



**March for Meals makes big return**

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**2021 Annual Report**  
Special Insert



**Saluting Lake County Centenarians**

Page 23

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## An inspiration to us all

Lake County's "jack of all trades" remains an inspiration despite illness that limits his long career of entertaining and helping others

By Deanna Adams

**W**e all need a little inspiration in our lives, and oftentimes it comes through a person who has been through a lot and manages somehow to stay positive—and hopeful.

Tom Pattison, a Lake County native who now resides in Willoughby, is a perfect example. His earlier life was filled with bustling activity and decades of running a success promotional business as a news media and event consultant. After graduating from Mentor High School in 1969, he was gung-ho to make something of himself. He attended Lakeland Community College for business, earned a black belt in karate, then studied hotel and restaurant management at Cornell University. "I



Tom Pattison performing March 17, 2022 at Maple Ridge Senior Living in Willoughby.

worked at the Hospitality Inn in Willoughby, Quality Inn in Wickliffe and other resorts," says Pattison.

Pattison formed his own production/media event company in the 1980s,

staging celebrity look-a-like shows, boxing exhibitions and nightclub parties. "I helped produce so many productions during that time and have great memories," he says. "I worked with concerts involving Chubby Checker, Johnny Rivers, Jan & Dean, Sha Na Na, and also the Broadway production of "Thriller" and "Purple Rain." "I worked with the Belkins [Cleveland concert promoters] too, on many concerts through the years."

He also worked on producing videos with the Cleveland Browns with Bernie Kosar and favorite local musician, Michael Stanley. "I've been featured on HBO, "Entertainment Tonight" and even "Oprah" and the "Howard Stern Show."

While Pattison is clearly proud of his

See SENIOR on page 4

## Lake County Commissioners recognize National Volunteer Week in April

### Commissioners Corner



John Hamercheck



John Plecnik



Ron Young

It is important to recognize those who contribute their time and talents to make a difference in the Lake County community. National Volunteer Week reminds us to offer a special thank you to the many senior volunteers who are making an impact through a variety of volunteer services.

This year, to show our appreciation to the 600+ volunteers registered with the Lake County Volunteer Network and the Lake County Council on Aging, we will be offering a flier with

special discounts to a variety of attractions and businesses in Lake County to volunteers who were active in 2021. Secured with the assistance of the Lake County Visitor's Bureau, volunteers will be able to take advantage of various savings and discounts at Rabbit Run Theater, Lake County Captains, Lake County Historical Society, Lake Metroparks Farmpark, Fine Arts Association, Fairport Creamery, Grand River Cellars, and the Lake County Fair throughout 2022.

While we recognize this is a small gesture of gratitude, we hope that it brings great joy to those who have dedicated so much of their time and talent to benefiting others. The Board of Lake County Commissioners is very appreciative of the volunteers who give their time and the organizations who participated in this National



L-R: Deborah Hahn, Commissioner John Plecnik, Don Berlin, Skipper, Captain Andy Lehner from the Lake County Bomb Squad.

Volunteer Week discount flier.

If you, or someone you know, is interested in volunteering please contact Cristen Kane, volunteer services coordinator for the Lake County Volunteer Network, at 440-350-5360 or email her at [cristen.kane@lakecountyohio.gov](mailto:cristen.kane@lakecountyohio.gov) to be connected to a variety of volunteer opportunities in Lake County.

# 2022 Dinner Show Series



## The Diamond Project

Back by popular demand!

Winners of the Cleveland Hot List Best Band Award! They are dedicated to performing a true replication of the musical styling of a live **Neil Diamond** concert.

They strive to incorporate the excitement and energy only a live show can provide!

**Thursday, April 21, 2022**  
**Michaud's, Strongsville**

**Friday, April 22, 2022**  
**LaMalfa, Mentor**

**Tickets for both locations!**

Lunch & Show: Noon	\$65.00
Dinner & Show: 6:30pm	\$65.00
Show Only: 1pm or 7:30pm	\$50.00



## Phase 5 Motown Revue

Performing hits from Motown artists like The Temptations, The Four Tops, Smokey Robinson, The Contours and more. These five very talented vocalists combine tight harmonies along with smooth choreography and vintage costumes. Their incredible energy has crowds clapping and singing. Voted the #1 R & B Vocal Group in Detroit!

**Thursday, May 19, 2022**  
**Michaud's, Strongsville**

**Friday, May 20, 2022**  
**LaMalfa, Mentor**

**Tickets for both locations!**

Lunch & Show: Noon	\$70.00
Dinner & Show: 6:30pm	\$70.00
Show Only: 1pm or 7:30pm	\$55.00



## Elvis Tribute

Walt Sanders & The Cadillac Band have been performing since 1993. Being a true fan of Elvis, he has developed his impersonation into a genuine tribute respected by those Elvis himself worked with, such as Ray Walker (The Jordanaires): "Walt is as sincere as I remember Elvis being and works at his craft the same."

**Thursday June, 16, 2022**  
**Villa Croatia, Eastlake**

**Friday, June 17, 2022**  
**Michaud's, Strongsville**

**Tickets for both locations!**

Lunch & Show: Noon	\$70.00
Dinner & Show: 6:30pm	\$70.00
Show Only: 1pm or 7:30pm	\$55.00



## The Gatlin Show

Darryl Gatlin achieved major success in Nashville with albums on Sony/Epic, and a Billboard Top 40 Hit with "No Sir". Seen on CMA, TNN and received ACM award nominations. Andrea performed on national & international stages. Together they have been entertaining Country Music fans at events from Florida to Ohio.

**Thursday, July 14, 2022**  
**Michaud's, Strongsville**

**Friday, July 15, 2022**  
**Villa Croatia, Eastlake**

**Tickets for both locations!**

Lunch & Show: Noon	\$65.00
Dinner & Show: 6:30pm	\$65.00
Show Only: 1pm or 7:30pm	\$50.00



## Lights Out!

**Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons**

Back by popular demand! Returning from their national tour to perform their tribute to Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons. Taking audiences on a musical journey through time with the evolution of rock and roll in the 1950s, to the free flowing sounds of the 1970s!

**Thursday, August 18, 2022**  
**LaMalfa, Mentor**

**Friday, August 19, 2022**  
**Michaud's, Strongsville**

**Tickets for both locations!**

Lunch & Show: Noon	\$70.00
Dinner & Show: 6:30pm	\$70.00
Show Only: 1pm or 7:30pm	\$55.00



## Rat Pack & More

Vegas-Style comes to Ohio! Enjoy timeless music like Frank's "Fly me to the Moon", Sammy's "I've Gotta Be Me" and Dino's "That's Amore". Also celebrating the music of Bobby Darin, Nat King Cole, Tony Bennett, Ray Charles plus some other wonderful surprises! Grab a martini and enjoy the show!

**Thursday, September 15, 2022**  
**Michaud's, Strongsville**

**Friday, September 16, 2022**  
**LaMalfa, Mentor**

**Tickets for both locations!**

Lunch & Show: Noon	\$65.00
Dinner & Show: 6:30pm	\$65.00
Show Only: 1pm or 7:30pm	\$50.00

**NOTE: Cash bar available at Villa Croatia and LaMalfa  
BYOB/wash provided at Michaud's.**

**Call for group rates & other available discounts!  
Call Monday-Friday, 9am-6pm**

For future events visit:  
**www.rsmevents.com**



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**Lake County Council on Aging**



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# Welcome from the CEO

Each and every day, the Lake County Council on Aging brings resources together to provide services that our senior community and their families can count on. Touching lives and making a difference in Lake County for 50 years, since 1972.

In this edition of Bridge, you will find a special insert of the agency's 2021 annual report. The numbers, statistics, charts, and names give you a glimpse of the impactful role that Council on Aging plays to ensure our clients' needs are met. Our staff and volunteers continue to work tirelessly in multiple ways to give support and have a positive effect on an ever growing senior community.

Our work and accomplishments would not be possible without the support of the Lake County Senior Citizens Services Levy, which is a tremendous asset to our entire community. The levy supports numerous organizations, senior centers, programs and initiatives and will be on the ballot this fall. As you will see in our annual report, the levy is the primary funding source that helps sustain Council on Aging services, and I thank the community for its continued support in this effort.

You may have noticed a special edition logo which commemorates our 50 years of service to Lake County. This summer I would like to invite you to a 50th anniversary picnic and recognition event on Sunday, July 17 (see page 18). The Council on Aging will host this dance at the SNPJ Farm in Kirtland and look forward to seeing many of the friends of the agency, volunteers and families whose lives we have touched for over five decades.

To learn more about our available services and programs and for information on how you can get involved with the Lake County Council on Aging, please visit our website at [lcoa.org](http://lcoa.org) and "friend" us on our Facebook page.

Sincerely,

Joseph R. Tomsick



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**Mission Statement**

The Lake County Council on Aging provides aging adults and their support system with services and opportunities that enable them to achieve an optimal, self-defined quality of life.

The Council on Aging maintains a policy of equal opportunity in matters of program, contracting or employment regardless of national origin, sex, race, handicap, politics, religion, color or age.

**Lake County Council on Aging**

8520 East Avenue, Mentor, Ohio 44060

Open Monday through Friday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

[www.lcoa.org](http://www.lcoa.org)



Bridge Vol. XLIX, No. 2 – April/May/June 2022

Award-winning Bridge is published quarterly; January, April, July, October

**John Thomas**, Board President  
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**Dan Miller**, Bridge Editor  
**Direct Market Publishing**, Advertising Sales, Design  
**PM Graphics**, Printer

**Bridge Editorial**

Send editorial comments and suggestions to  
Dan Miller at  
[editor@lcoa.org](mailto:editor@lcoa.org).

**Bridge Advertising**

Contact: Kim Miller  
Direct Market Publishing  
(440) 799-8882  
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## Senior from page 1

adventures through the years, he still counts one as his most endearing, and life changing, even before he met with all his success. "I was working as general manager at the popular restaurant, The Terrace Room in Mentor, when I met the love of my life, Albena," he says.

She began helping him with various charity work and before long, they were married. But just a year into their marriage, Albena was diagnosed with leukemia. "For the next five years, we battled it, hard, and for a time, she went into remission. That's when I got busy with my own business and schedule so that I could be there when she needed me." Although she lost her battle after five years, Pattison says he is grateful for her two sons, who he raised and is proud of to this day.

As he continued with his business, he began dealing with a host of more challenges, this time with his own health, beginning with a surgery that went wrong at the age of 49, followed by a string of more surgeries and other ailments that left him in chronic pain. When he began suffering "one illness after another," he decided to hand over his business to his brother.

And yet, he persevered. The next tragedy that befell him surprisingly gave him a new lease on life. That of a singer. In 2000, his mother was diagnosed with Alzheimer's, which caused him to think about all those in nursing homes and hospitals who could use a little cheering up. "Singing was kind of my hidden talent," he says. "People always say I sound just like Elvis. So I started putting a show together and donated my time to sing wherever I could to bring joy to people."

He never wanted, nor expected, any reward. Just the smiles on the faces and the happiness he could see in others served as payment. That enjoyment sparked his very own TV program. Some

may recall his local show called, "Touched by Love," which aired in Lake and Geauga counties through the Education Network on Time Warner, in the early 2000s. His TV show and in-person singing performances were so popular that he began to get noticed, not just locally but throughout the country. When he was featured on CNN, he won over a very influential man who became a fan, and a friend.

"By this time, I had a heart problem, a pacemaker put in, and my sight started going. I wasn't in good shape. Then I get a letter from President Obama, who gave me his personal email address. We became friends and I was one of the very first people on Obama Care and it did help me."

But nothing could help his eye sight. "When COVID hit, my sight got much worse. I have helped others all my life, and that's meant the world to me. Now for the first time, I need help. I must depend on others to do everything for me. Drive me places, make my meals, clean... it's very hard." He adds that he tries to stay positive through love of God and family. His siblings and children all do what they can, but most live far away.

And as his health declines, so does his bank account. "This is all draining my finances. Ohio disability resources and the Cleveland Sight Center in Cleveland have given me some leads, so I am hopeful.

"My greatest prayer is to go back to singing for others. It gives me a reason to live and to hope. Even when I completely lose my sight, which will happen, I want to go back to entertaining. I mean hey, if Stevie Wonder can do it..." he lets his light laughter linger in the air.

With a good attitude such as that, there is little doubt that this creative and resourceful senior citizen will be making others, as well as himself, smile again.

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### Stay connected with the Lake County Council on Aging

Want to receive news and announcements about senior services, programs, resources and information? It's easy... just visit our homepage at [www.lccoa.org](http://www.lccoa.org) and complete the "Signup for our Newsletter" contact form.

# The Aging and Disability Resource Center

Let us be your guide!

By Jackie Oliverio, Aging and Disability Resource Center Manager,  
Lake County Council on Aging

The Aging and Disability Resource Center is a small but mighty department, and one of the essential pieces of the puzzle that make up the Lake County Council on Aging. The ADRC is considered the “front line” of our agency. We are the first face you see when you walk in or hear when you call as you are greeted by our receptionist. We are the information & assistance specialists you speak with when you call for resources or are interested in our services. We are the ones who help you navigate Medicare, state and federal assistance programs through our benefits assistance. We are also the ones who help you navigate your long term care options & supports through options counseling. We are the ADRC, so let us be your guide to all things aging!

The ADRC consists of the following services:

#### Information and assistance

Our information & assistance specialists will link you to the resources and support you need to improve your health, independence, and quality of life. We listen to you and your unique situation, focusing on identifying needs, preferences and support, both personal and financial. You may even see us at the different Lake County senior centers throughout each month during our monthly outreach visits.

#### Benefits assistance

Our benefits specialist will screen you for state and federal assistance programs including the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), the Supplemental Nutrition Assis-

tance Program (SNAP), Medicare Savings Programs, and Medicaid. We will help you to apply and assist you throughout the application process. In addition, the benefits specialist provides objective information and counseling in an effort to help you better understand your Medicare options.

#### Options counseling

Our options counselor assists you, your family or caregivers in making informed decisions about long term care services and supports. Our options counselor will meet with you and your support system (if desired) on your terms and where you are most comfortable. The goal of options counseling is to empower you or your family to make informed decisions based on your individual needs, values, preferences, personal and financial resources, and individual circumstances.

#### H.E.L.P. (Health Equipment Lending Program) update

As of January 31, 2022, our H.E.L.P. program hours have changed. We are lending out medical equipment on Tuesdays and Wednesdays only, between 9:00 am and 3:00 pm. We are accepting donations of in-need medical equipment on Thursdays only, between 9:00 am and 3:00 pm. We encourage you to call ahead whether you are in need of medical equipment or if you would like to donate to our program.

For more information please contact us at 440-205-8111. All services are free and available to individuals aged 60 and over, as well as disabled adults aged 18 and over, regardless of income.



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Community-based organizations like the Lake County Council on Aging need your support! Donate today to help us provide vital services like meals to older adults in your neighborhood.  
**Visit [www.lcco.org](http://www.lcco.org).**

# Lake County senior center updates

April/May/June 2022



It's only \$5 per year for Wickliffe residents to join the Wickliffe Senior Center and \$10 for nonresidents. With so many fun and educational programs, why not join today?!

## Eastlake Senior Center 600 East 349th Street

Grace Giangiaco, director

Happy spring to everyone. Hopefully we will get to enjoy the warm weather soon. Thanks to everyone for coming and checking out our "new digs." Our membership has grown quite a bit! Here is a little bit of what will be happening in the coming months.

We are almost finished doing our ethnic lunches—April will be the last one. We are going Italian in April. May, June, July, and August will be our winery trips, along with our monthly Lunch Bunch get-togethers. Come and check out some of our other day trips, we would love to have you aboard!

We are going to have what we call a "senior attic." If you need to unclutter your life, this is the perfect opportunity to do it. This special sale will take place on Saturday, May 14, 2022.

You can rent a table for \$10 to sell your stuff or donate it to the center for the seniors to sell and raise money. If you choose to sell some of your treasures, give the center a call to reserve a table. If you decide to donate to the center, please make sure your items are clean and not broken.

Be sure to mark your calendars to come and do some shopping for treasures you may not have.

## Fairport Senior Center 1380 East Street in Fairport Chris Yano, director

Welcome spring! Classes are busy so stop in and give one a try. We offer line dancing, weights and bands, gentle exercise, stretching, yoga, and a new balance class twice per month presented by Fyzical Therapy and Balance. We are also playing pinochle, bridge, hand and

foot, euchre and 31.

The Fairport Senior Center has lots of trips planned for this year, so if you're interested in one of our trips, call or stop by the center for more information. We also have a catered meal once a month with entertainment.

If you would like to find more about the Fairport Senior Center, you can go a special website, <http://www.mycommunityonline.com> and search for The Fairport Harbor Senior Center. Hope to see you soon!

## Kirtland Senior Center 7900 Euclid-Chardon Road Teresa Szary, coordinator

Spring is (hopefully) in the air! As always, we here in Kirtland are celebrating the new season with new events. As we look forward to opening the outdoor pickleball season, we will also be gearing up for Mind Challenge with our monthly trivia, hosting a chair volleyball tournament, welcoming our new members at our Easter lunch, working with the Mayor's Action Network as they clean up yards

for both seniors and veterans, and celebrating the bravery of those who lost their lives protecting ours at our annual city Memorial Day ceremony.

We are so excited to welcome back both our snowbirds as well as those who have been away due to COVID and other reasons. If you've never been here, stop in to introduce yourself! Annual membership is \$10 for residents (\$5 renewal) and \$12 for nonresidents (\$7 renewal). We love meeting new friends and are always looking for suggestions to help make our center your center.

## Madison Senior Center 2938 Hubbard Road Carol Billetter, director

Time to look forward to spring and new beginnings—hopefully COVID in the rear view mirror. We want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for being respectful and following the guidelines at the center as we navigated our way through the pandemic.

