sponsors, and organizers. You know how to put on a great event." - **YVONNE**



5,500

Moms' Relaxation Station Giveaway Bags

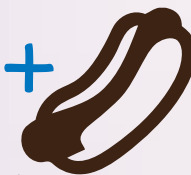


2,308

Moms Who Pre-Registered Online! 1,000 more than 2016!

3,000+ BRATS

The FEST Continues to be The Big Taste Grill's largest annual event!



3,500

FEST Lanyards



40,000+

People in Attendance



1,500 CHAIRS



154 Tents

109 Port-o-lets



6 Generators



5,500

FEST Frisbees



10,834

FACEBOOK FRIENDS

Are you one of them? Like The FEST today!



154,030

Unique Website Views



7 LIFTS

(For moving heavy equipment and stage pieces)

450+ Signs and Banners



11 Shuttle Buses

HELP US KEEP THE FEST STRONG FOR ANOTHER YEAR!

As the "Love Buckets" were getting ready to pass through the crowd on FEST day, God showered down His blessings upon us with 1.75 inches of rain in twenty minutes.

While it was a thing of beauty, it really 'hurt' The FEST in terms of the free will offering that helps keep The FEST FREE and open to all. It also caused a lot of extra expenses to remove saturated garbage and take down the tents and stage. At the end of the day, FEST 2017 ended up \$20,000 'in the hole.'

If you love The FEST and/or can help support this really good day of faith, family and fun, please consider an 'end of the year' donation to The FEST.

Thank you for your continued support!!!



Please mail your tax-deductible contribution to:

The FEST
CPL
28700 Euclid Avenue
Wickliffe, OH 44092

DONATE ONLINE AT
www.TheFEST.us/Donate