

2021  
*Annual*  
Report



AREA OFFICE ON AGING OF NORTHWESTERN OHIO

CELEBRATING

[www.AreaOfficeOnAging.com](http://www.AreaOfficeOnAging.com)



LIVING  
BETTER &  
LONGER



# *Greetings,* From the President/CEO and Board Chairman

After isolating and quarantining for such an unusual long period of time, older northwest Ohioans have rediscovered the power of uniting with others and finding unity in their community.

While some may portray the growing aging population as an area for concern, we view this as an amazing opportunity. Sometimes, people fall into the trap of thinking of older adults as people who only need help. The reality is that older adults are also people who can help. Our older adult volunteers remind us of this truth. Thanks in a large part to the efforts of trained older adult volunteers, the Area Office on Aging increased the number of older adults who were connected to health insurance, prescription, utility, and/or food savings programs by 60%.

Older volunteers along with our network of providers also played a big part in providing over 1.25 million meals to older northwest Ohioans.

Our agency and provider network also provided case management and home care services to over 3,000 (nursing home level of care) older northwest Ohioans to help them remain at home and in the community. In addition, more than 50,000 retirees were provided other services and benefits during the past year..

When we unite our efforts with the efforts of volunteers, providers, and others, our community is made a better community in which to live long, healthy, and independent lives.

**Billie Johnson**  
President/CEO

**Bill Harris**  
Board Chairman

*“Together, we  
are emerging  
stronger and more  
committed than  
ever to helping  
older adults live  
long, quality,  
independent  
lives.”*



## Benefits Counseling

When she was discharged from the hospital after having been there for 5 months, Jane was prescribed medicines that cost \$40,000/year. She contacted the Area Office on Aging to find out what benefits for which she would be eligible to save her money on her prescriptions and to get help signing up for these benefits. Thanks to the help she received from the Area Office on Aging, she only paid \$300/year for her prescriptions. She also was signed up for a program to save her money on her food costs.

*Jane said, "The Area Office on Aging has helped connect me with programs and benefits to make my prescription and food costs affordable."*

The Area Office on Aging has worked one-on-one with over 1,000 older adults to help sign them up for benefits that save them money on their prescriptions, utilities, food, and health insurance costs. This is a 60% increase in the number of older adults served compared to the previous year.



# Nona is Home Proud

## PASSPORT

Even though her care needs were such that she was eligible to be in a nursing home and have state taxpayers cover the cost, the Area Office on Aging's PASSPORT Program has helped Nona Potter remain where she wants to be, at home, for the last nine years at about a 1/4 of the cost to taxpayers.

*Nona said, "What PASSPORT has done for me is giving me just about everything a person could ever want: an amazing case manager, a home health aide, home-delivered meals, and an emergency response button. PASSPORT has allowed me to be proud of the place I call home at Viewpoint Apartments as I enjoy my million dollar view of Sandusky Bay."*

The Area Office on Aging served over 1,000 per month northwest Ohioans through the PASSPORT and Assisted Living Waiver Program last year.

# Doris is home for Good



## Home Care

Doris Allen had four strokes over the course of three years, which resulted in her needing help with activities of daily living such as bathing and dressing. The Area Office on Aging's Plan4Home Program provided her with case management and a home health aide, which helped take care of these care needs at home. She has now improved where she can do these activities of daily living independently.

*Doris said, "I have seen with my own loved ones how quickly individuals can decline when they go into a nursing home. I don't want that to happen to me. I want to remain at home and the Area Office on Aging has helped me do exactly that."*

A recent survey of older adults served by the AOoA's Plan4Home Program found that 97% of respondents were satisfied with the care provided by the program and 99% of respondents would recommend the program to a friend or relative.



*Willie*  
staying  
**Healthy**

## Health Assessments

Willie Buford is one of the older adults who has his blood pressure, heart rate, and blood oxygen level checked at the Oregon Senior Center. Blood sugar level checks and weight checks are also offered at this and many other senior centers and senior apartment complexes.

In addition to these mini-health assessments, older adults are encouraged to ask the nurse any questions they may have regarding COVID concerns, vaccine information, and their general health.

In 2021, 1,269 health assessments were completed. This includes 121 new older adults who participated in the program.



*Rosie*  
joined in  
2011

## Housing Service Coordination

Even though her care needs have increased over the years, Rosie Smith has been able to age in place thanks in large part to the help provided by the Area Office on Aging's housing service coordinator. In addition to the Area Office on Aging care manager she received when she joined the PASSPORT Program in 2011, Area Office on Aging Housing Service Coordinator Alexis Williams serves as the daily on-site eyes and ears check to make sure Rosie and the other residents in the independent senior apartment complex have the services they need to be setup for success to age in place.