Activities are being scheduled at



### FIRST MONTH'S RENT AND UTILITY DEPOSIT PROGRAM

- Must have some form of income coming into the household
- For people moving to a new unit
- Helps low to moderate-income households by paying first month's rent and utility deposits

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# STAR PROGRAM

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[www.fhrc.org](http://www.fhrc.org)

### SHORT-TERM SENIOR SUBSIDY PROGRAM

- Provides a rental subsidy for up to 6 months
- Tenant must be at least 62 years of age or older, qualify as low to moderate-income, currently have some form of income being brought into the household, and must demonstrate a need for assistance.
- FHRC will pay up to 70% of a tenant's rent

## Senior centers from page 6

the center for yoga, exercise, line dancing, tai chi, bead class, crochet, quilting, create cards, iris folding, pool, music & knowledge trivia.

In May, we begin a lunch & learn educational series with the Alzheimer's Association. Join us to learn signs & symptoms of this disease and how to navigate through it. Hope to see you soon!

### **Mentor Senior Center** **8484 Munson Road** **Renee Ochaya, director**

This spring, the Mentor Senior Center travel program returns to the road. We offer day trips on motor coach busses traveling to Sauder Village, Amish country, World's Longest Garage Sale, Lunch with a "President," Hidden Cleveland and a mystery trip. If you prefer overnight destinations, check out our trips to Hudson Valley, Rhode Island, and New York City. For complete details on all our trips, visit us online at [www.mentorseniorcenter.com](http://www.mentorseniorcenter.com)

A few other popular programs are also returning to the center. A common topic for many seniors is balance, so the Matter of Balance class is a perfect fit for anyone who would like to reduce the likelihood of falls and reduce the fear of falling. A Parkinson's exercise class also returns to the center. This class is designed to empower people with Parkinson's by optimizing their physical function and helping delay the progression of symptoms. Finally, if you are one that loves trivia the Mind Challenge is a great way to stay mentally sharp while meeting other seniors. You can join us May 16 as we form our teams to compete in the 2022 Mind Challenge, but please register in advance.

For complete details on all our programs, check out our website at [www.mentorseniorcenter.com](http://www.mentorseniorcenter.com).

### **Perry Senior Center** **2800 Perry Park Road** **Christine Znidarsic, director**

Perry Senior Center will hold a spaghetti dinner fundraiser on Friday, May 6, 2022, from 5:00 pm-7:00 pm at the Perry Senior/Community Center, 2800 Perry Park Road.

Tickets are \$10 per person, \$5 for children under 10 and may be purchased in advance at the senior center or at the door until sold out!

Besides the delicious spaghetti dinner, guests will enjoy door priz-

es, a 50/50 raffle and reverse raffle boards! For more information call the center at 440-259-3772.

### **Wickliffe Senior Center** **900 Worden Road**

**Gerri Hubbell, director**

The Wickliffe Senior Center is accepting new members. You must be age 55 or older. Wickliffe residents only pay \$5 a year and non Wickliffe residents pay \$10 per year. Our hours are Monday – Thursday 8 am – 4 pm, and Fridays 8 am – 2 pm. We are not open on weekends.

We offer many educational and fun programs. Chair yoga, senior exercise, line dancing, meditation, senior art, clogging, knitting & crocheting are just a few. Seasonal activities and parties are always being planned to add extra layers of excitement to the center.

If you are interested in joining, please give us a call at 440-373-5015 for more information or to schedule a time to come in and meet us!

### **Willowick Senior Center** **321 E. 314th Street**

**Doreen Nevulis, coordinator**

Spring is in the air! The seniors have been busy at the center with our exercise classes, yoga, line dancing, senior drums, ceramics, art classes, pinochle and bridge. Don't forget Attorney Debbie Loughner the second Monday of the month and Dr. Waxman the foot doctor is here the second Tuesday of each month.

The center started its membership drive and has been signing up members daily. So remember to get your new membership tag for the upcoming year. Residents are \$12 and nonresidents are \$15.00.

Come join our center and enjoy.

This spring is going to be great. We will be going to some fish fry's, a Captains baseball game, wine & bingo is scheduled. We are going to take a trip to the Lake County History Center for the Lateran tour. Save your money for a trip to Rivers Casino in Pittsburgh. Don't forget about our in-house events, Pizzazz with Grace Kelly, and our in-house flea market April 18 & 19. Keep a look out for more activities to come.

For updates, stop in Monday thru Thursday 8 am – 4 pm & Fridays 8 am– noon. Or, visit us online at [www.cityofwillowick.com/residents/senior\\_center](http://www.cityofwillowick.com/residents/senior_center).

### **Willoughby Senior Center** **36939 Ridge Road**

**Amy Skolny, manager**

Welcome to spring! One of the local favorites that the center is bringing back this year is the "My Favorite Things Sale" on Saturday, April 23 from 9 am until 1pm. This special "better than a garage sale" offers slightly used or nearly new treasures. This year we proudly present the artwork of local artist, Roger McAndrews as a special feature of the event. Roger specializes in ceramic pieces.

Save the date and stop in on Thursday, May 12 for the Health Fair from 9 am until noon. Area senior businesses and services will be available — there will be something for everyone.

Fore! Any senior golfer is welcome to join in at Lost Nation Golf Course for a spring golf outing. Nine holes with cart, lunch, prizes. Call the senior center for more details. All of these events are open to the public.

Visit [www.willoughbyohio.com/seniorcenter](http://www.willoughbyohio.com/seniorcenter) for more details.



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## March For Meals makes a big return for '22

The smell of early morning coffee from Great Lakes Mall's Gloria Jeans welcomed hundreds of participants back to Great Lakes Mall for "March for Meals." Because of the pandemic, the agency has been unable to host a live event since 2019. The celebration is the Lake County Council on Aging's annual fundraising effort to bring attention to the issue of food insecurity among seniors and the local volunteers that make home meal delivery throughout Lake County possible.

Over 70 businesses sponsored the event with the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging as title sponsor while dozens of other businesses and individuals participated as in-kind sponsors, donating food, raffle baskets and giveaways! The Council on Aging would like to thank all of the volunteers who helped make the event so successful, including many staff members.

The Lake County Council on Aging Nutrition Program, works year-round to help seniors stay healthy by providing hot, nutritious meals through two programs. In 2021 our services increased with volunteer drivers delivering over 194,252 Meals on Wheels, representing a 12% increase; and 41,024 meals were served at Lunch Place sites, representing a 48% increase over the previous year.

Even the healthiest seniors may face hunger, isolation and loss of independence. Home-delivered meal services not only provide a nutritious meal, but also friendly visits and safety checks, enabling older adults to live with independence and dignity.

Meals on Wheels is available to qualified seniors in Lake County, 60 years or older, who are homebound with no support to prepare meals. The program is supported

by the Lake County Senior Services Levy, Title III of the Older Americans Act, and various grants. While many participants do donate toward the cost of their meals, the program depends on local community and business support to meet the growing demand for their services. The March for Meals event helps offset the increasing costs for the Council on Aging's meals programs.

For more information about Meals on Wheels or senior congregate meal sites, call 440-205-8111 or visit [www.lcco.org](http://www.lcco.org).



# THANK YOU

## 2022 March for Meals Sponsors

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Great Lakes Boutique	Scramblers
Great Lakes Mall	RSM Events
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Helicopter Daughter	Symphony of Mentor
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**Are you a caregiver of a family member with Alzheimer's disease or dementia? Have you recently entered the role, or have they recently enrolled in a care facility?**

If so, you may be interested in participating in our research study, which is looking at caregiver stress and health. Study participants will be compensated for their time.

To find out more about the Dementia Caregiver Study, please call us at **216.368.8848** or email **caregiver@case.edu**.



## Lake County's best kept secret

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# Senior nutrition programs receive great reviews from seniors

By Linda Llewellyn, Director of Community Services, Lake County Council on Aging

*“Meals are very good. Volunteers are friendly and check on me. Love everything about it.”*  
 – Painesville home-delivered client

*“It was very hard to shop and cook for myself and my husband. But now, we both benefit greatly from Meals on Wheels. Thanks a lot!”*  
 – Willowick home-delivered client

*“Before Meals on Wheels, I was so overwhelmed! There is much to do to care for my darling husband. This helps me to care for him and have more time! If we have some veggies left, I make a soup or stew and put them in. Nothing is wasted with this delicious food. Thank you everyone! God bless you all.”*  
 – Mentor home-delivered client

*“Enjoy my meals very much and the drivers are so very pleasant. It brings back great memories of when my hubby and I use to deliver. Keep up the wonderful tradition.”*  
 – Madison home-delivered client

Numerous studies have been conducted that demonstrate the value of the Meals on Wheels concept. A hot, nutritious meal and brief interaction with a kind volunteer during delivery go a long way to help combat two issues that homebound seniors face — food insecurity and social isolation. In 2021, Lake County Council on Aging volunteers delivered 183,307 meals to 1,137 of our senior neighbors throughout Lake County, who were not able to easily prepare their own meals or had difficulty obtaining food.

Recently, 45% of home delivered meal clients took the opportunity to provide feedback on the home delivered meal program by responding to the survey. The results shown below reaffirm the importance of the program and express that the recipients feel a high degree of satisfaction.

Agree/Strongly Agree	Impact
97%	I am eating regularly scheduled meals.
96%	I feel my nutrition has maintained/improved.
91%	I feel less lonely and isolated.
98%	I can remain living in my own home.
96%	I feel secure because I have someone checking in on me.
99%	Overall I am satisfied with Meals on Wheels.

Similarly, a survey is offered to dine-in Lunch Place guests. The same meals that are delivered in home delivery are also served to senior guests at one of our four Lake County locations within the Madison, Wickliffe, Willowick senior centers and Painesville nutrition site. These din-



ers are more mobile than home-delivered clients and enjoy not only the meal, but eating together with peers in familiar surroundings. During the pandemic, senior centers were closed until June 2021. As in-person dining options became available, seniors slowly resumed a more active lifestyle. In 2021, 525 seniors were served 27,651 meals in Lunch Place programs.

The survey was responded to by 50% of the seniors dining in the Lunch Places. Of which, 28% have lunch at the Lunch Place five days a week and another 40% dine three-four days per week. Seniors attending the Lunch Place are enjoying quality food and more social activities with friends. The results speak to the high degree of satisfaction with the experience of dining at the Lunch Place.

Yes or No	Impact
81% YES	Attending nutrition site for lunch helps me maintain an independent life
98% YES	Enjoy eating in a group setting
92% YES	I am comfortable with the other visitors
94% YES	The lunch room is comfortable
99% YES	I am satisfied with the people who serve lunch.
95% YES	I am satisfied with the people who work in the kitchen/office.
98% YES	I am satisfied with the overall quality of the meals.

*“It’s nice to get out to be around other people my age, socialize and have a healthy meals.”*  
 – Painesville Lunch Place client

*“We enjoy eating lunch here. The food is good and the people are nice.”*  
 – Madison Lunch Place client

*“Everything is fine. Leave it alone. We like it as it is.”*  
 – Wickliffe Lunch Place client

The client satisfaction surveys of 2021 provide valuable feedback from those served. In 2021, the year began with pandemic protocol providing hot and frozen meals in a once a week drive-thru pick up. Mid-year returned to a more “normal” service in the Lunch Places and

home delivered meals. The Council on Aging is grateful for the dedicated staff and of course, the compassion and generosity of hundreds of volunteers who provide for such a positive service to the seniors. In 2022, Lake County Council on Aging is striving to maintain the high quality service and to reach all seniors who are in need of nutrition support.

It is also important to mention the critical financial support received from the Lake County Senior Services levy, the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging, United Way of Lake County, and community donors who together provide funding for the nutrition programs. This enables the nutrition meal programs to be offered to all eligible seniors, without the constraint of income eligibility or financial cost. All seniors are invited to make a voluntary donation of \$1.50 for a Lunch Place meal and \$2.50 for a home delivered meal, but no senior is denied service due to an inability to contribute.

Please contact the Council on Aging with questions about home delivered meal eligibility or Lunch Place registration at 440-205-8111.

## Walk to support National Kidney Foundation, Serving Northern Ohio

The National Kidney Foundation Serving Northern Ohio invites you to walk in the 2022 Northeast Ohio Kidney Walk on Sunday, June 12 at 8:30 am at the Great Lakes Science Center in Downtown Cleveland.

By participating you’ll let others know they’re not alone. Caring knows no distance. No matter how or where you walk—one simple step can change a life of someone in the kidney community.

### How do I sign up for the walk?

Register today at [www.kidneywalk.org/northernohio](http://www.kidneywalk.org/northernohio) to start fundraising. Families facing kidney disease are counting on all of us to keep fighting in the year ahead. Personalize your kidney walk page, document your kidney disease journey or tell us why you walk to inspire your personal network to support you with a gift before Walk Day on June 12. Get creative—have fun, maximize your impact, and reach your fundraising goals.

### What if I can’t make the walk on June 12?

Walk your way take your own walk around the neighborhood or at your local park on Sunday, June 12, 2022. You can even track your steps with our Kidney Walk App. Walk your way: take your own walk around the neighborhood or at your local park on Sunday, June 12, 2022. You can even track your steps with our Kidney Walk App.

Questions? Contact: Anna Tzinis, executive director, [anna.tzinis@kidney.org](mailto:anna.tzinis@kidney.org) or 440-241-6780.

## VOLUNTEER SERVICES

### Everything sprouts in spring!

Volunteers needed to help local seniors

By Ann Marie Armaro, Volunteer & Community Engagement Specialist,  
Lake County Council on Aging

Spring is a time for change and new growth. As we watch flowers sprouting up and the days getting longer, we feel inspired to try something new. What a great time to become a volunteer! You could help deliver a hot meal and some spring sunshine, grocery shop for someone who can't get out or make friendly calls to homebound seniors.

We are currently looking for volunteer drivers who can commit to one day per week, Monday through Friday. Volunteer drivers deliver lunchtime meals to homebound seniors between 10:30 am and 12:30 pm.

Every weekday, kitchen volunteers are needed for three to four hours in the morning starting at 7:30 am or 8 am. Kitchen volunteers assist in preparing and packing meals.

Our nutrition sites include Wickliffe, Willowick, Mentor, Paines-

ville and Madison with immediate openings in Painesville.

An important benefit of home-delivered meals is the opportunity for social interaction between the volunteers and clients. Social isolation is a significant concern for seniors living on their own. Daily visits by Meals on Wheels volunteers provides more than a meal, it is a friendly smile, conversation and also serves as a well check for the senior.

Phone pal caller volunteers have friendly conversations with seniors to reduce loneliness and bring positivity and joy into their lives.

Grocery shoppers are needed to shop for homebound seniors who are unable to get out. This support call can be done weekdays, evenings or weekends.

Get started today by calling Ann Marie Armaro at 440-205-8111 ext. 228 or emailing [Aarmaro@lcoa.org](mailto:Aarmaro@lcoa.org).

### Lake County Mobile Food Pantry extends distribution to September

The Lake County Mobile Food Pantry will be providing fresh produce to Lake County seniors for free through a weekly distribution at locations across Lake County.

Distributions are Tuesdays from 10–11 am. From May through September, the Lake County Mobile Food Pantry will again alternate between locations in Wickliffe, Mentor, Painesville, and Madison.

Lake County seniors, 60 years and older, may register for one

pick-up per month. Participants must certify annual gross household income is at or below \$25,759 for a household of one and \$34,839 for a household of two.

Preregistration is required for the 75 spots available each week. To see a full list of distribution locations or register for a pick up, call Lifeline at 2-1-1 or the Council on Aging at 440-205-8111. Call Lake-tran at 440-354-6100 to arrange a ride to pick up your produce.



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# The Lunch Place

## Enjoy good food with friends at Lake County Council on Aging meal sites

If you are age 60 or older and are looking for warm companionship and healthy, nutritious food, then schedule time to eat a meal with a friend or come and make new friends at your local Lunch Place.

The Lunch Place serves hot lunches five days per week, Monday through Friday, providing 1/3 of the daily-required recommendations of USDA. There is no charge, although a suggested voluntary donation of \$1.50 is accepted. A reservation in advance of the meal is required.

It is never too late to start making positive lifestyle changes. Eating well can help you stay healthy and independent — and look and feel good — in the years to come.

More information about the Lunch Place can be obtained by calling the numbers listed.

### The Lunch Place at Madison

Lunch starts: Noon  
Madison Senior Center  
2938 Hubbard Road  
Phone: (440) 428-7002  
Coordinator: Glynnis Fox

### The Lunch Place at Painesville

Lunch starts: 11:30 am  
Extended Housing Building  
270 East Main Street – Lower Level  
Phone: (440) 354-6700  
Coordinator: Pattie Hibler

### The Lunch Place at Wickliffe

Lunch starts: 11:30 am  
Wickliffe Senior Center  
900 Worden Road  
Phone: (440) 373-5017  
Coordinator: Joe Greene

### The Lunch Place at Willowick

Lunch starts: 11:30 am  
Willowick Senior Center  
321 East 314th Street  
Phone: (440) 946-8822  
Coordinator: Renee Sonnie

## COMMUNITY SERVICES

### You are invited to lunch

By Linda Llewellyn, Director of Community Services,  
Lake County Council on Aging

Weekdays across Lake County, seniors gather for lunch and companionship at Council on Aging nutrition sites located in the Madison, Wickliffe, Willowick senior centers and in the community room at the Extended Housing building in Painesville. Each day a full meal that consists of an entrée, a side dish, a vegetable, a fruit, bread and milk is served to seated guests. Lunch with a huge helping of friendship and conversation is the best. No cooking, no dishes and you don't have to clean your house for friends to visit.

