

WOOD COUNTY COMMITTEE ON AGING, INC.

2024 Annual Report

WOOD COUNTY COMMITTEE



140 South Grove Street
Bowling Green, OH 43402
419-353-5661 or 800-367-4935
www.wccoa.net
www.facebook.com/wccoa

OUR MISSION The mission of the Wood County Committee on Aging, Inc. is to provide older adults with services and programs which empower them to remain independent and improve the quality of their lives.

OUR VISION The Wood County Committee on Aging aspires to be recognized as the premiere agency for the provision of services for older adults and their families in Wood County.

EIGHT SENIOR CENTERS IN WOOD COUNTY

(1975) Wood County • 419-353-5661
140 South Grove Street | Bowling Green, OH 43402
(1977) Rossford • 419-666-8494
400 Dixie Highway | Rossford, OH 43460
(1985) Perrysburg • 419-874-0847
140 West Indiana Avenue | Perrysburg, OH 43551
(1988) North Baltimore • 419-257-3306
215 North 2nd Street | North Baltimore, OH 45872
(2001) Northeast (Walbridge) • 567-249-4921
705 North Main Street | Walbridge, OH 43465
(2008) Wayne • 419-288-2896
202 East Main Street | Wayne, OH 43466
(2008) Pemberville • 419-287-4109
220 Cedar Street | Pemberville, OH 43450
(2019) Grand Rapids • 419-601-1896
23019 Kellogg Road | Grand Rapids, OH 43522

Thanks for reading our 2024 Annual Report. The Wood County Committee on Aging, Inc. (WCCOA) provides a wide variety of services throughout the county, as you will see.

Top of mind as I write this is the need to recognize the immense debt that we owe to our past Executive Director, Denise Niese. Denise passed away in November, and her loss is keenly felt. Denise was a person of great energy and a strong leader. She oversaw the growth of WCCOA, its recognition as the first nationally accredited senior center in the state and the construction of a new Senior Center building. She was a servant leader who pitched in wherever was needed and was a friend to all of the seniors that we serve.

I also need to thank and recognize Nancy Orel, who served as Interim Executive Director following the sudden loss of Denise. Nancy brought a wealth of experience in both gerontology and administration that was invaluable in bridging the time until a new Executive Director could be appointed. Nancy and Ben Batey led the search committee for a new Executive in a professional manner and the process went very smoothly. The reputation of our agency is such that a highly qualified panel of candidates applied. The decision was not easy, but after deliberations the committee recommended Alisha Nenadovich for appointment by the board.

WCCOA continues to enjoy the support and assistance of many local entities, including the County Commissioners, the Health Department and the BGSU Optimal Aging Institute, as well as many individual volunteers. We are grateful for the strong community support.



Tom Milbrodt
WCCOA Board President

The Wood County Committee on Aging, Inc. (WCCOA) is pleased to present our 2024 Annual Report. This report highlights the wide array of services and programs offered by WCCOA throughout the year. Like previous years, 2024 brought its share of challenges, but thanks to the resilience of our community, staff, and volunteers, we continued to move forward in fulfilling our mission of serving older adults in Wood County. One of the most profound challenges we faced this year was the loss of our leader and friend, Denise Niese. Her dedication, compassion, and unwavering commitment to the seniors of Wood County strengthened and advanced the mission of WCCOA in countless ways. I am deeply grateful for her and I carry her legacy forward with a strong sense of purpose and responsibility.

Through the continued efforts of our incredible team and the valuable support of our eight senior centers, WCCOA will maintain and expand programs that enhance the quality of life for older adults in our community. If you have any questions about our services, or if you are interested in becoming a part of WCCOA, please do not hesitate to reach out to us at 800.367.4935 or via email at wccoa@wccoa.net.

Thank you for your continued trust and support.



