



**2019**

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**COLLABORATING FOR IMPACT**

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# MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Dear Friend of VANTAGE Aging,

For VANTAGE Aging, 2019 was a year of collaboration. Although we value all of our collaborations (which are too many to list here), the one that stands out most for this year was our merge with Meals on Wheels of Stark & Wayne Counties. Discussions of a potential collaboration actually began in 2017. Meals on Wheels was looking to expand their program throughout Northeast Ohio and VANTAGE Aging was looking to strengthen their meal program, expand their programs to additional counties, and add talent to their organization to continue growing their programs.

The respective Boards of each organization approved the merge of the organizations effective January 1, 2019. I am very pleased with the progress of the integration of the meal programs, the collaboration of staff and programs, and the blending of cultures that occurred throughout 2019. As we began our 2020 fiscal year, we were well positioned to focus on growing the new, combined Meals on Wheels of Northeast Ohio program.

I invite you to review this annual report to read about the many successes of all of our programs. I am proud of the progress we made with our Senior Community Service Employment Program, Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, Encore Staffing Network, and our Behavioral Health and Home Wellness programs.

Rest assured that we remain committed to providing a “positive perspective on aging” to help individuals stay healthy, active, and independent. We could not continue to further this mission without the support of our dedicated volunteers, generous community, and collaborative partners. Thank you to everyone who helped us succeed in 2019, and we look forward to your continued support as we embark on a new decade of serving even more clients throughout 2020.

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ted W. Watko". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Ted Watko  
CEO







# OUR MISSION

Promoting a positive  
perspective on aging.



# WHAT WE DO

VANTAGE Aging provides high-quality programs to empower the economic, social, physical, and mental well-being of adults as they age. These include initiatives to support older adults' abilities to remain independent in their own homes and engaged in the community through employment, health and wellness, and volunteering.



"Aging is not lost youth but a new stage of opportunity and strength."

- Betty Friedan

# OUR PROGRAMS



## WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS

Paid job training for Ohio workers who are re-entering the workforce. Job seekers accelerate skill building by layering hands-on experiences while earning industry recognized certifications.



## MEALS ON WHEELS OF NORTHEAST OHIO

Home-delivered and congregate meals to promote the well-being of homebound individuals in Stark, Summit, and Wayne Counties.



## BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SOLUTIONS

Quality mental health services and treatment for alcohol and other drug use disorders for older adults. Administered by The Blick Center in 2020.



## HOME WELLNESS SOLUTIONS

A holistic approach to care and wellness for aging at home with independence and dignity.



## RETIRED AND SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

As the largest volunteer group for people age 55 and older in the nation, volunteers use their time, talents, and experience to support nonprofits.

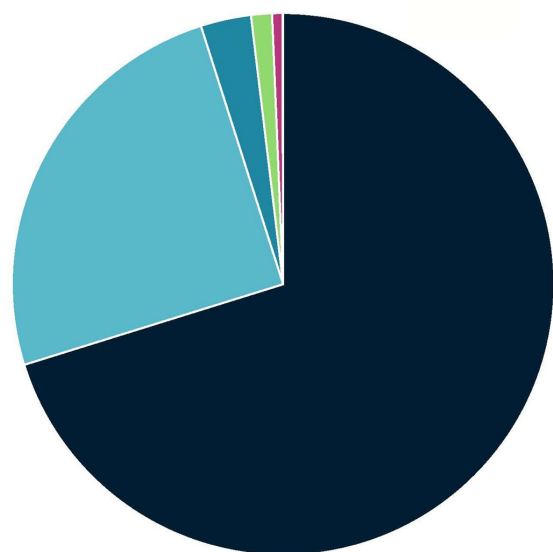


## ENCORE STAFFING NETWORK

Connecting experienced and talented people to the needs of employers as part of the Encore Career Movement for people at or near retirement.