Formerly known as the generic "congregate lunch site," the Lunch Place reflects the friendly atmosphere and midday meal that is available to seniors 60+ years or younger spouses in attendance with seniors.

If you have not tried the Lunch Place, participation requires a few simple steps to get started. Please stop at or call the desired location and register by completing a simple form. Then, review the menu and select the days the following week that you would like to dine with us. Reservations are required so that we can order a meal for you. Occasionally meals may be available on standby, if someone cancels their meal. The Lunch Place staff will be happy to help get you started. A donation of \$1.50 is requested for the meal, however nobody is turned away for inability to contribute all or part of the amount.

Some of our guests come for

lunch every day and some come only once a week. Others may be participating in an activity once or twice a week at the senior center, then stay for lunch. Senior center membership is not required, but joining in their activities is encouraged. A few guests choose to review the monthly menu and reserve their place when their favorite meals, such as cabbage rolls or stuffed peppers, are served. Regardless of their motivation, our guests enjoy the Lunch Place. In a recent survey, we received the following comments:

*"Kitchen staff are terrific, friendly and they always try to be accommodating."*

*"This is a wonderful program to help people who otherwise would not prepare a meal for themselves."*

*"It's nice to be around other people my age, socialize and have a healthy meal."*

*"I think these good meals are what keeps my husband and me healthy."*

*"We enjoy eating lunch here. The food is good and the people are nice."*

*"It makes a difference in my life."*

You are invited to have lunch with us at the Lunch Place. Join a friend, bring a friend or come alone. We're looking forward to serving you and hope to see you soon.

Locations, contact information and lunch times are noted in the box to the upper left.

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Your golden years are adding up to be the best years of your life, but sometimes the opportunity to drive isn't part of that equation. With Laketrans, many seniors remain independent. Seniors use Laketrans' Local Routes & Dial-a-Ride to get to work, shopping, medical appointments and to connect with friends and family. Our buses provide more than a ride, they provide the opportunity for a better life for you and your loved ones.

**LAKETRAN**



## Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) coming soon!

What is the SFMNP? This program is designed to provide low-income seniors with coupons that can be exchanged for eligible foods like locally grown fruits, vegetables, honey and herbs at farmers' markets and roadside stands.

Who is eligible? Low-income seniors, generally defined as individuals who are at least 60 years old and who have household incomes of not more than 185% of the Federal poverty income guidelines.

Date & time of SFMNP coupon distribution is to be determined.



Contact the Council on Aging at 440-205-8111 starting in June for more information. Also, be on the lookout for updates on our website [www.lcco.org](http://www.lcco.org) or on our Facebook page at [facebook.com/lakecounty.councilonaging](https://facebook.com/lakecounty.councilonaging).



# COUNCIL ON AGING Lake County

## 2021 Annual Report



### Welcome from the CEO



**Joseph R. Tomsick**  
CEO

I am honored to present to you the Lake County Council on Aging annual report for 2021. Looking back at this year of recovery, we see how the agency successfully navigated the continuing challenges we faced. We learned to adapt our delivery of services model in order to meet the evolving needs of older adults. These efforts have gradually

allowed us to return to a more traditional state of normalcy, and we look forward to continuing that recovery into 2022, our golden anniversary year.

While we pivoted at times from regular operations in 2021, the agency never ceased its delivery of core services. Throughout the year there were numerous opportunities for the senior community to connect to the Council on Aging, including summertime farmers market vouchers, public benefits counseling, assistance with completing and submitting HEAP applications, helping seniors during the Medicare open enrollment period, and the popular Mobile Food Pantry. This collaboration between the Council on Aging, Laketran, Lake County Commissioners Senior Services, Lifeline, and the Greater Cleveland Foodbank continues to bring these agencies together to secure boxes of food donations for seniors in need. Each organization plays a role in the process, taking reservations, managing volunteers and distribution.

In December, the Council on Aging partnered with all of the members of the Senior Services Levy

Coalition to collect nonperishable food items. These shelf-stable food items were packaged in “blizzard bags” and delivered to senior clients as emergency food in the event that severe winter weather or other crises threatened to prevent Lake County Meals on Wheels delivery.

Our efforts to enhance the quality of life for seniors in Lake County continues to be the driving force for our board members, staff and volunteers. Each day we strive to fulfill our vision to be recognized as Lake County’s most valuable resource for aging adults and their support system. For me, this comes down to the agency’s three key strengths: respect for the senior, the will to work collaboratively with partner agencies, and our pledge to provide the highest level of advocacy, services and support for seniors and their caregivers in Lake County.

Within this annual report you will find a financial snapshot of our agency. We are primarily funded by the Lake County Senior Citizens Services Levy, a tremendous asset for our community. Time and time again, the voters of Lake County have shown how important it is to support our seniors. We receive federal dollars from Title III Older Americans Act funds through the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging, various grants, fees, client donations and the kind support of the United Way of Lake County. You will also see the names of the many generous contributors who have given to the Council on Aging, many of whom support us with annual donations. These donors help strengthen the programs and services we provide the senior population of Lake County.

Many of these services would not be possible without the direct involvement of our dedicated volunteers whose names and donated hours also appear on these pages. Throughout the year, they remained committed to our mission of serving, supporting and advocating for aging adults in Lake County, and made themselves available to help at every turn.

One group of volunteers whose selfless efforts I would especially like to highlight is our board of trustees. The skill, guidance, and time contributed by these individuals during what has been one of the most challenging periods in our history is valued beyond measure.

I’ve been fortunate to work with an incredible and resilient staff that often had their hands full tending to a community that had become more socially isolated due to the uncertainty created by the ongoing pandemic. These past few years have given us the opportunity to identify the needs of our community from a very different perspective, and I am so thankful for the dedication and hard work of each one of our staff members.

In closing, I thank you for allowing us to be part of your lives each and every day, working hard to fulfill our vision and mission.

Respectfully,

Joseph R. Tomsick



## Current Council on Aging Staff

Our agency is very proud of the dedicated and hard-working staff who bring great passion for serving the senior community of Lake County. Thank you to all of these extraordinary individuals!

**Ann Marie Armaro**  
Volunteer Engagement Manager

**Kristi Ballinger**  
Social Services Manager

**Lisa Ballinger**  
Social Worker

**Fran Beale**  
Social Worker

**Kellie Blauman**  
Social Services Administrative Assistant

**Joyce Burr**  
Homemaker

**Jamalliah "PJ" Colon**  
Nutrition Program Specialist

**Selena Cox**  
ADRC I & A Specialist

**Sandra DeMeza**  
Homemaker

**Janet DiCicco**  
Social Worker

**Susan Fende**  
Nutrition Aide

**Glynnis Fox**  
Nutrition Site Coordinator

**Joseph Greene**  
Nutrition Site Coordinator

**Patti Hibler**  
Nutrition Site Coordinator

**Barb Henderson**  
Nutrition Aide

**Debi Holland**  
Director of Finance

**Gina Ilacqua**  
Nutrition Site Assistant Coordinator

**Christopher Jochum**  
HR & Facilities Manager

**Joann Kirk**  
Nutrition Site Assistant Coordinator

**Dionne Liddy**  
Nutrition Site Assistant Coordinator

**Linda Llewellyn**  
Director of Community Services

**Susan Meuse**  
Nutrition Aide

**Christine Meyers-Rieder**  
Receptionist

**Jennell Muscatello**  
Executive Assistant to CEO

**Jim O'Connor**  
ADRC I & A Specialist

**Charles O'Neil**  
Nutrition Aide

**Jackie Oliverio**  
ADRC Manager

**Terri Orosz**  
ADRC Benefits Specialist

**Danielle Phillips**  
Director of Social Services

**Barbara Sawicki**  
Nutrition Site Coordinator

**Isabel Shank**  
Homemaker

**Renee Shea**  
Nutrition Aide

**Renee Sonnie**  
Nutrition Site Coordinator

**Beth Swain**  
Social Worker

**Colleen Telfer**  
Social Worker

**Lydia Timperio**  
Homemaker

**Joseph Tomsick**  
Chief Executive Officer

**Patricia Wem**  
Homemaker Manager

**Kathy Wingo**  
Nutrition Services Assistant

## Mission

The Council on Aging provides aging adults and their support system with services and opportunities that enable them to achieve an optimal, self-defined, quality of life.

## Vision

The vision of the Council on Aging is to be recognized by the community as its most valuable resources for aging adults and their support system. In conjunction with community partners, the Lake County Council on Aging will provide the highest level of education, advocacy, services and support.

## Services

Established in 1972, the Lake County Council on Aging has worked hard to make a difference in the lives of seniors living in Lake County. The agency plans, provides, develops and coordinates services for all people 60 years of age and older and has established itself as the trusted resource in the county for seniors, their families and caregivers.

Together with community partners and its board of trustees, the Lake County Council on Aging strives to provide the highest level of education, advocacy, services and support. Our entire staff is dedicated to preserving the dignity, independence and peace of mind for the aging population of Lake County.

Programs offered include social work services, information and assistance, Meals on Wheels, Lunch Place cafes, options counseling, homemaker service, in-home nonmedical services, benefits assistance and volunteer opportunities. The Council on Aging is Lake County's Aging and Disability Resource Center, providing assistance and counseling services for seniors and those 18 and over with disabilities.

## Outreach Efforts

We strive to help people learn about the services and programs available for seniors in the Lake County community. The challenges of the past few years have made these efforts difficult and in particular the first half of 2021 which saw very limited events. As guidelines regarding the pandemic began to loosen in 2021, the agency started to gradually bring back some of our larger outreach programs.

Beginning in July 2021, the Aging and Disability Resource Center staff began to once again visit Lake County senior centers on a monthly basis as it was prior to the pandemic.

**The ADRC efforts resulted in 29 outreach events with 433 attendees.**

Additional outreach events included the 2021 virtual March for Meals, the Great Grocery Giveaway with the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging, the COA Volunteer Appreciation Event, Senior Day at the Lake County Fair and many other opportunities.

**98 outreach events meant approximately 21,183 individuals received information on our services.**

With the continued support of the Lake County Board of Commissioners, the agency's quarterly newspaper, "Bridge," was delivered to every senior household in the county, about 54,000 homes.

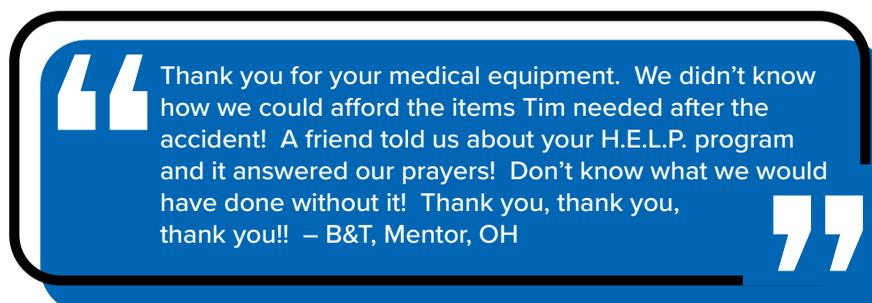
Throughout the year, sections of Bridge were devoted to providing critical information to help seniors across the county stay informed of the many valuable resources and supports that were available throughout our community. Additionally, member organizations of the Senior Services Levy Coalition updated their information for the public through quarterly mailings of Bridge.

**In 2021, nearly 209,000 copies of Bridge were distributed across Lake County.**

The Council on Aging and its CEO continued to produce a weekly radio program in order to provide seniors with answers to their concerns regarding senior health, finances, Medicare, and many other issues that affect older adults. The radio show, "Our Aging World," is broadcast on WINT Radio and stretches our outreach capabilities through entertaining discussions and interviews with experts.

**The agency answered and managed 10,246 phone calls into the agency and our website, [www.lcco.org](http://www.lcco.org), received 42,959\* page views.**

\*Figure based on average visits reported by Google Analytics.



## Current Board of Trustees

We are fortunate to have a dedicated and experienced board of trustees to help in our mission to support aging adults in Lake County. Through their expertise, the board of trustees provides legal, financial and governance oversight for the Council on Aging. Board members volunteer to serve multiyear terms and generously support our efforts with their time, talent and passion.



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Schraff Thomas Law, LLC  
Attorney At Law



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of DD/Deepwood



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Lake County



**Lynn Manteuffel**  
Retired, Cleveland Clinic and  
Pathology Laboratories Toledo



**Katey Tutolo**  
Promedica



**Paul Pahoresky**  
JLP, CPAs



**Eileen Yates**  
Retired, Ohio Living Home  
Health & Hospice

**Patricia Mackey**, Honorary Board Member

## Senior Nutrition Programs

Senior nutrition programs experienced a lot of change in 2021, but maintained, if not enhanced, our commitment to senior nutritional needs. The year began with pandemic measures from 2020; including once-a-week five meal drive-thru service for Lunch Place congregate clients and three days of service providing seven meals for home-delivered meal clients, which transitioned to "normal services" midyear offering in-person dining in the Lunch Place Monday through Friday by reservation and Monday through Friday home delivery for five or seven meals, as requested. These changes provided more opportunity for socialization for our clients, either among other seniors in the Lunch Place or five days of delivery volunteers to check in and share smiles with.

In addition to increasing service days, the focus in 2021 was on increasing additional nutritional support services; supplemental pet food, commodity supplemental food and fresh produce. The purpose of these support programs is to bring more nutrition into a senior's life by delivering fresh and shelf-stable food and reduce senior food insecurity.

In June 2021, the "Meow" or "Woof" Pet Meals on Wheels program began in partnership with Lake Humane Society. The Pet Meals on Wheels program provides supplemental pet food to home-delivered clients once a month for up to five cats and dogs. This is an expansion of Lake Humane Society's pet food pantry, Auggie's Pantry, to reach homebound seniors. The program is a way for seniors to enjoy their entire nutritious meal and have more dollars for their own food shopping while maintaining the health of their four-legged family members who offer so much comfort and companionship for seniors' emotional well-being.

In October 2021, a monthly Commodity Supplemental Food Program box was offered to seniors who met the federal income guidelines for the program. The box provides a variety of shelf-stable food items and two lbs. of cheese. The extra shelf-stable food items add nutritional value to a senior's overall food intake and provide items for an emergency pantry.

Fresh produce began as a pilot program in 2019 and has continued to deliver a box of fresh produce each month to the client's home. Fresh fruits and vegetables add an incredible nutritional value to each senior's diet and are frequently seen as a special treat.

### Funding

Funding for the senior nutrition program comes from different sources. The Older Americans Act funds meals through the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging. The Lake County Senior Services Levy also funds a significant portion of the meals. The United Way of Lake County provides funding specifically for the congregate Lunch Place sites and the Subaru Share the Love event provides funding for Meals on Wheels. Meal participants have an opportunity to contribute a portion of the cost of their meals through an anonymous donation system. This process assures that no one is turned away due to their inability to contribute toward their meal.

2021 Senior Nutrition Program Total	# meals
Total Lunch Place	24,784
Total Home-Delivered Meals	178,030
Total Passport	5,777
Lake County Fair Senior Day	300
Holiday Home-Delivered Meals	255
Blizzard Bag Meals	101
Pantry / Frozen Emergency Meals	100+
<b>Grand Total Meals</b>	<b>209,347</b>

• 3% increase compared to 2019



Kitchen volunteers prepare meals at one of the Lunch Places.

### NUTRITION SUPPORT PROGRAMS

Service	# clients served	# of items
Pet MOW	51 clients 96 pets	521 pet food packs
Commodity Supplemental Food Box	31 clients	85 boxes
Fresh Produce	41 clients	313 boxes

### Lunch Place

The four Lunch Place sites are located within a short drive of nearly every Lake County resident. The reopening of senior centers midyear brought back the opportunity to enjoy a good meal and friendship. While not all seniors were ready to return to in-person dining, and five meals a week was no longer the norm resulting in a decrease in meals for the year, it represented a return to more normal life and joy for the 90 new seniors and total 431 seniors served.

### 2021 LUNCH PLACE MEALS

Location	# meals served
Eastlake	6,294
Madison	3,245
Painesville	2,776
Wickliffe	12,469
<b>Total Meals</b>	<b>24,784</b>

• 16% decrease compared to 2019

### Home-Delivered Meals (Meals on Wheels)

Meals on Wheels returned to a Monday through Friday delivery midyear ensuring a consistent service of five nutritious meals plus two optional frozen meals for weekends, casual conversation and safety check-in for the 1137 seniors. Of the 562 seniors new to the program, 75% were at high nutritional risk. Meals on Wheels provides a service that enables many seniors to remain independent in their own home by receiving meal assistance when they are unable to get out or shop, have difficulty seeing or standing to prepare a meal or live within modest means. 72% of Meals on Wheels clients are 75 or older, 60% are women, 59% are frail or disabled, 55% live alone and 12% are below the federal poverty level.

### 2021 HOME-DELIVERED MEALS

Location	# meals served
Eastlake	35,904
Madison	21,242
Mentor	48,802
Painesville	47,920
Wickliffe	24,162
Passport Meals	5,777
<b>Total Home-Delivered</b>	<b>183,807</b>

• 6% increase compared to 2019

## Homemaker Program

With the world changing by technological advances, our seniors are facing a world so far removed from the one they grew up in and raised their children in, that seniors allowing to age in their homes give them a familiar environment which is comfortable for them.

Independence gives our seniors a sense of purpose. They feel they are still contributing to the lives of their family, friends, and community. They are still able to reach goals by doing the simplest of tasks such as maintaining their homes. Sometimes a little assistance is needed and that is where the Lake County Council on Aging's Homemaker Program helps them achieve the smallest of tasks which greatly impacts our seniors' independence.