Alisha Nenadovich
WCCOA Executive Director

PROGRAMS DEPARTMENT

DANIELLE BROGLEY, DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS

In 2024, the Programs Department experienced enhanced growth and success in our efforts to expand our digital outreach. Through grant opportunities we were able to share training sessions and connect with older adults throughout the county. Additional areas of focus included enhanced opportunities to socially connect veterans; continual caregiving training; additional education and outreach for those with Parkinson's disease and lifelong learners; additional travel opportunities and outreach to solo agers in Wood County. Here are some key highlights:

Educational Advancement: As recipients of the NCOA Literacy Grant we were able to offer training at all eight of our senior centers reaching over 100 participants. This included cybersecurity training, internet basics, email basic, IOS, and Android classes. Additional grant opportunities included a partnership with Wood County Board of Developmental Disabilities for adaptive technology equipment and Healthy Aging grant for laptops and laptop training.

In 2024 LivelyU Lifelong Learning Academy hosted 42 classes with 170 participants in partnership with Bowling Green State University Optimal Aging Institute.

The Care Compass Project is in its 8th year and continues to provide caregiver training each quarter. In 2024 we reached over 34 caregivers and supported their caregiving journey.

Increased Community Engagement: Through the development of a Veterans Coffee Social once a week at the Wood County Senior Center we were able to establish a stronger support system for our area veterans. The group started with 3 to 5 participants and by the end of the year there were 15 to 20. Meetings involve educational opportunities, outreach projects and group sharing. The Perrysburg Area Senior Center also established a group at the end of 2024.

Older Americans month was celebrated in May with an outdoor concert and awards ceremony. This year's theme "Powered by Connections" enabled us to honor Briar Hill Health Care and Bowling Green Manor with an award for supporting our Wood County Wishes program for the past 12 years. Each of our 570 home delivered meal clients receive a postcard for the contest each quarter. The returned postcards are used to name a winner. The winner receives a home visit, a gift basket and a special lunch from Bob Evans. These visits aim to reduce social isolation and create community connections.

Other events that create community engagement include Senior Day at the Wood County Fair with over 560 participants, which is slightly up from 2023. The 90's Plus Spectacular celebration of those 90 and over is held during National Senior Center month and includes over 110 participants. Also, the Golden Care Awards for National Caregivers month honored 28 caregivers which was an increase of 9 from 2023.

Outreach: The Programs Department participated in several community fairs focusing on technology, Parkinson's disease and hosted an Elder Abuse Awareness event in June. Solo Agers were a primary focus in August for our Estate Planning Seminar with 38 in attendance.

Travel Opportunities: These offering strive to reach a broader consumer base. Trips offered nationally and internationally reached over 23 participants. With all senior centers offering a meet up trip to a local restaurant or park.

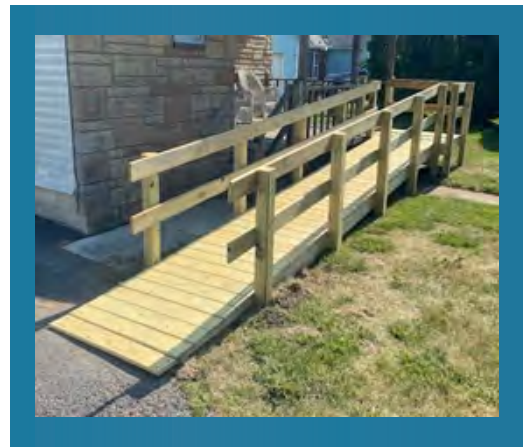
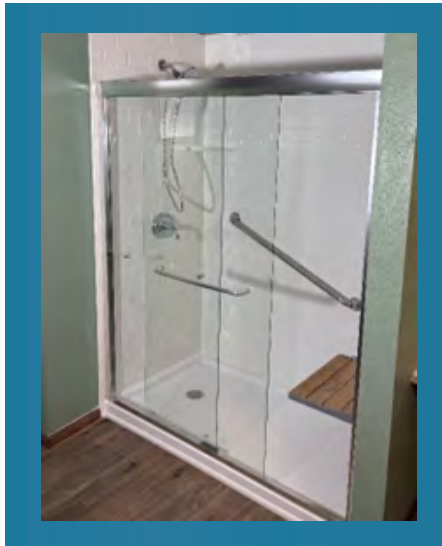
These achievements signify our department's dedication to empowering and enriching the lives of older adults in our county, and we remain committed to enhancing the lives of those who access our services.