# 2019 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

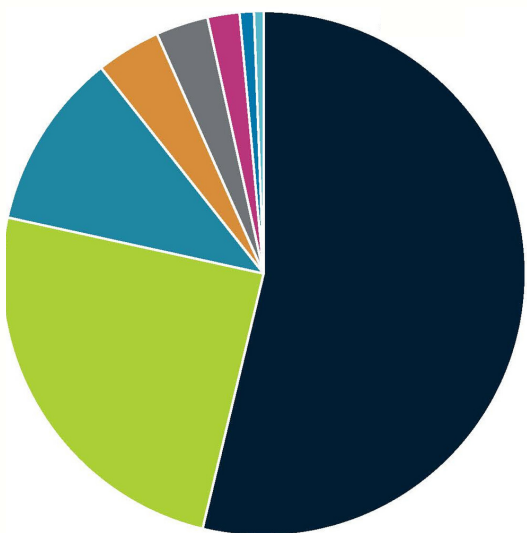


- **Grants** - \$9,206,723
- **Program Service Fees** - \$3,265,530
- **Contributions** - \$394,178
- **Investment Income** - \$163,675
- **Event Revenue** - \$80,190
- **Other Revenue** - \$5,341

**Total Revenue**  
\$12,974,871

- **Workforce Solutions** - \$7,207,453
- **Meals on Wheels** - \$3,310,407
- **Management & General** - \$1,463,741
- **Behavioral Health Solutions** - \$533,610
- **Encore Staffing Network** - \$433,127
- **Home Wellness Solutions** - \$264,749
- **RSVP** - \$117,725
- **Fundraising** - \$79,684

**Total Expenses**  
\$13,410,493



# COMMUNITY IMPACT

**172**

people started their  
Encore Career

**487,613**

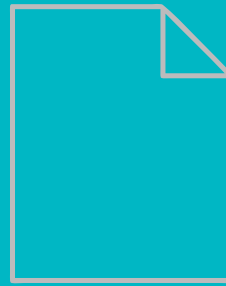
home-delivered  
meals served

**39,670**  
congregate  
meals served



**364,462**

hours of service  
provided to  
communities  
across Ohio



**932**

hours of individual  
counseling

**12,088**

hours of homemaker  
and health aide  
services combined

**11,169**

senior volunteer  
hours of service



# WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS

Workforce Solutions oversees the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) in 38 Ohio counties. Funded by the U.S. Department of Labor and the Ohio Department of Aging, SCSEP provides paid, hands-on training to Ohio job seekers who are re-entering the workforce. Career pathways match the goals of our job seekers with the in-demand opportunities of Ohio's employers through targeted skill building and certifications.

## United Way: Financially empower 11,000 people

United Way of Summit County Created four Bold Goals to reach by 2025. Goal 3 is the result of the number of individuals who earn an income between 100 and 200 percent of the federal poverty level and are often just one misfortune away from financial ruin. In 2017, more than 42,000 Akron residents were considered to be “working poor”.

VANTAGE Workforce Solutions promotes financial empowerment by listening to the current needs of the workforce and providing individuals with access to the resources, skills, and opportunities they need to thrive.

## BY THE NUMBERS

# 116

people found work as a result of the training they received in the SCSEP program.

# 364,462

hours of service were provided to various nonprofits and government agencies.

# WORKFORCE SPOTLIGHT

## VA NORTHEAST OHIO HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

Focusing on veterans through health promotion and disease prevention, VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System provides comprehensive, seamless healthcare and social services to 112,589 Veterans across Northeast Ohio.

With so many moving parts to providing quality care to veterans, finding the right workers can be challenging. As a SCSEP training site, the VA provides hands-on training in a variety of positions to job seekers who are sharpening their skills to re-enter the workforce.



“VANTAGE Aging participants offer unique skills and values,” said the VA's Voluntary Service Officer Gerardo Navarro. “Their years of experience in the workplace give them a superior understanding of how jobs can be done more efficiently.”

## COLLABORATING FOR IMPACT

### Growing skills for today's workforce



Partner with VANTAGE as a SCSEP Training Site.



Hire a trained SCSEP job seeker at your business.



Mentor a SCSEP participant as a volunteer.



Provide professional training at a quarterly meeting.



# MEALS ON WHEELS OF NORTHEAST OHIO

In 2019, VANTAGE's Meals on Wheels program merged with Meals on Wheels of Stark & Wayne Counties to form a three-countywide service addressing the nutritional needs of seniors through home-delivered meals and wellness programs.

## Summit County Community Health: Improve senior population's access to healthy foods

One in six older Americans faces the threat of hunger, which is 7.6% of the population. The Center for Community Solutions reported that there has been a 20% increase in the number of seniors turning to emergency food networks.

Meals on Wheels of Northeast Ohio combats senior hunger and isolation by providing home-delivered and congregate meals, Ohio Senior Farmers' Market vouchers, Senior Commodity Food Program boxes, emergency food, and educational programming for seniors.



## BY THE NUMBERS



Delivered 487,613 meals to 2,738 homebound clients.



Served 39,670 meals in dining facilities.