Our homemakers assist our seniors with routine basic chores such as light dusting, vacuuming, changing bed linens, mopping floors, and cleaning of the kitchen and bathroom. More importantly, our homemakers provide socialization for our seniors while overseeing that they are in a safe, clean environment while living their golden years. The cost for the homemaker program is based on a sliding fee scale.

As a result of the pandemic, prior to visits the homemakers now check to make sure that their clients are not experiencing any symptoms and while performing their services, the homemakers wear a mask and maintain a social distance while engaging in friendly, comforting and reassuring socialization with their clients.

The clients and staff welcomed the return to the familiar environment of being in a partnership where the Lake County Council on Aging Homemaker Program staff and their seniors allow goals to be met with a little help from a friend all from the comfort and security of their home.

**2021: Provided 2,795 total units of Homemaker Services to 144 Lake County senior households.**

## Nonmedical In-Home Care Program

When a senior begins to struggle to sustain their lifestyle independently, nonmedical home health care can provide supports to assist the senior with their daily routine. Homecare provides compassion and help on varying levels according to individual need. The Nonmedical In-Home Care Program provides in-home assistance for Lake County senior citizens to support aging in place.

Eligible seniors are assigned to a contracted homecare agency that provides two hours of in-home care once per week. Caregivers provide assistance based on tasks outlined in a care plan. Some tasks include: assistance or supervision with bathing, personal care, light housekeeping, laundry, changing bed linens and planning and preparing meals. This service is funded by the Lake County Board of Commissioners.

**2021: Provided 5,259 total units of nonmedical services to 92 Lake County senior households.**



8520 East Avenue, Mentor, Ohio 44060  
(440) 205-8111 • www.lcco.org

## Special Thank You to Our Volunteers

Lake County Council on Aging volunteers are truly everyday heroes! The pandemic continued in 2021 and brought constant change to all our lives. Our volunteers stepped up to the challenge without question to provide essential nutrition services to seniors. Safety protocols were modified, meal delivery schedules changed and we continued with drive-thru pickup meals until congregate dining was able to resume. Volunteers have gone above and beyond to continue to serve our clients with the same care and compassion they have always shown our seniors. We are extremely grateful to our volunteers and the dedication they provide to our senior community and the mission of Lake County Council on aging.



Abramczyk, Pat  
Albanese, James  
Alecci, Debbie  
Ambrose, Jack  
Ambrose, Rosemary  
Amirault, Sarah  
Ananda, Rady  
Anderson, Alberta  
Anderson, Dennis  
Antos, Barbara  
Arendash, Liz  
Armour, Christine  
Arnold, Stephen  
Aten, Libby  
Baker, Beatrice  
Baker, Cindi  
Ball, Kay  
Ball, Sierra  
Balog, Caroline  
Baltitas, Jeannine  
Baltus, Bob  
Baltus, Mary  
Barajas, Alyea  
Barrett, Mike  
Barrett, Neil  
Bartels, Jerry  
Bartels, Marie  
Basham, Sonja  
Berlin, Don  
Berlin, Sandra  
Berry, Tom  
Bittinger, Linda  
Blanchard, Mark  
Blanchard, Mary  
Blasier, Mary  
Blewett, Anthony  
Boesken, Jeanie  
Boka, Carla  
Bonelli, Michael  
Bordelon, Clarence  
Bowen, Donna  
Bower, Antionette  
Bowers, William  
Branford, Don  
Brass, Helen  
Breth, Connie Marie  
Brewer, John  
Buckman, Beth  
Buckman, Bill  
Budzicki, Blair  
Bukovesky, Byron  
Burkholder, Ron  
Burney, Drew  
Buzanski, Mary Ellen  
Buzanski, Ray  
Camino, Deb  
Campbell, Brad  
Canzone, Loretta  
Capelle, Ben  
Cardillo, Joan  
Carlson, Thomas  
Caswell, Clem  
Cavallaro, Bonnie  
Cavallaro, Dennis  
Chom, Iva  
Ciancola, Shannon  
Cicero, Eileen  
Cintula, Geraldine  
Cipkus, Dona  
Claffin, James  
Cogan, Daniel  
Cogan, Daniel  
Cogan, Judy  
Connell, Joe  
Corban, Ronald  
Corrigan, Tom  
Coy, Megan  
Cozen, Darrell  
Craft, Kathy  
Crofoot, Cheryl  
Crofoot, Harry  
Crognalet, Victoria  
Crowder, JoAnn  
Curtiss, Lorna  
Czeck, Carole  
D'Ambrosio, Joe  
D'Amico, Pat  
David, Carol  
Davies, Ronalee

Davis, Lynn  
Dawson, Karen  
DeAngelo, Marie  
Deans, Gary  
Delamotte, Abby  
Deliere, Heather  
Denison, John  
DiDonato, Danielle  
Dietz, Donna  
Dietz, Thomas  
Dillow, Marilyn  
DiMare, Denise  
Dolan, Deborah  
Dombeck, Frank  
Doty, Pat  
Downs, Shirley  
Drazetic, Johnna  
Duca, Dale  
Ducsay, Kaye  
Ducsay, Robert  
Dunham, Richard  
Dwyer, Maryann  
Dyckman, Lois  
Edmisten, David  
Edmisten, Vicky  
Edwards, Wendy  
Elliott, Angela  
Elsaesser, James  
Erb, Ruth  
Erb, Tom  
Erbaugh, Sharon  
Erbaugh, Tom  
Erdman, Rhoda  
Evans, Thomas  
Falcone, JoMarie  
Farrar, Kurt  
Farren, Darlene  
Fatica, Donald F  
Faught, Laura  
Federico, Barb  
Fellenstein, Paul  
Fellows, Helene  
Ferguson, Cheryl  
Ferguson, Doug  
Field, Bud  
Fisher, Beth  
Fisher, Harry  
Fisher, Sharon  
Fleming, Lyn  
Fleming, Rita  
Forrai, Robert  
Fortuna, Christine  
Fox, Tabby  
Fraley, Bruce  
Frank, Debbie  
Fried, Steve  
Fuhrman, Raymond  
Galippo, Linda  
Gallese, Marilyn  
Garcar, Michael  
Geffert, Gini  
Geisman-Turk, Barbara  
Giaconia, Phillip  
Gilbert, Laurie  
Gilmore, Ruth  
Gish, Christina (Tina)  
Given, David  
Glavac, Pattie (Patricia)  
Godec, Karen  
Goff, Tom  
Grodecki, Annette  
Gruss, Terri (Theresa)  
Guarnera, Tom  
Gundelach, Carol  
Hanf, Brent  
Hange, Linda  
Hanrahan, Mary  
Hansen, Lynne  
Hargest, Jan  
Harris, James  
Harris, Mary Ann  
Harrison, Kathleen  
Harsch, William  
Hayes, Mary  
Hayes, Robert  
Hayhurst, Geraldine  
Hayward, John

Hencie, Rob  
Henschel, David  
Herjazi-Garcia, Claudia  
Herzog, Richard  
Hill, Sarah  
Hine, Dee  
Hite, Denis  
Hite, Patricia  
Hoffacker, Ken  
Hoffman, John  
Hogan, Alice  
Hopkins, Jacqueline  
Horn, Michael  
Horvath, Kay  
Horwitz, Susan  
Howell, Kathy  
Howell, Scott  
Hren, Mary Ann  
Hribar, Edward  
Hrovat, Lisa  
Hrovat, Loretta  
Hrvatim, Phillip  
Huber, Susan  
Humar, Cyndi  
Humensky, Karen  
Hunter, Sally  
Iliano, Carol Lynn  
Isco, Suzanne  
Jauch, Carol  
Jenkins, James  
Jennens, Terry  
Jeshenig, Gina  
Jones, Richelle  
Kallevig, James  
Kasabwala, Priya  
Kasserman, Stan  
Keim, Allen  
Kelley, Lynn  
Kelly, Lori  
Kerstens, Kathy  
Kilroy, Marilyn  
King, David  
King, Dolores  
Kingzett, James  
Kinsey, Diane/Mary  
Kinsey, Douglas  
Kirchner-Horn, Kim  
Kitts, Liz  
Klements, Donna  
Kless, Concetta  
Kless, Elmer (Butch)  
Knific, Zita  
Koerwitz, Janet  
Kohut, Patricia  
Koons, Fran  
Kosmin, Jamie  
Kosmin, Martin  
Kothari, Prabodh  
Kovacic, Barb  
Kovalchek, Stephanie  
Kozich, Bill  
Kozlowski, Carla  
Kozsey, Janet  
Kramer, Fred  
Krause, Jack  
Krech, Gary  
Krech, Susan  
Krstolic, Ken  
Krstolic, Lynda Joy  
Kukura, Suzanne  
Kuntz, Bob  
Kuntz, Carol  
Kuta, Susan  
LaBant, June  
Landweis-Phillips, Lyn-  
marie  
Lane, Terry  
Laniauskas, Marius  
Lardner, Robert  
Lavrich, Aurora  
Leiden, Bruce  
Leissa (Matetic), Cheryl  
Leone, Marge  
Lewis, Len  
Liddy, Robert  
Livingston, Joyce  
Llewellyn, Linda  
Locsei, Dennis  
Logan, Lawrence

Lorence, Linda  
Luckner, Don  
Luckner, Stuart  
Lupold, Kathryn  
Luzier, Beverly  
Lynce, Natalie  
Lytle, Cheryl  
Lytle, Rick  
Malek, Dave  
Malinowski, Tom  
Mallett-Kovalchek, Mindy  
Mann, Betty Ann  
Mannion, Paul  
Manteuffel, Lynn  
Marcotte, Andrew  
Margalis, William  
Marinelli-Voit, Stacey  
Martin, Dan  
Martin, Michael  
Martin, Thomas  
Maslovsky, Diane  
Mason, Stephen  
Mathew, Cassandra  
Matlock, Roger  
Matthews, Elizabeth  
Mattice, Cheryl  
Maurer, Larry  
May, Janet  
May, Martha  
Mayher, Kathleen  
Mazurek, Nancy  
Mazurek, Ronald  
McCarthy, Colleen  
McCullough, Anastasia  
McGiffin, Katherine  
McGiffin, Paula  
McGinnis, Amy  
McHugh, Christine  
McHugh, Dwight  
McIndoe, Sarah (Sally)  
McKee, Janet  
McMahon, Barbara  
McMullen, Roy  
McNeal, Phillip  
McNeal, Rita  
Melsheimer, Diane  
Melvin, Debby  
Mendralla, Bonnie  
Mengelkamp, Tom  
Metenyi, James  
Metti, Raymond  
Meyer, Bob  
Meyer, Jeffrey  
Meyer, Larry  
Miller, Carol  
Miller, Jayne  
Miller, Laura  
Misenko, Andrew  
Mitchell, Tina  
Moffett, Karen  
Molenaar, Kip  
Mominney, Mary  
Moran, Doris  
Morgan, William  
Mosman, Jennifer  
Moster, William

Mulhauser, Judy  
Murphy, Lauren  
Murphy, Mona  
Murphy, Tom  
Muzac, Karen  
Neibecker, Heather  
Nemerovsky, Evelyn  
Newcomer, Susan  
Newell, Ann  
Nolan, Kim  
Nordyke, Joyce  
Nystrom, Joanne  
O'Brien, MaryAnn  
O'Brien, Terrence  
O'Linn, Susan  
O'Neill, Bridget  
Oberdoerster, Karla  
Oberdoerster, Tim  
Offi, Eileen  
Okorn, Kathleen  
Oldani, Debbie  
Olivo, Elsie  
Orazen, Rebecca (Becky)  
Ozello, Patricia  
Pahoresky, Paul  
Pahula, Mike  
Palmer, Diana  
Paluckas, David  
Paradiso, Patty  
Parker, Julia  
Paterniti, Carmen  
Patfield, Lawrence  
Patt, Donald  
Patterson, Arlevia  
Pattison, Thomas  
Payne, Walter  
Peltz, Judy  
Peltz, Richard  
Peppard, Michael  
Perry, John  
Pesa, Gay Lee  
Peters, Rae  
Peters, Tony  
Petrello, Bill  
Petrelo, Janet  
Petroff, Barb  
Picone, Frances  
Piloti, Ken  
Piros, Dale  
Piros, Denise  
Podgurski, Ashley  
Podgurski, Kimberly  
Pope, Judy  
Preto, Janice  
Preto, John  
Pribilski, Beth  
Quignano, Lee  
Quinones, Vic  
Raishart, Francis  
Raishart, Marilyn  
Raymer, Dawn  
Retter, Jerry  
Rice, Brian  
Richards, Paula  
Ricketts, Mary Anne  
Riley, Christine

Ritley, Doug  
Robejsek, Patricia  
Roberts, Diane  
Robinson, Richard  
Routt, Lisa  
Rus, Stacy  
Russell, Lee Ann  
Sakach, Arlene  
Saletel, Judy  
Sanden, Nancy  
Sandrey, Darlene  
Sandrey, Michael  
Sason III, Frank  
Sawyers, Bill  
Sbrocco, Lois  
Sbrocco, Michael  
Scerbo, Jennifer  
Schaefer, Melissa  
Schaefer, Jamie  
Schmidt, Linda  
Schock, Delmas 'Del'  
Schreckengost, Mabel  
Scott, Bradford  
Scott, Karen  
Sekerak, Raymond  
Shanley, Ann  
Sheykhan, Connie  
Shriver, Mary 'Kitty'  
Sikora, Erin  
Sironen, Rose Mary  
Sisa, Monika  
Skouby, Robert  
Smart, Monika  
Smith, Karen  
Smith, Kate  
Smith, Pam  
Smith, Renee  
Sotka, Donald  
South, Beth  
Sowers Jr, Ken  
Sowers, Shelley  
Spotz, Mary  
St. John, Anne  
St. John, Dale  
Stanek, Larry  
Stanicki, Jeff  
Stapp, Lillie  
Stefanik, James  
Stefanik, Sandra  
Steinicke, Jack  
Stevens, Pat  
Stipkovich, Mark  
Stoneman, Nancy  
Stratz, Robert  
Strong, Darlene  
Summers, Tim  
Svendsen, Linda  
Swinehart, Gary  
Szeke, Frank  
Talbot, Ellen  
Talbot, Matthew  
Taraska, Barbara  
Taylor-Marinko, Andrea  
Teare, James  
Terranova, Carol  
Teschke, Cathy

Thomas, John  
Thorne, Alan  
Trepal, Esther  
Troha, Bob  
Tsiros, Judith  
Tucci, Michael  
Tursich, Debbie  
Tursich, James  
Tutolo, Katey  
Tutolo, Kimberly  
Unites, Dorothy  
Vaccariello, Mike  
Vaccariello, Sheilah  
Vagner, Caroline  
Vaiksnoras, Theresa  
Veasey, Barbara  
Veneri, Chris  
Vogt, Andrew  
Vogt, Ken  
Vogt, Mary Ellen  
Voorhees, Joan  
Vosicky, Susan  
Waclawski, Deb  
Walsh, James  
Walsh, Rachel  
Walsh, Rae Lynne  
Walter, Laura  
Walter, Steve  
Walters, Donna  
Walters, James  
Watson, Mary  
Watt, Gregory  
Weber, Emily  
Weber, Susan  
Weglarz, Frank  
Weintz, Philip  
Weiss, James  
Weiss, Lori  
Welch, Michelle  
Welsh, Rick  
Whitcomb, Tom  
Wilson, Bruce  
Wilson, Sheila  
Winters, Sue  
Woehrl, Al  
Wollerman, Wayne  
Woodworth, David  
Woodworth, Marijane  
Wymer, Teresa  
Yates, Eileen  
Yoon, Sylvia  
Zadd, Daniel  
Zadd, Donna  
Zalar, Jane  
Zalar, Laura  
Zaller, John  
Zemanek, Luanne  
Zemanek, Steve  
Zerman, Charles  
Zerman, Mary  
Zeroske, Joanne  
Zettlemeyer, Elaine  
Zink, Cindy  
Zito, Mitchell  
Zivkovich, Ed

## Special Thanks to Our Adopt a Route Partners

Adopt a Route partners are businesses and service organizations in Lake County who engage their employees in ongoing volunteer service through the Lake County Council on Aging Meals on Wheels program to enhance the community. Businesses who engage employees in community service have higher employee satisfaction and employee engagement. The Adopt a Route program is a program that benefits the employees and the business while supporting the Lake County Council on Aging and directly impacting our clients in Lake County. Thank you to all the volunteers serving on behalf of the following businesses and organizations.

ASA  
Creative Solutions to Independence  
Enpac  
Griswold Home Care

Lake County Commissioners  
Lake County Council on Aging  
Madison Healthcare

Mentor Rotary Club  
Painesville Rotary Club  
Wickliffe Country Place

## Volunteer Services Department

Volunteers serve in critical roles to accomplish the mission of the Lake County Council on Aging. Volunteers make a significant contribution in the lives of the clients of Lake County Council on Aging through multiple programs. In 2021, volunteers impacted the nutrition, loneliness and social isolation, information and support needs of our clients and special community events.

### Nutrition Impact

**Nutrition Centers.** Along with the nutrition center coordinator and staff, **72 nutrition assistant volunteers** assisted with general meal preparation, sealing and packing meals for delivery, and were the friendly faces that served food at four Lunch Places, our congregate meal sites.

**Meals on Wheels Delivery.** **263 volunteers** delivered nutritious meals and daily contact to seniors. The program supports independence while promoting the social, physical, and emotional well-being of seniors. The program consists of the delivery of a hot meal Monday through Friday along with a meaningful social interaction and well-being check. Frozen meals are offered as an option for the weekends, and are delivered on Fridays.

### Loneliness and Social Isolation Impact

Volunteers positively impacted the issue of senior loneliness and social isolation through nutrition services as mentioned above and more specifically through the following volunteer roles.