SOCIAL SERVICES

LISA MYERS, LISW-S, DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES

There were many wonderful ways in which the Social Services Department assisted Wood County older adults in 2024. One of the highlights being our ability to assist older adults with maintaining their independence through needed home repairs and home modifications. Having a home that is safe and accessible to our needs as we age is vital to one's ability to age in place. Wood County Committee on Aging (WCCOA) was able to utilize four funding sources for home repair/modification in 2024. Those sources include Title IIIB funding in the amount of \$22,500, Ohio Housing Trust Funding (OHTF) in the amount of \$37,485, Healthy Aging grant funding in the amount of \$99,300, and the remaining Ohio Department of Aging (ODA) home repair grant funding in the amount of \$42,837. With the funding listed above, WCCOA was able to serve 50 older adult residences in Wood County during 2024. The repairs/modifications included installing ramps, bathroom modification, grab bars, railings, roof repairs/replacement and furnace repairs/replacements.



Another highlight in 2024 for Social Services was obtaining a Community Trust Fund Grant from Hancock-Wood Electric Cooperative in the amount of \$2800. These funds were used to purchase new durable medical equipment for our loan program. With these funds, items such as new wheelchairs, shower chairs and raised toilet seats were able to be purchased to update WCCOA's inventory. The Social Services Department loans out various types of medical equipment to Wood County older adults on a temporary basis.

Offering medical transportation, information and referral services, Medicare consultation, support group facilitation, and home delivered meal assessments are some of the other invaluable services provided throughout the year by the Social Services Department. Below are some of the 2024 Social Services statistics:

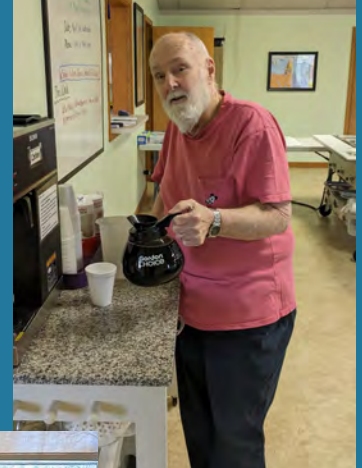
Information and Referral Contacts	2,154 (3.61% increase from 2023)
Home-Delivered Meal Assessments	788 (5.49% increase from 2023)
Medicare Consultations	213 (15.76% increase from 2023)
Medical Transportation	
- Northern Wood County	1241 one-way transports
- Southern Wood County	1012 one-way transports

Lastly, Social Services was able to host both a Bachelor's and Master's level social work intern in the department in 2024. Both interns were students from Bowling Green State University, and we value our partnership with the university in providing their students with meaningful field experience in Social Services.

As we close this year's report, we reflect with pride on the meaningful strides made in serving older adults, their caregivers and families within our community. Through the commitment of our dedicated staff our department has continued to promote stability, independence and well-being.

WCCOA VOLUNTEERS

STEPHANIE SPENCER, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT / VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR



Over the past year, 227 volunteers gave more than 12,034 hours of their time to help us provide essential programs, meals, and services. Without their kindness and commitment, we wouldn't be able to achieve our mission to provide older adults with services and programs which empower them to remain independent and improve the quality of their lives.

Each of our senior centers has volunteers who truly drive our mission and have provided 5,345 hours of their time delivering meals. We have a total of 100 home delivered meal routes driven each week by volunteers to ensure our homebound seniors have nutritious meals each day. Across our eight locations we also have 28 volunteers who provide kitchen and dining room help. These volunteers spent 1,500 hours serving meals and keeping our dining rooms clean. We also have 12 volunteers who helped provided over 915 hours of general services, such as stamping bags for our home delivered meals or shredding.

Our front desk at the Wood County Senior Center is often the first connection people have when using our services. In 2024, our dedicated team of 11 front desk volunteers provided excellent support to our staff by answering phones and assisting with program sign ups during their four (4) hour shifts. We had 15 board members meeting monthly for regular meetings or committee meetings, giving a total of 188 hours of time to the agency.

We saw a significant increase in volunteer hours for our programs department, reaching a total of 1,176 hours- up from 800 hours last year. This boost in hours reflects the growth of program offerings, including a variety of new exercise classes and additional courses in our LivelyU program. We also have 13 volunteers who meet monthly to collate our newsletter, totaling 228 hours.

