



Touching Generations for Over 45 Years

Annual Report 2011 - 2012





A Message from the Executive Director

In 1964, President Lyndon Johnson declared war on poverty. After nearly five decades of national anti-poverty legislation, the contemporary political landscape presents challenges that the War on Poverty's originator could not have predicted. Members of Congress are now asking whether we can afford to fight poverty, where they used to ask whether we can afford not to.

With each threat of cuts to Federal funding, our efficacy in Warren County is under fire. Sadly, program cuts leave our communities more vulnerable at a time when their needs are growing more urgently and resources are shrinking. In short, the relevance of organizations like Warren County Community Services (WCCS) is being put to the test. Despite a year of reorganization and significant budget cuts, WCCS is meeting the challenges of decreased funding head-on, assuring that quality services are provided across the county.

Without a doubt, I believe that the stories and information contained in this report will demonstrate the integral part Warren County Community Services (WCCS) continues to play in creating a community where every person has the tools to break the cycle of poverty. This annual report illustrates the life-changing effects our services have for children who need extra support to be successful in school, for families on the verge of losing their ability to remain self-sufficient, for adults in need of a hand-up to better employment opportunities, and for seniors wanting to maintain their lifestyles and independence.

We remain positive that an economic recovery is imminent and that vital programs will be restored. In the meantime, WCCS remains committed to providing the highest quality of services to Warren County individuals and families in need.

On behalf of the children, families and communities we serve, I would like to thank you. These results could not be achieved without the financial and volunteer support that you – our many partners and donors – provide.

Tom Salzbrun
WCCS Executive Director

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On the cover are Barbara Kelly, RSVP volunteer at the South Lebanon Early Learning Center, and an Early Head Start infant that she cares for.

Sharing Our Success

- **Meals On Wheels™** received a funding boost with a \$20,000 grant from The Greater Cincinnati Foundation to purchase a new van. This special funding allows us to expand our reach and serve the developmentally disabled in our county.
- **The Employment Coalition of Warren County** was launched July 2011 by Family Services and the Warren County Child Support Enforcement Agency. It sprang out of STEP (Success Towards Employment Program) and is a collaboration with other county agencies to enhance employment opportunities for Warren County residents.
- This year brought about the inception of **PIPP-Plus**, Ohio's new Percentage of Income Payment Plan, to the Home Energy Assistance Program. PIPP-Plus helps lower-income households maintain gas and electric service by paying a percentage of their household income, instead of their actual energy bills, making monthly payments more affordable on a year-round basis.
- **Meals on Wheels™** now offers entrée choices. Clients can enjoy more selection in the foods they eat. The selective choice menus started distribution in early 2011. The program also offers a choice of refrigerator fresh, hot or frozen meals.
- **The Warren County Medication Assistance Program (MAP)** was launched in December 2011. The program helps individuals obtain physician-prescribed medications, free or at a reduced rate, through various programs and referrals. Four trained RSVP volunteers work, together with **Family Services** staff, to provide individualized medication assistance to clients.
- Lebanon Ford donated a gently used 2005 Dodge Caravan to **Meals On Wheels™**. The van will help reduce maintenance costs for an aging fleet of vehicles and provide safer transport of meals to clients.
- The **South Lebanon Early Learning Center** was awarded a Three-Star Step Up to Quality rating. The rating, Ohio's highest rating for early education programs, recognizes high standards in staff education, low staff ratios, sound administrative practices, and outstanding early learning experiences to prepare children for success in school.

Our Service Year in Numbers

- **321 young children** received services to ensure kindergarten readiness.
- **1317 families** received energy assistance that kept the heat on in their homes.
- **992 homebound adults** received **169,666 nutritious lunches**, plus safety checks.
- **1951 older adults** received assistance with home repair, insurances, prescription coverage, and applications for other benefits.
- **80 homes** were made more energy efficient for **128 children and families**.
- **302 job seekers** received education and support; with 26% gaining employment.



Helping Older Adults Remain Active & Independent

Aren't good health and wellness what we all want as we age? No matter what needs older adults or your older family members have, WCCS can help by connecting you to an array of programs. Nearly 6,000 older adults receive assistance each year – assistance helping them remain active and independent. Whether it is relieving anxiety over Medicare and other insurance issues, assisting with needed home repair, providing balanced nutritious meals, or offering a safe and reliable ride to the doctor, WCCS promotes independence and dignity for older adults.

Here are two stories of how WCCS impacts lives:

Helen and Carl's Experience

After having their taxes completed at The 741 Center, Carl, 75, and Helen, 77, met Pam Johnson-Soto, WCCS Supportive Services Specialist. While talking with Carl and Helen, Pam sensed their need for help to continue living in their home. Their main concern was not to be a burden to anyone.