**Friendly Visiting.** During 2021, the Council on Aging Friendly Visiting Program remained on hold because of the uncertainty of new variants. The agency will resume the program in 2022 and will be seeking additional volunteers.

This program traditionally matches volunteers with seniors they visit to help with reading or shopping, online tasks and camaraderie..

**Phone Pal Caller Program.** **21 phone pal volunteers** made calls to seniors. This vital program connects homebound seniors by phone which maintained an ongoing relationship by providing a social connection to reduce loneliness and social isolation.

**Powerful Pens Program.** **10 pen pal volunteers** stayed connected to seniors by writing letters and sending handmade cards to reduce loneliness and social isolation.

**Letters of Love and Handcrafted Cards.** The delivery of a handcrafted card to a Meals on Wheels or Lunch Place senior brings joy and uplifts spirits. Hand-crafted greeting cards were shared on Valentine's Day, Fourth of July, Thanksgiving and Christmas with nearly 1,000 cards delivered on each holiday along with positive general handcrafted greeting cards shared randomly throughout the year. The number of individual and group volunteers has grown significantly in the past year to **43 volunteers** and includes several who live outside of Ohio, but support the mission and mail their cards to be included in delivery to seniors.

### Information and Support Impact

**Ohio Senior Health Insurance Program (OSHIIP):** Under the guidance of our Aging and Disability Resource Center, trained Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program (OSHIIP) volunteers provided information to resolve Medicare, Medicaid, and secondary health insurance questions. **8 volunteers** helped seniors make informed decisions regarding Medicare benefits by providing free, unbiased information.

**Grocery Shopping:** **33 grocery shopping volunteers** met biweekly with clients who can no longer leave their home to grocery shop. Grocery shopping support services enabled clients to remain independent in their own home; as well as enhance their nutritional well-being.

**Administrative:** **9 administrative volunteers** provided support behind the scenes in the business office to ensure the delivery of programs and services.

**Training:** Volunteers, as well as employees, are required to participate in annual required training to build upon their knowledge and skills and ensure high quality service is being provided to our seniors.

### Events and Community Projects

Event and community project volunteers assisted in an array of activities; including, Blizzard Bag Food Drive, Thanksgiving and Christmas Meal Delivery, Senior Day at the Fair and March for Meals. Many of these volunteers join us just once a year for the special project and others serve in addition to their regular volunteer roles.

**Blizzard Bags.** The Blizzard Bag Food Drive, an annual event collected at multiple collection locations in the community, including Stuff the Trunk event at Lake County Council on Aging. Food donations were sorted into types of food and packed for a two- to three-day food supply into **101 blizzard bags**. Blizzard bags are designed to ensure that clients who receive Meals on Wheels have food resources in case of an emergency cancellation of delivery.

**Thanksgiving and Christmas Meal Delivery.** The holidays can be a difficult time of year for many seniors. LCCoA is committed to delivering a hot meal and holiday spirit to our clients who would otherwise be alone. **22 volunteers** on Thanksgiving and **26 volunteers** on Christmas delivered a special holiday meal from University Hospitals Lake Health Medical Centers to **123 seniors** on Thanksgiving and **132 seniors** on Christmas. The large number of volunteers willing to deliver on a holiday enabled each volunteer to spend more time visiting with clients and share holiday joy.



Volunteer Impact	# of Hours	# of Volunteers*
<b>NUTRITION</b>		
Meals on Wheels/Lunch Place meals	24,803	355
<b>LONELINESS/SOCIAL ISOLATION</b>		
Phone Pal Program	323	21
Letters of Love & Cards Program	1,172	43
Powerful Pens Program	360	10
<b>INFORMATION AND SUPPORT</b>		
Benefits Assistance (OSHIIP)	73	8
Grocery Shopping	483	33
Administrative	380	11
Training	541	
<b>EVENTS/COMMUNITY PROJECTS</b>		
Senior Day at the Fair	30	13
Blizzard Bags	72	30
Thanksgiving Meal Delivery	44	22
Christmas Meal Delivery	52	26
<b>Board of Trustees</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Total Volunteer Hours</b>	<b>28,621</b>	<b>564</b>

\*Duplicated count



Council on Aging board members, staff and volunteers helping serve lunch during Senior Day at the Lake County Fair, 2021.



Thanks for the great meal on Thanksgiving morning. What a blessing to have an organization so caring for our community. God bless you all! – Nancy



Special thanks to Lorna for helping me again, selecting the Best prescription drug plan for me that saves significant money.

I hope we are both here to meet in person for the next Open Enrollment later in 2021.

– Sincerely, Dick K, Painesville, OH



## Special Recognition

The Lake County Council on Aging saw a tremendous amount of support from the community in helping the agency serve seniors during a turbulent year.

Organizations, individuals and businesses graciously donated supplies, assistance and food throughout 2021. Here is a partial list of those who helped us in incredible ways:

Adventure Subaru  
 Aexcel Corporation  
 Andrea Taylor-Marinko  
 Best Solutions Inc.  
 Bob Oblocki & Judy Parmertor  
 Brian Rogers  
 City of Eastlake/Mayor Dennis Morley  
 City of Mentor/Ante Logarusic  
 City of Wickliffe/Service Employees  
 City of Willowick/Mayor Rich Regovich  
 DAK Tool & Supply  
 Dave's Supermarkets  
 Delores Hanko & Pat McKibben  
 Fredon Corporation  
 Ganley Subaru  
 Greater Cleveland Food Bank  
 Lake County Board of Commissioners  
 Lake County Emergency Management/Joe Busher  
 Lake County General Health District  
 Lake County Planning & Community Development/CDBG  
 Lake County Senior Centers  
 Lake County Senior Services / Alyea Barajas / Cristen Kane  
 Mentor Police Department  
 Mentor TV/Jack Tompkins  
 Laketran  
 Lifeline  
 Nancy Sanden  
 Parker Place Gracious Retirement Living  
 Rich & Patty Wilson  
 Rob Bishop  
 RSVP Volunteers  
 SAMS Club  
 St. Gabriel Church  
 The News-Herald  
 United Way of Lake County  
 Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging

## Our Aging World Radio Show

The Lake County Council on Aging produces a weekly educational radio program, entitled "Our Aging World." The one-hour broadcast is aired in-kind over WINT Radio, 1330AM and 101.5FM. An online airing of the show is available at tunein.com.

The program is hosted by Joe Tomsick, CEO of the Lake County Council on Aging with interviews of experts in a variety of fields.

Here is a partial list of some of the guests who appeared on the weekly radio program during 2021:

2020 Census  
 American Red Cross  
 Behavioral Health Services  
 Better Business Bureau of Cleveland  
 Catholic Diocese of Cleveland  
 Cleveland Clinic  
 Cleveland Sight Center  
 Eastern Lake County Chamber of Commerce  
 Elder Abuse Awareness Day  
 Fine Arts Association  
 Garfield Alliance  
 Great Lakes Mall  
 Greater Cleveland Aquarium  
 Hearing Specialists  
 Home Care Companies  
 Home Safety/Maintenance  
 Lake County Board of Commissioners  
 Lake County Council on Aging  
 Lake County Department of Utilities  
 Lake County Free Clinic  
 Lake County General Health District  
 Lake County Senior Centers  
 Laketran  
 Lifeline/211  
 Mentor Fire Department  
 Mentor Public Library  
 National Kidney Foundation  
 Project Hope for the Homeless  
 Social Security Administration  
 United Way of Lake County  
 U.S. Census Bureau  
 Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging  
 Willoughby Eastlake Public Library  
 Variety of Legal Interviews



## Funding

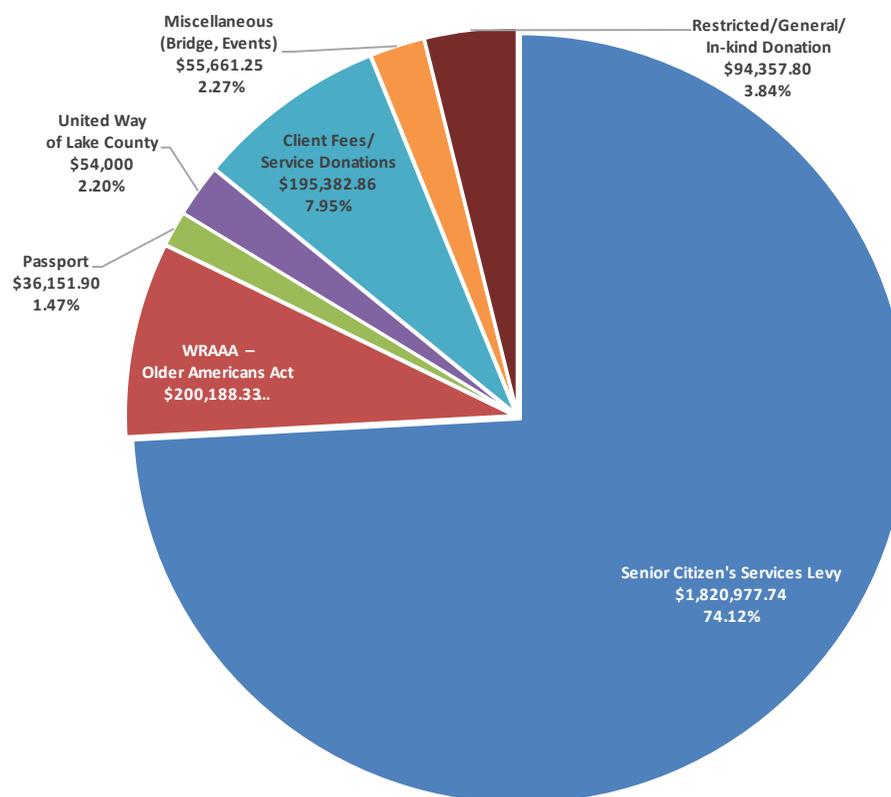
The Lake County Council on Aging is funded primarily through the Lake County Senior Citizens Services Levy, Title III Older American Act Awards through the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging, the United Way of Lake County, various local/national grants, fees and donations. We are humbly grateful to the hundreds of individuals who are listed within this report who made financial contributions to the Council on Aging in 2021.

Approximately 74.12% of the Council on Aging's 2021 operating funds were received from the Lake County Senior Services Levy and approximately 8.15% from Older American Act funds.

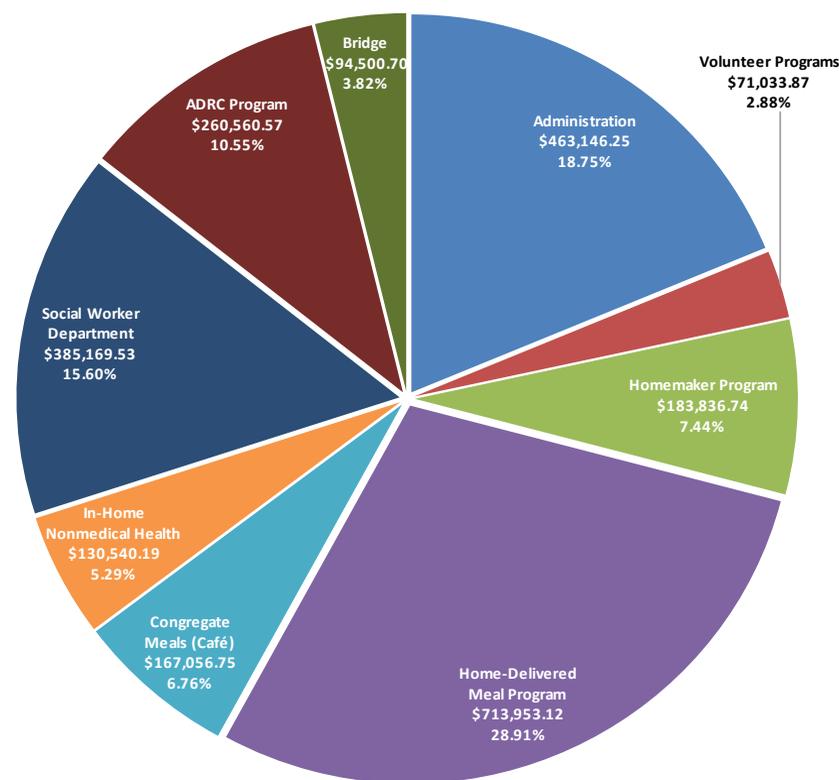
We also are sincerely appreciative to the residents of Lake County for their ongoing and future support of the levy as well as the increased donations the agency received throughout the challenging years of 2020 and 2021.

Together, these dollars financially support a range of programs for the Council on Aging to advocate for Lake County's senior population and help them remain within their own homes and community.

### 2021 Operating Revenue By Source (Unaudited)



### 2021 Operating Expenses By Department (Unaudited)



The Lake County Council on Aging is funded primarily through the Lake County Senior Citizens Services Levy, Title III Older American Act grants through the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging, the United Way of Lake County, various grants, fees and donations, and your generosity and support.

## Our Generous Donors

The Lake County Council on Aging is grateful for the generous support of our donors. We are pleased to recognize those who contributed to the agency in 2021. From individuals and teams to organizations and foundations, the generosity of these key partners enables the Council on Aging to make a difference in the lives of our older population. We are truly grateful for their support.

### **\$5,000 - \$10,000**

Anonymous

### **\$2,500-\$4,999**

James Llewellyn  
Meals on Wheels  
Fredon - Roger Sustar  
University Hospitals Lake Health  
Visiting Angels Of NE Ohio  
Western Reserve Area  
Agency on Aging

### **\$1,000-\$2,499**

Aexcel Corporation  
Association of Specialists in Aging  
Griffin Technology Group  
Mindy Mallett-Kovalcheck  
Colleen McCarthy  
Robert Murch Trust  
Schraff Thomas Law LLC  
Roy Smith  
Tapestry Wickliffe, LLC  
Joseph & Lisa Tomsick

### **\$500 - \$999**

Advanced Audiology Concepts  
Anderson Family Foundation  
Brunner Sanden Deitrick Funeral  
Home & Cremation Services  
Marlene Campbell  
Carver Financial Services, Inc.  
Carole Czeck  
Jane Dangler  
Eaton Family Credit Union  
Enpac LLC  
Cheryll Gleason  
Leah Herman  
Hospice of the Western Reserve  
James Jenkins  
David Kaus  
Kaz Company  
Fred Kuhar  
Laketrans  
Ken Oress  
Paul Pahoresky  
PeerPlace Networks, LLC  
Reminger Co LPA  
Patricia Schraff  
Sievers Security, Inc.  
SNPJ Lodge 158 Loyalties  
Sunset Industries Inc.  
Andrea Taylor-Marinko  
VFW Post 4358

### **\$250 - \$499**

A Heavenly Helper Homecare  
American Mutual Life Association  
Best Solutions Medical Supplies, Ltd.  
Colleen Boruszkowski  
Ben Capelle  
Donald Castora  
Shannon Cianciola  
City of Mentor  
Thomas Colpetzer  
Comfort Keepers  
Megan Coy  
Michael Finefrock  
Janice Geho  
Home Instead Senior Care  
Laura Kaltenbach  
Kline Rostocil Construction  
Renee Kovalak  
The Kovalcheck Family  
Lake County Veterans Services  
Lake-Geauga Recovery Centers  
Lynnmarie Landwei-Phillips  
Ed Lippe  
Madison Healthcare  
Marous Brothers Construction  
Janet McKee  
Mentor Ridge Foundations  
Health Solutions  
George Milbourn  
David Moon  
Jennifer Nagarah  
Neubauer  
NMS, Inc.  
Parker Place  
Craig Potter  
Sheila Smith  
Sounds of Life Hearing Center, LLC  
Taylor Made Home Care LLC

John Thomas  
Tony's Radio Show, LLC  
Kimmie Tutulo  
James Walter  
Frank Weglarz  
George Whalley