In 2021, the Area Office on Aging doubled the amount of service coordination it provides to residents living in independent senior apartment complexes.

# Kim staying In Home



## Home Repair

Older adults have health and safety related repairs that need to be taken care of in their home in order for them to stay living at home. Sometimes paying for these health and safety-related repairs are something that older adults are not able to afford. The home repair program helps these older adults with addressing these health and safety-related repairs.

*Kim Dittman said, "I had a roof leak in my bedroom that was so bad part of the ceiling was falling down and I could stand in my bedroom look-up toward the ceiling and see the roof. The Area Office on Aging helped make it safe for me to stay living in my home."*

The Area Office on Aging and its home repair providers helped over 125 older northwest Ohioans remain safely at home.



*Meals*  
provided to  
**12,000**

## Dining Site Meals

Throughout the pandemic, there have been many changes to life for older adults, but the one constant has been that the Area Office on Aging and its nutrition providers have continued to meet the nutrition needs of older adults. The Area Office on Aging and its provider have helped by providing dining site meals, grab-and-go meals, home-delivered meals, and holiday meals.

In 2021, over 1.25 million meals were provided to over 12,000 older northwest Ohioans.



Sharon  
welcomed  
2021

## Senior Centers

The year 2021 marked the milestone during the pandemic when the vast majority of north-west Ohio senior centers re-opened. For many older adults, this meant an opportunity to safely get back to socializing in person with their friends and receiving the other services that are important to their health and well-being.

*Sharon Rudess said, "I love coming to the senior center. It gives me something to look forward to be able to come here to socialize with my friends, enjoy a meal together, and other activities. If I ever need help, I know I can turn to the senior center to get the help I need."*



*Patricia*  
active for  
**19** years

## **Kinship Program**

### **Grandparents and Relatives Raising Children**

The Kinship Navigator Program helps grandparents and relatives raising children. Unfortunately, sometimes grandparents get presented with the choice of either having their grandchildren move in with them or having their grandchildren go into the foster care system. The Kinship Navigator Program helps support grandparents and relatives raising children to help keep families together.

*Patricia Coley said, "Over the last 19 years, my husband and I have been raising grandchildren. We are now raising five grandchildren. The Kinship Navigator Program has helped us with beds for the grandchildren, food, emotionally psychological help, exercise programs, and fun activities for us to do as a family such as tickets for Mud Hens Programs."*



Cheryl  
is one of  
19,000

## Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program

Funded in part by USDA, the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program provides \$50 worth of coupons that act as cash at over 100 local farmers' markets and stands. Older adults with limited incomes can use these coupons to get locally produced fresh fruits, vegetables, honey, and herbs.

*Cheryl Platzke said, "I am so grateful to be able to receive these fresh fruits and vegetables that I otherwise would not be able to afford." Last year, the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program provided coupons to over 19,000 older northwest Ohioans.*



Volunteers  
provided  
40,000

## Volunteering

The Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) helps recruit, train, and match volunteers age 55+ with non-profit organizations that are in need of volunteers. These volunteers help with connecting older adults with health insurance/prescription/food/utility savings programs, taking care of the environment at Metroparks, friendly calls/visiting for socialization, delivering meals, and much more. Craig Leieux is an RSVP volunteer who is a trained Medicare expert who meets one-on-one with older adults to help them save money on their health insurance and prescription drug costs.

*During the last year, RSVP volunteers have provided 40,000 hours of community service. With the current estimated national value of each volunteer hour being \$29, these volunteer hours amount to an estimated local economic impact of over \$1.1 million.*