Provided 1,773 hours of training to Akron Public Schools students.

# MEALS ON WHEELS SPOTLIGHT

## MEALS ON WHEELS OF STARK & WAYNE COUNTIES

Last year, the merging of two nonprofits in Northeast Ohio started with a simple conversation: “What can we do together?”

Both organizations had the same goals; to help meet the nutritional needs of people who are homebound due to age or disability. Together, the Meals on Wheels programs, now called Meals on Wheels of Northeast Ohio, ensure that no senior in the three-county area is left hungry and alone.



“By combining our competencies and common goals, we will be stronger and able to offer more services to benefit Stark and Wayne counties,” stated Ted Watko, former CEO of Meals and Wheels of Stark & Wayne Counties.

## COLLABORATING FOR IMPACT

### Providing More Than Just Meals



Lower readmission rates with our One More Reason nutrition at home initiative.



Volunteer to deliver meals in Stark or Wayne County.



Adopt-a-Route in Stark or Wayne for your employees or congregation to deliver.



Sponsor a meal, delivery route, or the Put Hunger in Park Food Fest fundraiser.



Ensure clients are safe and well by delivering meals.



Donate dog or cat food to support the Wheels for Wags program.

# BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SOLUTIONS

Behavioral Health Solutions provided quality mental health services and treatment for alcohol and other drug use disorders for people 45 and older in Summit County.

## United Way: Reduce emergency room visits due to drug overdoses

Bold Goal 4 reflects the growing consequences of the opioid crisis. In 2017, more than 2400 people in Summit County visited an emergency room due to drug overdose.

In 2019, Behavioral Health Solutions helped 23 individuals complete the Intensive Outpatient Program. The program includes eight weeks of group classes and counseling and focuses on alcohol and drug addiction treatment in older adults, a unique concept in Summit County.

## BY THE NUMBERS

290

older adults receive counseling services.

932

hours of individual counseling were provided.

23

individuals graduated from the Intensive Outpatient Program.



# BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SPOTLIGHT

## THE BLICK CENTER

The conversation about forming a strategic partnership between VANTAGE's Behavioral Health Solutions program and The Blick Center began in 2019. This partnership united the two organizations with a mutual goal of supporting the behavioral health needs of Summit County.

The Blick Center is a non-profit agency offering a continuum of high-quality services that educate, strengthen and support children, adolescents, adults, and their families.

VANTAGE's decades of experience in treating older adults will allow Blick to expand its services while keeping services consistent for VANTAGE clients. Current VANTAGE staff were maintained with the transition.



“VANTAGE has decades of experience in the treatment of older adults, including a very successful Intensive Outpatient Treatment Program (IOP). This relationship will allow Blick to expand its services, intensifying the positive impact in the lives of those we serve,” said Karin Lopper-Orr, Executive Director at The Blick Center.

## COLLABORATING FOR IMPACT Cultivating Larger Community Outcomes



Collaborate with complimentary programs and services.



Refer older adults to behavioral health services at The Blick Center.

# HOME WELLNESS SOLUTIONS

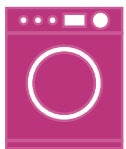
Home Wellness Solutions offers multiple options designed to help older adults and people living with disabilities live comfortably at home. We provide non-medical home care and wellness support with activities associated with daily living.

## Akron Community Foundation: Seniors Want to Stay at Home

Akron Community Foundation's 2018 Summit County Older Adults Needs Assessment found that the desire to remain at home for as long as possible was constant among all older adult populations surveyed. Among all groups, 94-100% said it is very important or somewhat important to remain in their homes.

In 2019, VANTAGE Home Wellness Solutions provided over 2,300 hours of homemaker services (light housekeeping, errands, laundry, meal preparation) and over 9,700 hours of health aide services (bathing, dressing, grooming, toileting, eating assistance, and mobility).

## HOME WELLNESS BY THE NUMBERS



2,342 hours of homemaker services.



9,746 hours of home health aide services.



2,210 hours of deep cleaning provided.



203 nurse assessments provided.