### **\$100 - \$249**

Gayle Alanen  
Altercare of Mentor  
American Legion Post 336  
Ammvets Post 1971  
Thomas Balmat  
Judge Mark Bartolotta  
Katherine Beaty  
Nathan Bell  
William Buckman  
Charles Carey  
Debra Catalano  
Clairwood No. 40 American  
Mutual Life Association  
Anthony Coladangelo  
Harold Collins  
Samuel Cowling  
Evelyn Coyne  
Doris Diemert  
Fenton Financial Services  
John Fliter  
Karl Friedrich  
The Garland Company  
Gini Gefert  
Leslie Giffin  
David Gilmer  
Adrienne Green  
Global Real Estate Advisors Inc  
Grand River Health  
& Rehab Center  
Griswold Home Care  
Theodore Hieronymus  
Alan Hoffman  
Marysue Hytree  
Caroline Jakubauskas  
Cerknisko Jezero  
Jeanine Keary  
Marjorie Knaus  
Kenneth Knight  
Charles Kocher  
Ruth Kuhn  
Charles LaNasa  
Betty Leiby  
Kimberly Leininger  
Bernard Lindon  
Joanne Lindsco  
Linda Llewellyn  
Lodge #12 AMLA  
Donald Malinowski  
Robert Mallett  
Nancy Manning  
Lynnette Manteuffel  
Judith McCracken  
Cheryl Miller  
Larry Miller  
David Mitchell  
Michael Mohner  
Joseph Muscatello  
Tim Oberdoerster  
Jim O'Connor  
Edward Ott  
Betsy Parke  
Michael Peppard  
Patrice Perme  
Quality Community  
Management, Inc.  
Deborah Querro  
Tracy Radonich  
Barbara Reider  
Herbert Richardson  
Robert Rosplock  
Josephine Rotter  
R.W. Beckett Corp.  
Adam Sanden  
Nancy Sanden  
Schlitz Crane, Inc.  
Betty Schmiermund  
Paula Seger  
Shirley Shandle  
Nancy Slack  
Jan Slejko  
Alexander Timpeiro  
Michelle Tobin  
VFW Post 9295  
Beatrice Wunderle  
Dominic Yanni

thanks  
FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Eileen Young

### **\$1 - \$99**

Maureen Ackerman  
Frank Adamic  
Jean Addison  
Nicholas Ajdinovich  
Karen Alam  
American Home & Energy Products, Inc  
AMLA Lodge #22  
Loretta Babuder  
John Baco  
Angela Barone  
Janet Barry  
Nancy Benes  
The Benevity  
Community Impact Fund  
Timothy Bennett  
Mary Blanchard  
Mary Jane Bleil  
Marvin Bollinger  
Chelley Bond  
Marion Boos  
Marc Boos  
James Bossman  
Christopher Brown  
Phyllis Brunner  
Celine Burger  
Christopher Cahill  
Josephine Cameron  
Gayle Celizic  
Sonia Chapnick  
William Chepla  
Michael Cicconetti  
Daniel Cogan  
Diane Collins  
Committee to Re-Elect  
Judge Mark Bartolotta  
Community Counseling Center  
of Ashtabula County  
Lucille Dalton  
Catherine De Victor Czaga  
Thomas Dice  
Albert Dilorio  
Denise Dimare  
Susan Dlugolecki  
Sharon Dudinsky  
Douglas Elersich  
Margaret Fawcett  
Gail Fedak  
Susan Fende  
Joan Flessner-Filzen  
Moses Fridman  
Robert Galen  
Chris Gilchrist  
Harrison Gleason  
Linda Gorjup  
Edwina Grady  
Christopher Hall  
James Hayes  
Debby Henkhuzens  
Kenneth Hoffacker  
Mary Horn  
Jeanne Hrenko  
Anna Mae Jaras  
Margaret Kelly  
Spence Kline  
Gail Klingenberg  
Frank Koncilja  
Jean Kovach  
Nancy Krause  
Lake County  
Fire Chiefs Association  
Lake Metroparks  
Employee Association  
Sharon Landgraf  
Robert Lanning  
Ruth Laubert  
Chris Lavik  
Deborah Lefelhoc  
Thomas Lennox  
Robbert Licht  
Sylvia Lindrose  
Katherine Lucha

John MacDougall  
Thomas Mahovic  
Bob Mallett  
Nicholas Mangino  
Bill McFadden  
James McGraw  
Laura McGuinness  
Naomi Mehls  
Robert Mester  
Mightycause  
Charitable Foundation  
Mark Miozzi  
Donald Morlock  
Roger Munson  
Margaret Nemeth  
Nancy Notaro  
Debra Oldani  
Michael O'Neill  
Susan Parsons  
Barbara Patton  
PC Medic Plus  
Herbert Pearlman  
Sean Pell  
Joyce Peoples  
Betty Pinelli  
John Popielarczyk  
Richard Rabe  
William Rabe  
Marilyn Raishart  
Margaret Reinhardt  
Janet Renwick  
Alex Rezzolla  
Doug Ritley  
Merle Robb  
Richard Robie  
William Rosati  
Janis Roth  
Karen Rotter  
Michael Rouse  
Margo Ryan  
Carolyn Sadler  
Kenneth Salacienski  
Joyce Saxe  
Rebecca Schmucker  
Donald Schutz  
Donald Scurka  
Patricia Sfero  
Lyle Shull  
Janet Sipols  
Mary Slak  
James Spence  
Suzanne Staiger  
Pat Stevens  
Lindsay Thomas  
Mary Ticknor  
Raymond Tutolo  
Karen Updike  
Linda Urban  
Elaine Vukov  
Catherine Weber  
Marian Wenger  
Daniel Wensing  
Joey White  
Joseph Widecan  
Shane Winnyk  
Karen Winslow  
Helen Wisgerhof  
Michael Wrobel  
Josephine Wutchiett  
Eileen Yates

Katie Zalar  
Patricia Zampini

### **IN MEMORIAM**

The following are donations made to honor the life of someone who has passed and to keep their memory alive.

#### **In Memory of Anne Case**

Christopher Brown  
Margaret Nemeth

#### **In Memory of Barbara Steffy**

Marian Wenger

#### **In Memory of Bernard Keary**

Jeanine Keary

#### **In Memory of Brad Campbell**

Barbara Reider

#### **In Memory of Bruno Maniglia**

Moses Fridman

#### **In Memory of David Golby**

Loretta Babuder

#### **In Memory of Doris Joan Sievers**

Sievers Security, Inc.

#### **In Memory of Edna, Earle & James Haislip**

Lindsay Thomas

#### **In Memory of Faith J. Kern**

Debby Henkhuzens

#### **In Memory of Filomena Castora**

Donald Castora

#### **In Memory of Gaye Powell**

Barbara Reider

#### **In Memory of Joann & William Ockuly**

Michael Peppard

#### **In Memory of John Starp**

John MacDougall

#### **In Memory of Joyce Schutz**

Adam Sanden  
Margo Ryan  
Eileen Young  
Larry Miller

#### **Visiting Angels of Northeast Ohio**

William Rosati  
Nancy Sllack  
Doris Diemert  
Donald Schutz

#### **In Memory of Kenneth Henkel**

Ed Lippe  
R.W. Beckett Corp.  
Maureen Ackerman  
Jean Addison  
Angela Barone  
Robert Mester  
Josephine Rotter  
Karen Rotter  
Michael Cicconetti

#### **In Memory of Louis Silc**

Carole Czeck

#### **Lynn Robert Shull and Karen Bartley**

Lyle Shull

#### **In Memory of Marge Bruening**

Ruth Laubert  
Chris Gilchrist  
Joyce Peoples  
Community Counseling Center  
of Ashtabula County  
Daniel Wensing

#### **In Memory of Marquerite & Frank Kukula**

Advanced Audiology Concepts

#### **In Memory of Margaret Gray**

Lake County

#### **In Memory of Martha Sabo**

Lake County

Fire Chief's Association

#### **In Memory of Michael Carroll**

Margaret Fawcett

#### **In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. N.C. Walter**

James Walter

#### **In Memory of Ruth Chase**

Jean Kovach

#### **In Memory of Ruth Kay**

Joan Flessner-Filzen  
Elaine Vukov  
Kimberly Leininger  
Margaret Reinhardt  
Carolyn Sadler

### **IN HONOR**

#### **In Honor of Raymond M. Adams**

Gayle Hoffman-Thomeier  
Katie Zalar

#### **In Honor of**

#### **Front Line Workers & Volunteers**

Charles Kocher

#### **In Honor of Laura Faught**

Robert Licht

#### **In Honor of Mindy Kovalcheck**

The Neubauer Family

#### **In Honor of Mitchell R. Zito**

Robert Murch Trust

#### **In Honor of Ray & Mary Ellen Buzanski**

Naomi Mehls

### **IN KIND**

Andrea Taylor-Marinko  
Anonymous  
Council on Aging Board of Trustees  
Brunner Sanden Dietrick  
Funeral & Cremation Services  
Cleveland Browns Organization  
Danbury Senior Living  
Froyo Twist Frozen Yogurt  
Governor's Point  
Great Lakes Mall  
HCR Manor Care  
Home Instead  
Humphrey Popcorn Company  
James McGraw  
Jon Thomas Consulting  
Joseph Muscatello  
Kemper House  
Ladies & Gentlemen Salon  
in Legacy Village  
Lake County Council on Aging Staff  
Lake Metroparks  
LeBron James Family Foundation  
Lost Nation Golf Course  
Lynnmarie Landwei-Phillips  
Manning & Clair, Attorneys at Law  
Melissa Sprague  
PC Medic Plus LCC  
Philip Hrvatin  
Rabbit Run Community  
Arts Association  
Sally Petre  
Schraff Thomas, Attorneys at Law  
Sugar Pines Farms  
Sure Valley Maple  
Taylor Made Home Care, LLC  
Today's Family Magazine  
Vista Springs  
World of Wines

Remember the  
Council on Aging  
in your estate!

To leave a bequest is to make a permanent statement of your values. It is by this act of charity that the world will remember what you cared about and what you stood for. If providing for seniors matters to you, consider a gift to the Lake County Council on Aging in your estate plans.

## Social Work Services

The year 2021 began as a continuation of 2020 with the coronavirus still in charge of the decisions that were made to protect clients as well as staff. Home visits were suspended except for homemaker and nonmedical home care referrals. Most contact was made by phone with the realization that some aspects critical to our work might be missed. Referrals ticked up a bit with a noticeable difference in the complexity of needs. The impact of COVID-19 on physical as well as mental well-being cannot be stated enough. In many cases, the pain of isolation and loneliness was palpable at the time of initial assessment.

As the vaccine became accessible, the social work staff assisted many clients in securing appointments both in home and at designated sites. The department was able to resume in-home visits in late spring which allowed for in person introductions and a chance to further evaluate clients with more complex issues and concerns such as housing, mental health, lack of support system and food insecurity. Social workers continued to assist with produce delivery, grocery shopping, and picking up prescriptions.

As with many organizations, we were down social work staff for an extended period in 2021. Despite this challenge, the social work department worked tirelessly to address the needs of our clients and those most vulnerable seniors in Lake County. The department is grateful for the support and collaboration we receive from other health and service organizations. These community partnerships are vital to the work we do. We are equally grateful for the continuing support of the Lake County Senior Services Levy. These monies allow LCCOA the opportunity to provide a social worker to every client who is involved with our agency.

Going forward in 2022, the department is looking towards building new partnerships with agencies such as Family Pride and the Benjamin Rose Institute in order to enhance the emotional support of the seniors we serve. We will be incorporating a tool to measure acuity and outcomes in order to better identify the efficacy of our interventions. The social work department remains committed to serving the senior population in Lake County to ensure they achieve an optimal, self-defined quality of life.

### 2021 Social Work Services:

- Provided services to 1,398 unduplicated seniors
- Provided 1,351 Home visits
- Completed 627 initial psychosocial assessments
- Completed 466 annual reassessments
- Completed 3,334 service hours



Lake County Council on Aging homemaker preparing donated equipment for the H.E.L.P. program.

“

I'd like to express my deepest appreciation for excellent assistance provided by your social workers.

They are very well organized, disciplined, prompt, reliable, knowledgeable, wise, optimizing, helpful to my needs, and compassionate.

– Lydia G., Willoughby, OH

”

## The Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC)

In partnership with the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging, the Lake County Council on Aging serves as the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) for Lake County. The ADRC provides services to residents who are aged 60 and over, as well as those aged 18 and over with a disability. The ADRC serves as the “front door” to the agency as it functions as a starting place for accurate, unbiased information on all available community services and supports. There are three core services offered through the Lake County ADRC: information and assistance, benefits assistance and options counseling.



The ADRC partnered with several agencies to provide weekly distribution of fresh produce to Lake County seniors.

### Information & Assistance (I&A)

Information & assistance is a fundamental service of the ADRC. I&A specialists take the time to listen to the caller and establish a personal rapport. This is crucial because those who call the agency may not always know to ask for a service by name. I&A specialists assist callers with determining their needs and preferences then provide unbiased information on programs and services that can help meet their needs and support independence. I&A specialists also link callers to other organizations that can help. Some areas of assistance include: housing options, transportation, personal care, respite care, and legal services. When appropriate, I&A specialists follow up with individuals to ensure the information provided was beneficial and offer other resources if necessary.

**2021: Provided 5,567 information and assistance contacts.**

**Produce Assistance:** As concerns over the COVID-19 global pandemic continued into 2021, information and assistance specialists from the Lake County Council on Aging, together with Lifeline/211, played an integral role of registering seniors for the Lake County Mobile Food Pantry program. This was a collaborative effort between the Council on Aging, Laketrans, Lifeline, Inc., the board of county commissioners, and the Greater Cleveland Food Bank.

**2021: Served 7,068 duplicated senior households.**

### Options Counseling

Options counseling takes information and assistance another step further by providing assistance to individuals, family members, and caregivers in need of long-term care support to make informed choices about the services and settings that best meet their needs. Individuals and caregivers receive unbiased information about various long-term care support options and the resources to help pay for services. The program also provides decision support to identify next steps in the process and help in connecting with services if needed.

**2021: Provided a total of 106 hours of options counseling assistance to 86 unduplicated individuals.**

### Benefits Assistance

Benefits assistance is a service that provides information and assistance related to public benefits. The benefits specialist screens for eligibility and guides individuals through the application process for public benefits including Medicaid, Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP), Homestead Tax Credit, the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), Medicare Savings Programs and the Low Income Subsidy (aka Extra Help). Unbiased information and assistance related to Medicare is provided through Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program (OSHIIIP) volunteers.

**2021: Provided a total of 80 hours of benefits assistance to 125 unduplicated individuals.**

**2021: During Medicare Open Enrollment, four Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program (OSHIIIP) volunteers provided Medicare information, education and assistance to 69 individuals totaling 124 volunteer hours of assistance.**

## Health Equipment Lending Program (H.E.L.P.)

Through H.E.L.P., the Council on Aging accepts donations of gently-used medical equipment such as walkers and rollators, wheelchairs, tub seats and transfer benches, canes, and bedside commodes. These items are checked for safety, cleaned, sanitized, and made available to Lake County seniors in need, free of charge. The Council on Aging also accepts unopened packages of incontinence supplies.

**2021: Provided 951 pieces of medical equipment to the Lake County community.**

# Homestead exemption could save you money on your property taxes

By Lake County Auditor

The homestead exemption is a form of property tax reduction in real estate taxes for those who qualify. The deadline is now on December 31, 2022. This is a good time to review some of the requirements for homestead exemption. If you have any further questions, feel free to call the Lake County auditor's office at 440-350-2536 or you may download the application from our website [www.lakecountyohio.gov/auditor/forms](http://www.lakecountyohio.gov/auditor/forms).

## Who is eligible to file for the homestead exemption?

In July 2013 the law governing homestead exemption was changed to an income-based program for homeowners who were 65 years of age or totally disabled (if less than 65) and owned and occupied their home as of January 1 of that year. If you have been enrolled in the homestead program prior to 2013 you are grandfathered in and are not subject to the income requirement.

If you are a veteran who is 100% permanently and totally service-connected disabled, or the surviving spouse of a public service officer killed in the line of duty, then you may be entitled to an additional credit. VA disabled veterans do not have any income requirements but must provide a copy of their VA disability letter and DD214 to receive the exemption.

In order to file for the homestead exemption, you must meet certain criteria. You must be 65 years of age during the year in which you first file for the exemption, or be permanently and totally disabled.

The income is based on your modified adjusted gross income. This is your OAGI (Ohio adjusted gross income), which is located on line 3 of the state income tax return statement plus line 11 of the Ohio Schedule A of the state income tax return statement. The total income for the tax year 2021 must be under \$34,600. This income-based program applies to homeowners that are turning 65 in 2022 as well as persons qualifying under the disability exemption.

You must own and occupy your home or manufactured home and it is your primary place of residence as of January 1, 2022. For all forms of qualifying ownership, please

refer to page two of the homestead application (DTE105A).

In Lake County, proof of age is a requirement. A photocopy of a driver's license, state of Ohio ID card, birth certificate or current or expired passport must be included with your application. The application may be filed in person at the auditor's office or postmarked on or before December 31, 2022.

If your property is in a trust, we require a copy of the page or pages that indicate the type of trust. Per Ohio law, certain irrevocable trusts do not allow you to qualify for the exemption.

If you would have qualified for the homestead exemption in 2021 and did not apply, please check the "late application for prior year" box on the application as well as the current application box. If you are filing a late application, then the total amount of income must be under \$34,200 for tax year 2020.

## Does disability qualify me for the homestead?

If you are claiming a physical disability, you must have the certificate of disability form signed by a physician licensed to practice medicine in Ohio or you may submit a certificate from any approved state or federal agency that classifies you as permanently and totally disabled. If you are claiming a mental disability, you must have the certificate signed by a physician or psychologist licensed to practice in Ohio or you may submit a certificate from any approved state or federal agency that classifies you as permanently and totally disabled.

## What happens when a spouse has passed away?

When a spouse has passed away the surviving spouse needs to contact our office. The surviving spouse will need to reapply if they meet all homestead requirements.

## If my application has been accepted, how will I be notified?

If you have qualified, the exemption will appear on the tax bill you receive the following January. The auditor's office will review the information you provided and determine if you qualify for the homestead exemption. We will notify you before the end of the year in which you filed only if your



application has been denied.

We hope that we have answered some of your basic questions regarding the homestead exemption. We urge you to call or visit us personally at the Lake County Auditor's office

to answer any further questions. You can also email us at [homestead@lakecounty.gov](mailto:homestead@lakecounty.gov).

Please remember that the deadline for your homestead exemption application is December 31, 2022.

## CD or IRA MATURING?

INTEREST RATES ARE UP!

**3.07% 60 MONTHS**

- Tax Deferred
- No Fee
- Fully Insured
- Guaranteed Return

**CALL TODAY!**

- Good For:**
- Maturing CDs
  - IRAs
  - Annuities
  - Cash
  - Replace Bonds

**LIFEGUARD FINANCIAL**  
Mentor, Beachwood, Columbus, Independence, Westlake, Naples, FL

Call Today  
**(440) 942-1936**  
Limited time offer!

Guarantees provided by annuities are subject to the financial strength of the issuing insurance company, and are not guaranteed by any bank of the FDIC. Excess withdrawals during the withdrawal charge period may result in charges. \*80% ending balance payable at the end of the guaranteed period if no withdrawals other than Required Minimum Distributions. If withdrawals are taken during the five-year term, the guaranteed rate is 3.07%.

## VETERANS can now receive a 20% Cash Reward!\*



With Howard Hanna's U.S. Military on the Move program. Our way of saying 'THANKS' for their SACRIFICE and SERVICE.

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## Can you be too old for a hip or knee replacement?