Nancy  
cares for her  
Mom

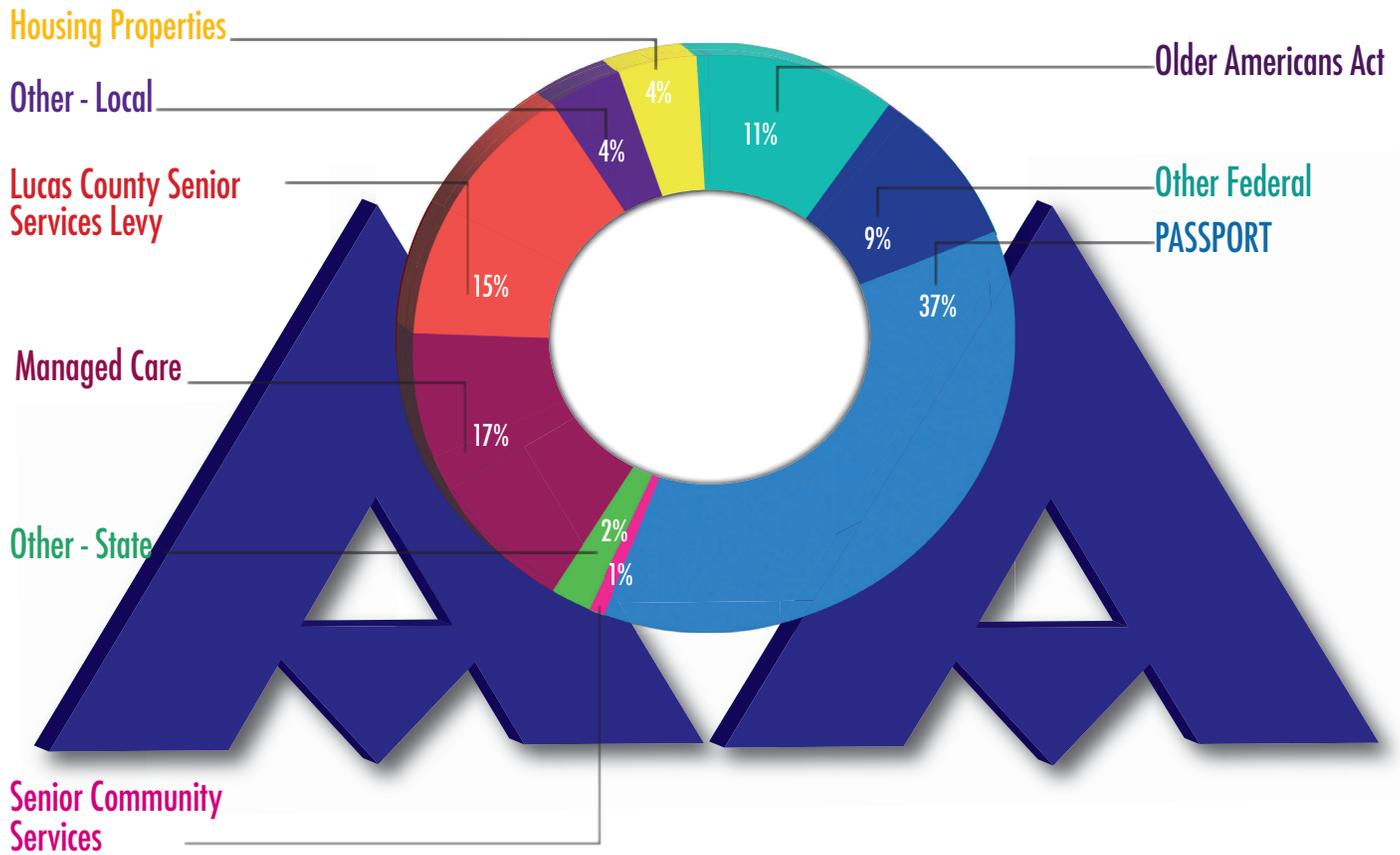
## Caregiver Support

The Caregiver Support Program helps sons, daughters, and others caring for aging loved ones care better and longer for their aging loved ones than they otherwise would be able to do on their own. This includes family caregivers who are providing unpaid care to their aging loved ones while continuing to work at jobs outside the home. According to a Harvard Business Review survey, 1/3 of employees who left a position reported taking care of an older adult with daily living needs as a reason for leaving their job.

Nancy Gerken was initially caring for her father and mother. Her father passed away in July 2021, but she continues to care for her mother. The Area Office on Aging's Caregiver Support Program has provided Nancy with a home health aide to be with her Mom so she knows her Mom is safe and is being taken care of while Nancy goes to work.

Last year, there were 139 family caregivers served through the Caregiver Support Program.

# 2021 Financial Overview



Revenue Summary	Amount	Percentage
Older Americans Act	3,803,553	11%
Other Federal	3,184,244	9%
PASSPORT	13,432,041	37%
Senior Community Services	403,983	1%
Other State	600,659	2%
Managed Care	5,913,330	17%
Lucas County Senior Services Levy	5,523,108	15%
Other Local	1,277,845	4%
Housing Properties	1,531,665	4%
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$35,670,428</b>	<b>100%</b>

\* Report based on unaudited financial statements.



*Celebrating Independence Everyday*  
at the **AOoA!**



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