Carl's recent vision loss created several issues for the aging couple: how would they get to doctors' appointments and to the grocery store. Helen hadn't driven in years so the Senior Transportation Program was exactly what they needed. When the time came for the couple to pick out Medicare supplemental insurance, Pam translated the numerous options making them understandable.

A few days later, Pam visited Carl and Helen's home and she immediately noticed water leaks on the ceiling. The roof had leaked since the previous spring, but the couple had no way to pay for repairs. Subsequently, Pam linked them to resources to help cover the cost of a new roof.

"Sam and Helen were a delight to work with," said Pam. "They are so devoted to each other. Being married for so many years, they seem to complete each other's world. I'm so happy I could assist them."



Why Do I Come to The 741 Center?

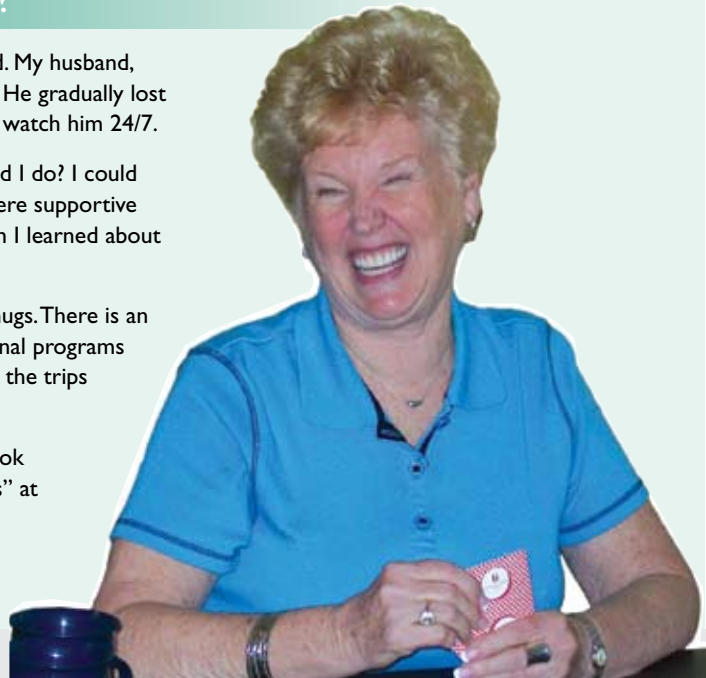
"Why Do YOU Come to The 741 Center?" I once was asked. My husband, Sam, became ill four years ago and life became very difficult. He gradually lost normal, daily, living skills. You see he had Alzheimer's. I had to watch him 24/7.

God took him several months ago and I was lost. What would I do? I could only clean, shop, or watch television so much. Our friends were supportive and our children were loving, but nothing was the same. Then I learned about The 741 Center.

I'm a real people person; I enjoy conversation, laughter and hugs. There is an abundance of those with the different activities and educational programs provided at the center. I play Texas Hold'em, Bingo and enjoy the trips designed with me in mind. Never a dull moment!

I know life will never be the same but I have something to look forward to every week. "Friends become our chosen families" at The 741 Center.

Sandra Bell, 741 Center Member



Helping Children & Families Succeed

Kindergarten readiness starts early at the WCCS Early Learning Centers. Early Head Start (EHS), the newest option, offers home-based family support. Home Visitors not only make weekly visits and bring learning activities for children, but also, connect parents to community resources and services. The Home Visitor also provides encouragement and friendly support needed so much by young parents.

Being a family with four young children is challenging for anyone, but when Devon and Chris, who works full-time, faced financial difficulties, things spun wildly out of control. To top it off, the family has a child with special needs, newborn twins, and a house that is too small. Extra support made all the difference. Aiden, the oldest at age 7, attended preschool at the Early Learning Centers (ELC). Aiden, who has Asperger's Syndrome, received therapy to support his development. Now, he is a bright and successful first-grader. Hannah and Evan, ages 4 and 5, attend ELC and little 13-month old Owen and the twins Chase and Chance, born February 2012, are enrolled in EHS.

"Devon and Chris have their children's best interests at heart. They try my suggestions and adapt them to their family's needs," shared Waynette Burleson, the family's Home Visitor. "Devon attends the children's play group sessions. When the twins were born, cribs, car seats, a stroller, diapers, and clothes were donated from one of WCCS' community partners."



What Does Your Funding Do?