By University Hospitals

Hip and knee replacements are among the most common elective surgeries, and these days they are routinely done for patients who are well into their 80s and even their 90s.

Osteoarthritis, a common reason for joint replacement, tends to get worse with age. So, it makes sense that older people who wish to remain active and live independently would turn to surgery to remedy pain and disability, if conservative measures fail.

When it comes to knee and hip replacement surgery, there is no upper age limit. A patient's overall health is the main consideration.

Age is relative. Data shows patients in their 80s and 90s benefit from hip and knee replacement the same as patients who are younger.

### Better techniques and technology

Improvements in surgical techniques and technology over the decades have made the procedures

easier on patients, and much more effective. More than 450,000 total hip replacements and 700,000 knee replacements are performed every year in the United States.

At University Hospitals, well over 90 percent of patients go directly home after surgery, even those at an advanced age. They don't need to go to a rehabilitation facility afterward. They have physical therapy come to their homes.

During the surgery, the arthritic portion of hips and knees are removed and replaced with implants made of metal, plastic and sometimes ceramic.

Total joint replacement may be recommended if nonsurgical treatments do not relieve chronic pain and disability. A severely damaged knee or hip makes it hard to perform daily activities such as walking and climbing steps, and often causes pain while at rest.

At UH, all patients regardless of age undergo a comprehensive medical evaluation to make sure they can handle surgery and reha-



bilitation. Patients in their 90s are more likely than younger patients to have medical issues, and some may be too frail or at elevated risk for complications. Decisions are made on a case-by-case basis using a shared decision-making model involving the patient, their families and other doctors to determine fitness for surgery.

If you are experiencing joint pain, schedule an appointment with an orthopedic surgeon for a com-

prehensive evaluation to find out what treatment options are right for you. To schedule an appointment for joint pain, call 440-754-3847 or visit, [LakeHealth.org/JointPain](http://LakeHealth.org/JointPain).



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# Let's spring into spring cleaning!!

By Pat Wem, Homemaker Manager, Lake County Council on Aging

How did spring cleaning ever get started you might ask? One version is that it started more than 3,000 years ago when homes were heated by fires. Doors were kept closed to contain the heat which resulted in soot and grime to be accumulated during the cold months. Hence, spring cleaning started as a way to clean away winter's mess!

So how can you make your home feel fresh and new this spring?

## Replace the furnace filter for a clean healthy environment

Take a deep breath and think about that blast of fresh air as you open the windows on that first warm, sunny spring day. Refreshing — isn't it? Remember to replace that furnace filter and get rid of the winter dust before turning on your air conditioning.

## Declutter medicine cabinets for peace of mind

Medicine cabinets get overlooked. Daily medications get used, but how about those cold medicines used for those pesky winter sniffles? By cleaning out the medicine cabinet, the expired over the counter meds are out with the morning's trash. This takes the worry out of taking expired medications.

## Evaluate safety for living in a safe environment

Seasons change and so do seniors' needs. Rugs that were placed for snowy boots can now

easily bunch up causing a safety issue. Remove carpets that could be a potential safety hazard and could possibly lead to a fall and a hospitalization.

## Clean window grime for a feeling of purpose and pride in your home

Let the sun shine in! Let our seniors watch spring blossoms bloom, the birds feeding from the birdfeeder and the squirrels climb among the budding tree branches, thru sparkling clean windows. Seniors can use a squeegee while sitting in a chair to get rid of the winter dirt without wrist strain.

The Lake County Council on Aging Homemaker Program is here to continue basic cleaning throughout all of the seasons of our seniors' lives. Our homemakers will provide light housekeeping services (dusting, vacuuming, cleaning of bathroom and kitchen) for our seniors. Our mission is to provide aging adults and their support systems with services and opportunities that enable them to achieve an optimal, self-defined, quality of life.

For more information on the Homemaker Service Program please call 440-205-8111 and together we will spring into action assisting our seniors to maintain a clean, healthy, safe familiar environment while allowing them their independence and giving their loved ones peace of mind.

## Adult Protective Services 24/7 hotline

Lake County Adult Protective Services has continued with our day to day business throughout these trying times. Our 24 hour a day/7 day a week hotline continues to be maintained by social work staff, allowing for the ability to receive referrals at any point in the day. Our building has also opened back up to the public in order to serve the citizens of Lake County.

Case assignments of abuse, neglect, self-neglect, exploitation and supportive services are assigned based on the nature of allegations that have been reported. Our social work staff are meeting with seniors, while practicing recom-

mendations to maintain safe distances. Our staff are also maintaining phone contact with the seniors throughout the case assignment, as well, to ensure that basic needs are being met and that our seniors have access to available services in the community.

Please contact our hotline at 440-350-4000, press 1, for questions, to report concerns, or to request additional information about the services that we provide. An overview of all of the programs housed at Lake County Department of Job and Family Services, as well as links to area resources, can be found at lakecountyohio.gov.



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## Senior Day at the Mall set for Tuesday, May 24, 2022

Great Lakes Mall will host "Senior Day" at Great Lakes Mall on Tuesday, May 24, 2022. This year's theme is "Age My Way."

The Lake County Council on Aging, in partnership with all of the Lake County senior centers, Lake County Volunteer Network, the Great Lakes Mall and Laketrans, is hosting the event which begins at 8:30 am and will run until 1 pm.

Lake County seniors are invited to come for a special day of activities, annual awards and great fellowship. Tickets are available for only \$1 at any of the Lake County senior centers or at the door on the day of the event.

Sponsored by Advanced Audiology Concepts, Amanda's Family Hearing, Laketrans, Simplyez, and the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging, Senior Day at the Mall will kick off with a continental breakfast and bingo in the food court.

Massage, technology, arts & crafts, a cooking demonstration, chair volleyball, and other activity stations and will be located throughout the mall. The Summit will perform from 11 am until noon. Guests will also meet with vendors throughout the event and participate in vendor bingo with a chance to win a prize. Audience members will be randomly chosen to participate in an abbreviated version of the popular game show "Deal or No Deal" with a chance to win prizes.

A major focus of the day will be the presentation of the "Seniors of the Year" awards which will include proclamations from the Lake County Board of Commissioners and the Lake County Council on Aging, emceed by CEO Joe Tom-sick. Door prizes awarded at the end of the event.

Please consider celebrating aging in Lake County by attending this year's grand event on May 24.

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## Prepare for the unexpected

June is National Safety Month

Emergency situations can happen at any time, making it crucial that you are prepared for the unexpected long before it happens. The following information has been provided by the National Safety Council (NSC) which has designated June as National Safety Month.

### Plan for possible emergencies

- Research and prepare for natural disasters common to your area, such as floods, earthquakes or tornadoes.
- Create an emergency kit for both your home and car.
- Create a home emergency plan with your family and learn how to shut off your utilities.
- Be a good participant in emergency drills at work and school by following instructions and paying attention to lessons learned.
- Store important phone numbers, including those of family members, with other important documents in a fireproof safe or safety deposit box.
- Learn first aid and CPR for children and adults – check out the NSC first aid app
- Know how to respond to an active shooter with free NSC training at [nsc.org/community\\_training](http://nsc.org/community_training).

**Stock your emergency kits now**  
Emergency kits can help you pre-

pare for the worst, but only if they are properly stocked and regularly refreshed. Your home emergency kit should be very accessible and contain:

- Food and water for each family member for three days as well as a can opener and nonperishable foods, such as tuna and peanut butter.
- Hand-crank or battery-powered flashlight and radio with extra batteries.
- Full first aid kit, including hand sanitizer and garbage bags.
- Plastic sheeting and duct tape for broken windows or a leaky roof.
- Whistle to signal for help so rescuers can locate you.

### Your car emergency kit should contain:

- A properly inflated spare tire, wheel wrench, tripod jack and jumper cables.
- A tool kit, compass, duct tape and car charger for your cell phone.
- A flashlight with extra batteries, a rain poncho and a fire extinguisher.
- Reflective triangles and vest, and brightly colored cloth to make your vehicle more visible.
- A first aid kit and enough nonperishable food and water for three days.

## Nonmedical in-home care services

Another great service available through the Council on Aging

If you are exploring long term care options, chances are you have spent time gathering information or at least thinking about nonmedical home care. Nonmedical home care is a long-term care option that does not involve medical services or skilled nursing services. Instead, this type of home care is meant to provide support for daily needs that older adults face in the comfort of their own home.

Seniors living in Lake County who need assistance with personal care, bathing, meal prep, light housecleaning, laundry and other essential tasks have an option for this type of assistance if they meet eligibility requirements. The Non-Medical In-Home Care Program, administered through the Lake County Council on Aging, currently has several openings available for seniors, 60 and over.

Nonmedical care can significantly improve a senior's ability to maintain independence and allow them to continue to live in the security of their own home. This program is designed to provide support to Lake County seniors

who are not eligible for traditional Medicaid-based programs but cannot afford to pay privately for the care they need. The program is funded through the Lake County Senior Services Levy and is administered at no cost to eligible seniors.

By 2030, one in three individuals residing in Lake County will be 60 years of age or older. This program is just one of several programs put in place by the Board of Lake County Commissioners in their continued effort to position the county to handle the increasing senior population.

Participants must meet income verification guidelines and have an assessment completed by a social worker from the Council on Aging. The Council on Aging has contracted with local homecare agencies that provide hands-on care and support to seniors enrolled in the program. Eligible seniors are assigned to a homecare agency promptly after the social work visit.

For more information on the program please call the Lake County Council on Aging at 440-205-8111.



## The DAR Story

Daughters of the American Revolution contribute to the Lake County Council on Aging

The Daughters of the American Revolution is an organization with a deeply rich history while also being truly relevant in today's world. More than 1,000,000 women have joined the organization since it was founded over 125 years ago. They became members to honor their heritage as well as make a difference in their communities across the country and the world.

The local chapter for Lake and Geauga counties is the New Connecticut Chapter with 75 members.

They recently had Council on Aging CEO Joe Tomsick give a program on the services of the agency, and presented the agency with a donation.

Membership to DAR is open to any woman with proof of blood lineage to a Revolutionary War ancestor.

Learn more about the amazing history of the DAR and what members are doing today to continue that legacy by visiting [www.dar.org](http://www.dar.org).

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## United Way of Lake County seeks community support for 30th annual Feed Lake County fundraiser

United Way of Lake County (UWLC) kicked off their 30th annual Feed Lake County fundraiser March 1, 2022. It will run through May and community support is needed.

A total of one in 8.5 residents and one in 6.7 children live with food insecurity in Lake County. The number of children suffering is 11% higher than in 2019 prior the pandemic and the number of residents suffering is 9% higher.

According to Tami Lewis, UWLC marketing & communications director, "The lingering effects of the pandemic, rapid price hikes in food, and rising inflation have placed an even greater burden on those struggling, particularly among the working poor and middle class who do not qualify for federal nutrition programs."

Last year UWLC provided Lake County food pantries with nearly

\$200,000 in food due to the generosity of the community. Nearly 500 cans of formula were provided for babies of low-income households, and an additional 25,084 senior meals were provided via their support of the Council on Aging's congregate and drive-thru meal programs.

If you are in a position to help, monetary gifts are the best way to give back since it allows UWLC to meet specific unmet needs. To give, visit [uwlc.org/give](http://uwlc.org/give), or make a check payable to United Way of Lake County and mail to 9285 Progress Parkway, Mentor, OH 44060, Attention: FLC.

The top 10 nonperishable food items needed can be found at [uwlc.org/feed-lake-county](http://uwlc.org/feed-lake-county).

To establish a food drive or fundraiser, call 440-639-1203 or email [dwhittaker@uwlc.org](mailto:dwhittaker@uwlc.org).

## Lake County Council on Aging Polka Party at SNPJ Farm

Annual senior awards to be presented July 17

Celebrate the 50th golden anniversary of the Lake County Council on Aging with a Sunday afternoon polka picnic at the SNPJ Farm in Kirtland, Ohio. On July 17, 2022, attendees will enjoy the music of Polka Hall of Famer Eddie Rodick and his fabulous polka band from 3 pm until 7 pm.

Before and during the dance, treat yourself to homestyle dinners, Slovenian sausage sandwiches, and the famous "krofe" donuts and refreshments. Admission for the dance is \$8 in advance, \$10 at the gate. Tickets are available from the Council on Aging office at 8520 East Avenue in Mentor. Children under 18 will be admitted free. Your hosts are the board, staff and friends of the Lake County Council on Aging.

The Council on Aging was established in 1972 and has pro-

vided programs and services that promote healthy aging in Lake County. Probably the best known program is Meals on Wheels, where volunteers help the agency

on a daily basis deliver over 700 meals every day in Lake County.

There will be a raffle basket drawing, 50/50 boards and during one of the band breaks, the agency will present the Senior Citizen Hall of Fame and Helping Hands awards during a brief program. All proceeds raised will go toward the Meals on Wheels program. By the way, Eddie Rodick is himself a Lake County

resident and looks forward to filling the dance floor on July 17!

SNPJ Farm is just off Chardon Road (Route 6) at 10946 Heath Road in Kirtland, Ohio, three miles east of Route 306 and six miles west of Route 44. Contact 440-205-8111 ext. 223 for details.



Polka Hall of Fame legend and Lake County resident Eddie Rodick appears at SNPJ Farm in Kirtland for the Council on Aging's 50th anniversary picnic on Sunday, July 17.

# Visual impairment, blindness cases in U.S. expected to increase

There are a number of contributing factors as to why vision impairment (vision loss) is expected to increase over the next 10–15 years.

As the population ages, so does the likelihood of developing various eye diseases including cataracts, glaucoma, macular degeneration, and diabetes or stroke-related vision issues.

Cleveland Sight Center is ready to help. When eye glasses aren't enough, their staff can provide rehabilitation programs and services that help clients regain much of their independence. Their goal is to help people do the things they want to do in their daily lives that may have been impacted by vision loss.

## Cataract

A cataract is a clouding of the internal lens of the eye usually associated with aging. A normal lens is clear, like glass. Light rays pass through the lens and are focused onto the retina in the back of the eye. Cataracts, if not addressed, will continue to develop and obscure vision to a level that interferes with the normal activities of daily life. The risk of a cataract increases with each decade of life starting around age 40.

## Glaucoma

Glaucoma is a group of diseases in which increased pressure in the eye damages the eye's optic nerve and can result in vision loss and blindness. It is commonly referred to as the "sneak thief of sight," as many people might not



realize they have it. Glaucoma currently affects nearly three million people age 40 and older, according to the Prevent Blindness report, "Future of Vision: Forecasting the Prevalence and Costs of Vision Problems."

By the year 2032, the number is projected to increase nearly 50 percent to 4.3 million and by more than 90 percent to 5.5 million by 2050, due significantly to the large aging population in the United States.

## Macular degeneration

Macular degeneration or age-related macular degeneration is the progressive loss of the eye's central vision. The faces of family members and friends appear blurred and it becomes increasingly difficult to read road signs or standard print. Macular degeneration can take place either gradually or suddenly but will not render a person totally blind, as peripheral vision is usually maintained.

## Diabetes

According to the CDC, diabetic retinopathy is the leading cause of blindness in working-age adults. It is caused when high blood sugar damages blood vessels in the retina (a light-sensitive layer of cells in the back of the eye). Damaged blood vessels can swell and leak, causing blurry vision or stopping blood flow. Sometimes new blood vessels grow, but they aren't normal and can cause further vision problems. Diabetic retinopathy usually affects both eyes.

## What you can do

Taking steps to help preserve the vision you have and potentially reduce the risk of certain eye diseases, see your optometrist or ophthalmologist annually and see your primary care physician regularly and take seriously the health concerns your doctor places on managing diabetes to limit possible vision loss. The earlier an eye disease is detected, the sooner treatment can be applied to possibly limit the vision loss. Additionally, consider wearing safety glasses to protect your eyes, wear sunglasses with UV-A and UV-B ray protection, wear a hat or visor when outdoors, use blue light filters when using electronic devices, exercise regularly and maintain a healthy diet.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 216-658-4567 or email [info@clevelandsightcenter.org](mailto:info@clevelandsightcenter.org).

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## Attention veterans!

Vietnam veterans, Brown Water Navy Vietnam veterans, 100% disabled veterans and surviving spouses

If you served in the waters off-shore Vietnam during the Vietnam War, within 12 nautical miles of land, you may now be entitled to compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

If a veteran passed away from certain illnesses and had served on land or offshore Vietnam, the surviving spouse may also be entitled to dependency & indemnity compensation. Additionally, the VA has added new presumptive conditions to the list of illnesses associated with exposure to Agent Orange and other herbicides.

These conditions now include bladder cancer, hypothyroidism, Parkinsonism (Parkinson's-like symptoms), in addition to chronic B-cell leukemia, Hodgkin's disease, multiple myeloma, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, soft tissue sarcomas, AL amyloidosis, chloracne (early onset), diabetes mellitus type 2, ischemic heart disease/coronary artery disease, Parkinson's disease, peripheral neuropathy (early onset), porphyria cutanea tarda (early onset), respira-

tory cancers (lung, larynx, trachea and bronchus), and conditions that may arise secondarily to any of the above noted conditions.

Additionally, Ohio now offers a discount on real property taxes for those veterans who are considered by the VA 100% permanently and totally disabled or in receipt of individual unemployability benefits at the 100% rate. Veterans must have been discharged under honorable conditions and reside in the residence. A DTE 105i form must be completed and filed with the Lake County Auditor's office, along with the discharge and VA 100% P&T (IU) benefits letter. Temporary 100% ratings unfortunately do not qualify.

To speak to an accredited and certified veterans service officer (VSO) please email or call the Lake County Veterans Service Commission (VSC) at veterans@lakecountyohio.gov or 440-350-2904. A VSO will contact you.

All VSC employees are veterans, here to serve veterans!