Our dedicated volunteers generously give their time all year to ensure we can provide all that we do. Thank you to each of our volunteers for your combined 12,034 hours of service.

Interested in being a volunteer with us? Call us at 419-353-5661 or visit wcco.net to learn more!

FOOD SERVICE

ANGIE BRADFORD, DIRECTOR OF FOOD SERVICE



In 2024, the Wood County Committee on Aging saw an increase in congregate meals served at area senior centers. Nearly 70,000 congregate meals were served to 1,800 unduplicated clients across our seven senior centers. Older adults in Wood County are staying active and enjoying the socialization and interaction that congregate sites offer. An invitation from friends, an exercise group, or a computer class may bring them in, but they're also taking advantage of the hot, nutritious lunches provided Monday through Friday.

In addition to the rise in congregate meals, the home-delivered meal program continues to grow. In 2024, over 157,000 meals were served to homebound, frail residents across the county who benefit not only from a hot meal but also from a daily well check. These nutritionally at-risk individuals may not have access to a healthy meal—or a regular visitor—if not for the WCCOA home-delivered meal program. Meals are prepared at our centrally located Production Kitchen in Bowling Green and transported throughout the county via our Hot Shot meal trucks. These trucks are equipped with temperature-controlled boxes to ensure food safety during transport. Our senior center sites and Production Kitchen continue to go above and beyond to ensure food safety. Six of the WCCOA congregate sites received the Wood County Health Department's Clean Plate Award for the licensing period of March 2023–March 2024. This award is presented to food service establishments that receive violation-free inspections during that period. Additionally, our Production Kitchen continues to be recognized by the Ohio Department of Agriculture for its good manufacturing practices.

According to the 2024 home-delivered meal survey, which was distributed to all meal recipients, clients rated the quality of food as “very good.” Respondents also reported eating healthier and maintaining proper weight. Many noted that the meals help them remain in their homes and reduce the number of trips to the grocery store. The survey showed that the majority of clients “strongly agreed” they would recommend the WCCOA home-delivered meal program to friends.

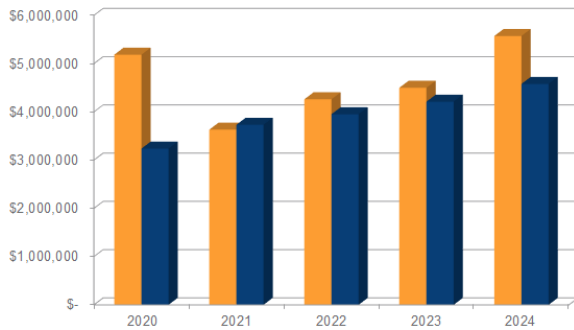
The Food Service Department maintains a long-standing relationship with Bowling Green State University's Food and Nutrition Program and the Bowling Green High School Learning Center. We are proud to provide students with hands-on learning experiences in food preparation, food safety, and social interaction with older adults. These opportunities offer valuable real-world experience that extends beyond the classroom setting.



FINANCIAL RESULTS

KEITH WHITACRE, FINANCE DIRECTOR

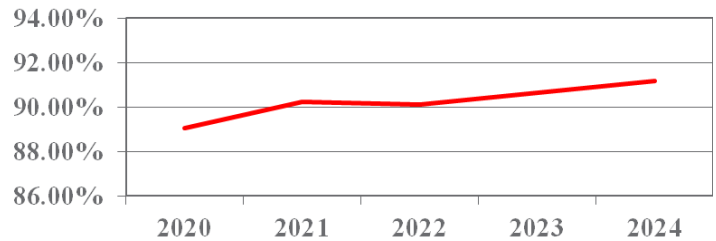
Statement of Activities



■ Revenues ■ Expenses

Source: Audited financial statements.

Program Ratio



Program ratio measures the percentage of total expenses devoted to direct activities versus supporting services.

Source: Audited financial statements.

2024 GOVERNING BOARD



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Nancy Orel, President Elect
Tim McCarthy, Secretary
George Stossel, Treasurer
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John Calderonello
Janet Delong
Brooke Harrison
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Louis Katzner
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2024 WCCOA STAFF MEMBERS

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Danielle Brogley • Nikki Brooks • Bill Burgess • Janice Carter • Jessi Chapman •
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