# 260+

**People are on a waiting list to received services. This program needs additional funding in order to reach those in need.**

# HOME WELLNESS SPOTLIGHT

## FUNDERS OF HOME WELLNESS SOLUTIONS

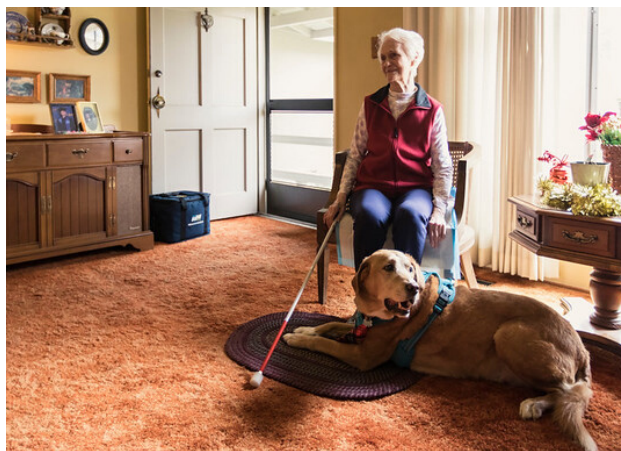
In 2019, Home Wellness Solutions received support from funders who recognize the value of senior services. We thank you for your support and acknowledgement of the importance of senior resources in our community.

### **The Mary S. and David C. Corbin Foundation**

Helped 16 people and provided 398 hours of in-home assistance.

### **Sisler McFawn Foundation**

Helped 11 people and provided 311 hours of in-home assistance.



## COLLABORATING FOR IMPACT

### Supporting Our Most Vulnerable



Sponsor a senior to ensure our aging neighbors remain healthy at home.



Use our Chore house cleaning services for your home in Stark, Summit, Wayne, or Portage County.



Advocate for home wellness (average cost is \$2,000 per year, compared to long-term care facilities at over \$90,000 per year).

# RETIRED AND SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) connects volunteers with community-based organizations where their time, interests, and experiences are most effectively utilized to meet important community needs. RSVP is America's largest volunteer group for people age 55 and older and is funded by the Corporation for National and Community Service.

## BY THE NUMBERS



115 people volunteered in Summit and Medina Counties.



11,169 hours of community service were provided to nonprofits.

## Why do older adults in the RSVP network choose to volunteer?

I love helping people.

When I moved, it was a good opportunity to get to know people.

Life has been good to me. I want to give back.

After I retired, I needed something to do.



# RETIRED AND SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

## WADSWORTH SENIOR TV

RSVP and Wadsworth's Senior TV (WCTV) strengthened their collaborative ties to reach seniors via public television.

WCTV is the City of Wadsworth's public, educational, and government access television network, which airs on three channels. The studio offers Wadsworth residents the opportunity to produce their own programs using the studio's equipment and space. Staff members provide training for recording and editing, all free of charge.



RSVP produces a monthly talk show highlighting organizations and advice. The show can be seen both on public channels and online, and aims to inform local seniors on resources that promote positive aging.

## COLLABORATING FOR IMPACT

### Joining Forces for Healthy Futures



Enroll volunteers age 55 and older at your organization as RSVP members.



Sponsor a RSVP Recognition event and join us in celebrating our volunteers.



Donate an in-kind donation to support our volunteers for a tax deduction in 2020.



Gather your friends who are 55 and older to join RSVP.

# ENCORE STAFFING NETWORK

Encore Staffing Network is a social venture that specializes in placing experienced workers in jobs for the greater good. Supported by the Cleveland Foundation, Encore empowers Greater Clevelanders with the tools and resources they need to impart their knowledge and skills.

## City of Cleveland: Some Older Adults Want/Need to Keep Working

The 2016 Age-Friendly Cleveland Assessment surveyed Cleveland residents age 60 and older. According to the report, 49% of older adults plan to continue working for financial reasons, while 27% plan to continue working for professional reasons and a desire to work as long as possible.

Encore is part of a national movement to leverage the energy and experience of Americans who seek to fill community needs upon retirement or near the end of their primary careers. As a member of Encore Cleveland, Encore Staffing Network plays a role in expanding the Cleveland Foundation's mission to channel the time, energy and talents of experienced individuals into solving community challenges and filling unmet needs.

## BY THE NUMBERS



172

people started their Encore careers.



5,963

hours of work to community-based organizations.

# ENCORE SPOTLIGHT

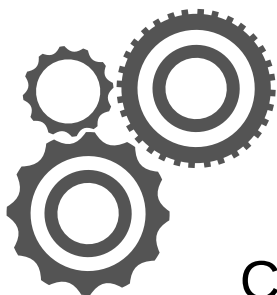
## THE PHILLIS WHEATLEY ASSOCIATION

The Phillis Wheatley Association hired two individuals through the Encore Staffing Network who have helped continue its mission to be a leading provider of social services in Greater Cleveland.