## Sheriff's Corner

By Sheriff Frank Leonbruno • Lake County, Ohio



### Mexican drug cartels turning America into the Wild West

I recently returned from the National Sheriffs Association winter conference in Washington D.C. along with Sheriff Scott Hildenbrand from Geauga County. One of the major topics discussed in the meetings concerned the significant increase in drugs moving into the United States by the drug cartels across the southern border.

This is impacting us here in Lake County and across northeast Ohio significantly. The drug cartels are moving billions of dollars in heroin, meth and opioids across the United States. Because of the immigration issues at the southern border, border patrol resources have been diverted from the northern United States to the south. Cartels realize this and have been funneling fentanyl, heroin, meth and cocaine up the west and east coasts and across the northern United States to distribute the drugs.

Highways such as Interstate 90 moving coast to coast are major thoroughfares. Thus, counties they traverse are major areas for meetings and distribution points. These cartels (Sinaloa, Jalisco, Los Zetas, and Gulf Cartels) are becoming very active and increasing in violence. Flooding the drug market, they press fentanyl into pills that mimic medicine for easy distribution and thousands are being killed. Equally alarming is the fact that the beheadings, shootouts between rival gangs and physical disfigurements prevalent across Mexico are coming into the United States with the movement of these violent drug cartels.

The Lake County Sheriff's Of-

fice has been working with other police agencies such as Willoughby, Mentor, and Willoughby Hills under federal grants such as Stone Garden to pay for increased investigations and targeted enforcement along the I-90 corridor to stop drugs and related crimes such as sex trafficking from being viable options in Lake County.

I was fortunate to meet and speak to Raul Ortiz, the head of the United States Border Patrol, about increasing federal funding for operations such as Stone Garden in our area. He explained that the \$900 million cut from the border patrol budget has forced them to reduce border patrol agents in the northern U.S. down to less than 1,900 agents across the length of the northern U.S. The border patrol has expressed that our active presence and working in a collective with police and narcotics here in Lake County has been one of the most effective Stone Garden programs in the United States. He and I discussed continued funding, and justice officials took some ideas I offered back to their offices for further consideration.

As we learn more about drug trafficking and human smuggling which is specific to our area I will continue to update such topics as they relate to our Lake County community.

I will also pass on the fact that as sheriff I am fortunate to have so many great police chiefs, police officers, and law enforcement partners across our county addressing the safety and security needs of our residents.

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### A few recent notes of appreciation written to the Council on Aging staff.

*Hello Jim,*

Just a note of thanks for providing a tub chair with a back for HP. It makes it so much safer for her as she had a tendency to lean back with only a seated bench that was just flat.

*HR, Wickliffe*

*Dear Barb & coworkers — Linda, Susan, Joanne and faithful volunteers,*

Together you are an amazing team! Every week you are working very hard, using measured time and complete energy with great

efforts to supply nutritious meals to so many clients.

Detailed planning and organization; endless paperwork and accounting; meeting requirements; cooking and food temps; packing and cleaning everything; communication and the phone; hurdles; problem-solving the unexpected on the spot and in a time crunch. The list goes on and on. Your daily devotion to meet the needs is commendable and over the top!

I am not a recipient of all that you do. I know some of the challenges you've faced during the pandemic and the many things you've worked through and "conquered" to provide and distribute all those meals.

It does my heart good knowing your commitment and contribution to serve. With great appreciation,  
*Donna Parrino*

Thanks for the wonderful work you do, especially during these difficult times. With wishes for your good health and many blessings.  
*LD, Mentor on the Lake*

## World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 2022

World Elder Abuse will be commemorated again this year on June 10 at Tri-C Corporate College East. Registration will begin at 8 am with program from 9 am – 4 pm. The topic of this year's conference is "Navigating the Unknown – Technology, Scams and Older Adults."

Workshop topics will include positive uses of technology, as well as potential negative impacts that may put older adults in precarious positions. More info can be obtained by emailing [info@C3a5county.org](mailto:info@C3a5county.org).

The purpose of this day is to provide an opportunity for communities around the world to promote a better understanding of abuse and neglect of older persons by raising awareness of the cultural, social, economic and demographic processes affecting elder abuse and neglect.

Wikipedia defines elder abuse as a single or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust, which causes harm or distress to an older person.

Each year, hundreds of thousands of adults over the age of 60 are abused, neglected, or financially exploited. Abuse can happen to anyone. Most victims of abuse are women. Abuse can happen to any older adult, but often affects those

who depend on others for help. People who are frail may appear to be easy victims. Likely targets are older adults who have no family or friends nearby and people with disabilities, memory problems or dementia.

There are many types of abuse. The six delineated by NIH include physical, emotional, neglect, sexual, abandonment and financial. Financial abuse is becoming a widespread and a hard-to-detect issue. Even someone you've never met can steal your financial information using the telephone, internet, or email. Be careful about sharing any financial information over the phone or online.

Elder abuse will not stop on its own. Someone else needs to step in and help. Many older adults are too ashamed to report mistreatment. Or, they're afraid if they make a report it will get back to the abuser and make the situation worse. If you see signs of abuse, try talking with the older adult to find out what's going on. Elder abuse is a crime. Report what you see to adult protective services. The calls are anonymous and you do not need to prove that abuse is occurring. Professionals will investigate. In Lake County the number for Adult Protective Service is 440-350-4000.

## Project Hope for the Homeless Hope House helps seniors

Project Hope for the Homeless served 298 guests in 2021 including about 10% who were ages 62 and older.

Lake County's only emergency homeless shelter served 29 seniors including 14 between the ages of 62 to 64, nine between the ages of 65 to 69, five between the ages of 70 to 79, and one who was 80 or older.

Seniors had a positive transition rate of 79% to their own housing within an average stay of 35 days.

Reasons for homelessness ranged from mental health and/or chemical dependency (62%), lack of income (28%), domestic violence (7%) and eviction (3%).

Hope House, a three-unit transitional housing program supported

with funds from the Lake County Senior Services levy, served eight guests in 2021. This program began in 2019 for seniors ages 62 and older who find themselves homeless. These guests receive subsidized or free rent for up to 90 days and receive 24/7 shelter and case management.

They also receive Meals on Wheels daily, provided by the Lake County Council on Aging, along with transportation to/from physician appointments and/or the grocery store. Assistance is provided as needed for laundry, chores, or smaller tasks.

Visit [www.projecthopeforthehomeless.org](http://www.projecthopeforthehomeless.org) to learn more about services provided by Project Hope for the Homeless.

## Adult Protective Services

24/7 Hotline: 440-350-4000 ext. 1

Lake County Adult Protective Services is the agency mandated to assess allegations of elder maltreatment. Our 24 hour a day / 7 day a week hotline is maintained by social work staff, allowing for the ability to receive referrals at any point in the day.

Case assignments of abuse, neglect, self-neglect, exploitation and supportive services are assigned based on the nature of allegations that have been reported. Our social work staff meet with seniors, while practicing recommendations to maintain safe distances. Our staff also maintain phone contact

with seniors throughout case assignment, as well, to ensure that basic needs are being met and that seniors have access to available services in the community.

Please contact our hotline at 440-350-4000, press 1, for questions, to report concerns, or to request additional information about the services that we provide.

An overview of all of the programs housed at Lake County Department of Job and Family Services, as well as links to area resources, can be found at Home - Job and Family Services ([lakecountyohio.gov](http://lakecountyohio.gov))

## Lifeline

Lake & Geauga counties' community action agency

### COVID Relief Fund

Lifeline has funding to assist eligible households financially impacted by COVID-19 with rent or mortgage payments, property taxes and HOA fees and utilities. Residents in need can contact Lake County 2-1-1 at 2-1-1 or at 440-639-4420 for more information and to connect with services.

### Volunteer Guardian Program

The VGP continues to actively recruit new volunteer guardians. Those interested in volunteering can contact our program manager, Antoinette Foster, at [antoinettef@lclifeline.org](mailto:antoinettef@lclifeline.org).

### Kinship Navigator Program

We continue to offer one-on-one

navigation and resource connections by appointment, as well as monthly workshops. Our kinship coordinator can be reached by calling 2-1-1.

### VITA Tax Program

Lifeline's FREE tax clinics will run through mid-April in Painesville, Wickliffe, Perry and Newbury. Tax preparation appointments are available by calling 2-1-1.

### 2-1-1

The 2-1-1 hotline remains fully functional 24/7. We are working hard to keep our resource database as up to date and accurate as possible with agency hours, programs and changes, given the ever-changing environment.

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## Nominations for Lake County Senior Citizens Hall of Fame now open

Have you wished you could recognize a Lake County senior for his/her contributions to their community? Do you know a senior whose vitality and zest for life continues to impress you? If so, take this opportunity to submit a nomination for the Lake County Senior Citizen Hall of Fame!

Established in 1994, the Hall of Fame is supported by the Lake County Council on Aging through its mission, vision and values to provide aging adults and their support system with services and opportunities that enable them to achieve an optimal, self-defined quality of life. The selected Hall of Fame inductees will be presented at the 50th anniversary picnic on Sunday, July 17, 2022 at SNPJ Farm in Kirtland. (See details on page 18).

The Hall of Fame publicly honors outstanding Lake County residents and recognizes their contributions to the community, promoting a positive and productive image of older persons.

### Nominating criteria

- Each nominee must currently be age 60 or older.
- Nominee must have been a resident of Lake County for the past five years.
- An individual or couple who – as a senior citizen (60 or older) – has had significant impact on an individual, organization or community.
- This individual or couple may have an impact on another person, organization or community through his/her employment, civic or volunteer activities since age 60.

### Who may nominate / eligibility

- A person, group, business or organization may nominate individuals.



- Self-nominations are not accepted.
- Awards may be given posthumously.
- Individuals or couples who have been nominated in past years may be nominated again using this year's form.

### Nomination form guidelines

- Completed nomination forms must be neat (please print or type), accurate and thorough.
- All questions must be answered directly.
- Applications left blank or only containing resumes, newspaper articles and testimonials etc. will NOT be accepted.
- Videos, books, essays or other extraneous materials will NOT be considered as part of the application. The nomination form stands alone as the application.
- All nominations must be submitted using the LCCoA nomination form or photocopy. Nomination forms can be found on our website at [www.lcco.org](http://www.lcco.org) or call 440-205-8111 x 233 for a form.

The Hall of Fame inductees are selected by a neutral, impartial panel of judges.

The nomination deadline is June 17, 2022. Please mail completed nomination form to:

**Lake County Council on Aging**  
**Attn: Jennell**  
**8520 East Avenue**  
**Mentor OH 44060**

Questions? Call 440-205-8111 x223 or email [jmuscatello@lcco.org](mailto:jmuscatello@lcco.org).

## Lots of fun things are happening at the Lake County History Center!

Sunday, April 24 • 4:30 p.m.

### Boys of Summer

Presentation and Q/A with Ken Krsolovic, co-author of League Park

Saturday, May 7 • 5 p.m.

### First Annual Derby Fundraiser

Mint Juleps and Southern Fare

Saturday, May 14 • 2 p.m.

### Spring Tea

Enjoy a cup of tea with First Ladies Julia Grant, Ida McKinley and Florence Harding

Sunday, June 12 • 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

### Pancakes with Pop

Enjoy breakfast with your dad and family

### Ongoing Programs

Details on our website at [lakehistory.org](http://lakehistory.org)

**Brewing Up History** – May, 10, June 14

**Ladies and Gents Who Lunch** – May 19, June 1,

**Lushes with Brushes** – May 26

**Para X** – May 6

Tickets and prices are available at  
440-639-2945 and [lakehistory.eventbrite.com](http://lakehistory.eventbrite.com)



415 Riverside Drive, Painesville Township  
(440) 639-2945 • [www.LakeHistory.org](http://www.LakeHistory.org)

## Radio show for Lake County seniors!

Listen to the Council on Aging's radio show every Saturday afternoon from 2–3 pm on both 1330 AM and 101.5 FM. Council on Aging CEO, Joe Tom-sick, hosts "Our Aging World" and shares ideas and resources to make your life easier — with tips, tools and resources on topics such as senior health, housing, finances, Medicare, Social Security, money-saving programs, and other issues that affect older adults.

The show is made possible through sponsorships and Integrity Radio. You may also listen live online at [tunein.com](http://tunein.com) — search WINT.



# 100 Saluting Lake County Centenarians

Congratulations to these residents of Lake County who were recently recognized for having turned at least 100 years of age. They will receive a signed Centenarian Certificate from the Council on Aging.

**Betty Lou Kreeger, Wickliffe**  
100 years old • November 28, 1921

**Anne Orlando, Madison**  
100 years old • March 5, 1922

**Helen Hebron, Willowick**  
100 years old • January 12, 1922

**Bill Boyd, Thompson**  
101 years old July 6, 1920

**Leo Ivec, Eastlake**  
100 years old • April 10, 1922

## Do you know someone turning 100 years old... or older?

Since 2014, the Lake County Council on Aging has been honoring those residents of Lake County who have turned at least 100 years old. If you know of someone marking this milestone birthday or even older, please notify us by going online to our website at [www.lccoa.org](http://www.lccoa.org) and using the fillable form. You will receive a beautiful centenarian certificate from the Council on Aging, along with name and birth date recognition in our quarterly newspaper, "Bridge."

You may also drop us a note and include the following:

- Name of honoree
- Your name (as requestor)
- Your mailing address

- Your phone number
- Honoree date of birth
- Relationship to honoree

Send to:  
Council on Aging  
Centenarian Project  
8520 East Avenue  
Mentor, Ohio 44060

Privacy policy:  
In order to protect the identity of participants from unwanted solicitation or contacts, we will only print the name, city and birth date of the centenarian. All other info you send will be kept confidential and is for use on a centenarian certificate only.

## Meals on Wheels America awards pet food grant to LCCoA

\$10,000 to help senior clients and their animal companions live happy, healthy lives together

Keeping pets and their seniors together is just one of the ways Meals on Wheels America (MOWA) is helping our aging neighbors feel less alone. One in four seniors lives alone and, for many of them, their pet is their closest companion and only source of comfort. Many struggle to access the food or services needed to maintain their pets' health and sometimes will even sacrifice their own nutrition by sharing their delivered meals to ensure their pets are fed.

To help address this issue, PetSmart Charities, the leading funder of animal welfare in North America, has committed \$3 million to Meals on Wheels America to fund a three-year national partnership to ensure that more seniors and their pets live healthy, nourished lives, together.

This spring, the Lake County Council on Aging was awarded a \$10,000 Discovery Grant which will focus on program growth and development for pet assistance services and will provide funding, technical assistance and peer-to-peer mentorship. This grant is also intended to support MOWA's commitment to race equity, diversity and inclusion by distributing funding, resources and training equitably across its membership.

This innovative national partnership found that 97% of pet-owning Meals on Wheels clients agree that having a pet makes you feel less lonely and makes your family feel more complete. And 81% of clients receiving pet assistance say that Meals on Wheels is the only reason they can keep their loving companion.

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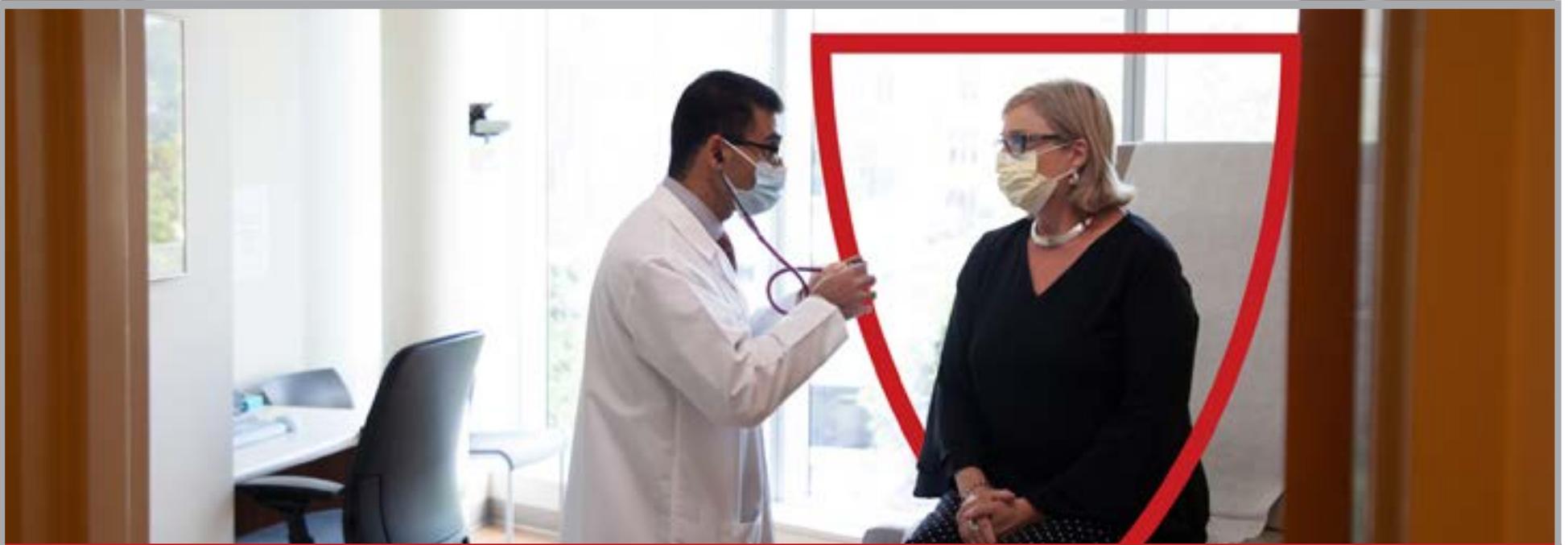
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- Neurology / Neurosurgery
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