For Year Ending December 31, 2011

INCOME

HELPING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SUCCEED

EARLY LEARNING CENTERS FUNDING

Health and Human Services	\$2,247,391.00
United Way	\$30,000.00
Ohio Dept. of Job & Family Services	\$119,444.00
Local Funding and Donations	<u>\$843,085.00</u>
Total:	\$3,239,920.00

FAMILY SERVICES FUNDING

Community Action Partnership	\$156,964.00
United Way	\$52,274.00
Local Funding and Donations	<u>\$41,930.00</u>
Total:	\$251,168.00

HELPING REDUCE ENERGY COSTS

HOME WEATHERIZATION FUNDING

Community Action Partnership	\$435,059.00
People Working Cooperatively	<u>\$48,515.00</u>
Total:	\$483,574.00

HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE FUNDING

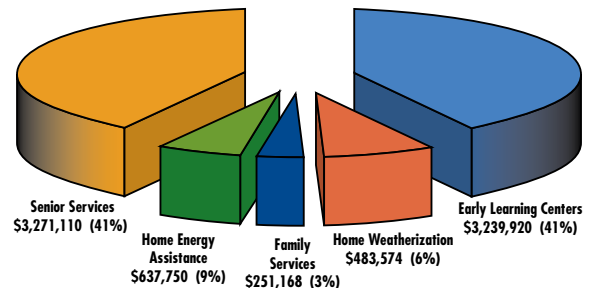
Ohio Department of Development	<u>\$673,750.00</u>
Total:	\$673,750.00

HELPING OLDER ADULTS REMAIN ACTIVE AND INDEPENDENT

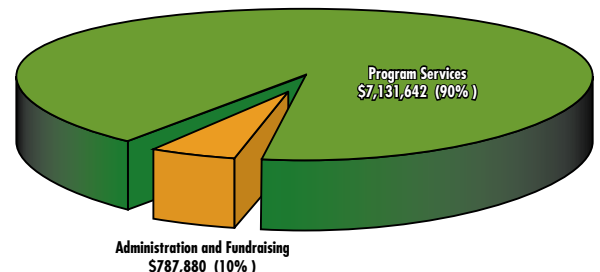
SENIOR SERVICES FUNDING

Council on Aging of SW Ohio	\$2,767,436.00
United Way	\$61,918.00
Corporation for National Service	\$53,369.00
Local Funding and Donations	<u>\$388,387.00</u>
Total:	\$3,271,110.00

Agency Funding Total: \$7,919,522.00



HOW 2011 FUNDS WERE SPENT



2011 Supporters and Donors

Thank you for your generosity! You may not realize the dramatic impact that your gifts have made. Each and every gift has made a positive difference in the life of a child, family, senior, and a man or woman living right here in Warren County. At a time when stretching dollars gets more challenging each day, your gift is much appreciated.

Thus, WCCS gratefully acknowledges the following individuals, families, foundations, organizations, and businesses that gave financial contributions or donated goods and services from *January 1 – December 31, 2011*. Please note that this listing honors the request of many donors who have requested to remain anonymous and that their names not be publicized.

Thank you for *“Your Help In Touching Generations.”*

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Many thanks for your continued support. All attempts have been made to ensure the accuracy and completeness of this list. If your name has been omitted inadvertently, please accept our apology and contact: Vel Hux, Director, Development and Planning, 513-695-2206 or velh@wccsinc.org.



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Spotlight on Services

Helping Children and Families Succeed

- **Early Learning Centers** – Provide a high quality early learning program to prepare eligible 3 and 4 year-olds for success in school. Early Head Start is available for infants, toddlers and expectant mothers.
- **Family Services** – Provides support and information to families overcoming serious challenges.

Helping Reduce Energy Costs

- **HEAP (Home Energy Assistance Program)** – Provides financial assistance to help meet the energy needs of low income households.
- **HWAP (Home Weatherization Assistance Program)** – Makes energy-saving home repairs to income-eligible Warren County residents.

Helping Older Adults Remain Active and Independent

- **RSVP** – Recruits individuals, age 55 and over, to volunteer in non-profit organizations.
- **Senior Nutrition** – Delivers Meals on Wheels™ lunches to homebound seniors and serves lunch at five Dining Centers in Warren County.
- **Senior Transportation** – Provides assisted medical and non-medical transportation to Warren County seniors.
- **Supportive Services** – Provides individual assistance with applications, insurance, and referrals to benefits and services, including prescription programs for seniors.
- **The 741 Center** – Enriches the lives of older adults by offering an array of programs and activities that focus on senior wellness.

Providing Housing for Seniors and Families

- **Housing** – Provides affordable housing for families and seniors in Warren County.