Valerie Chilkcutt was hired as the new Administrative Director at Phillis Wheatley. She brought strong organizational skills and experience working with boards, management staff, and clients.



Linda Buckhanon brought 15 years of experience operating her own carry-out restaurant to her new position as Head Cook. In her new position, she manages menus, food preparation, and staff in the senior lunch program.



## COLLABORATING FOR IMPACT

### Createing Meaningful Opportunities

- ✓ Hire employees through Encore and receive full payroll and HR consulting services.
- ✓ Choose from a roster of experienced professionals who want to add value to your company.
- ✓ Reasonable fees are reinvested into VANTAGE's mission.

# LEADERSHIP & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## LEADERSHIP TEAM

\*Karen Hrdlicka - President and Chief Executive Officer  
Ted Watko - Chief Operating Officer  
Ann Manby - Chief Financial Officer  
Sue Henige - Senior Director of Human Resources  
Dawn Moeglin - Senior Director of Community Engagement  
Sarfaraz Mohammad - Director of Information Technology  
Erica Banks - Director of RSVP  
Kate Harkin - Director of SCSEP  
Gizelle Jones - Director of Behavioral Health Solutions  
Jennifer Kannee-Beebe - Director of Intake and Home Wellness  
Simone McNitt - Director of Encore Staffing Network  
Jay Varnes - Director of Meals on Wheels of Northeast Ohio

\*Effective 12/10/2019 The  
Board of Directors appointed  
Ted W. Watko as CEO.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Executive Committee

Leann Schaeffer, MA, RD, LD, LNHA, The University of Akron - **Chair**  
Chris Parrish, Aultman Hospital - **Vice Chair**  
David Ionno, PNC Investments - **Treasurer**  
Alex McCallion, Esq., Brennan, Manna & Diamond - **Secretary**

### Directors

Cynthia P. Bayer, Esq., Summa Health Systems  
Mary Brackle, Cleveland Clinic Akron General  
Kolleen Crish, Woodforest National Bank  
Gary Davis, Goodyear Tire and Rubber  
Sharon Ennis, The Hackett Group  
Richard Hawkins, Timken Steel  
Bruce Inzetta, The Will-Burt Company  
Amy Marsteller, Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority  
Kimberly Ray, PNC Bank  
Nathan Ritter, Aultman Hospital  
Stephen Shamrock, CPA, CGMA, Materion Corporation  
Melinda Smith Yeargin, Community Legal Aid  
Dr. Harvey L. Sterns, Ph.D., The University of Akron  
LaToya Wells, Community Advocate

### Emeritus Board Members

William Belden, Jr., Belden Brick Company  
Thomas R. Fuller, Alpha Phi Alpha Homes  
Pamela A. Hawkins, Retired from AMHA  
Barbara A. Venesy, JD, MSN, Retired from Cleveland Clinic  
Lee S. Walko, Esq., Brennan, Manna & Diamond



# OUR SPONSORS

AccudoseRx	IBEW Local Union 540
ADM Board	Kenan Advantage Group
Aetna, Inc	Kim Ray, VANTAGE Aging Board Member
Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority	MCTV
Akron Public Schools	Michael and Heidi Steranka
Aultman Health Foundation & AultCare	Midwestern Industries, Inc.
Brennan, Manna & Diamond, LLC	Motter & Meadows Architects
Buckingham, Doolittle & Burroughs, LLC	Ohio State Waterproofing
Case Farms	Paul & Carol David Foundation
Charles Bond	RC Musson
Clear Captions	Ronald & Jane Sibila
Cleveland Clinic Akron General	SARTA
Community One Credit Union	Simply EZ Meals
Community Support Services	Stephen & Marybeth Shamrock
Critchfield, Critchfield & Johnson, Ltd.	Summit County Children's Services
Diebold Employee Charitable Fund	Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro's
Direction Home Area Agency on Aging & Disabilities	Department of Job and Family Services
Fred Brechbuhler Charitable Fund and the Kraig & Wendy Brechbuhler Family	Summit County Probate Court
Fresh Mark	Sysco
Gary Davis	The John and Roene Klusch Foundation
GOJO	The Will-Burt Company
Greg & Denise Hill, Custom Fireplace Shop	Thomas & Karen Robinson
Hendrickson	Todd & Nancy Bundy
Hudson Community Foundation - Brechbuhler Fund	United Health Care
	Young Truck Sales

# OUR FUNDERS AND DONORS

Amy Marsteller  
Tana Alexander  
Mary Ashman  
Jennifer Bako  
Marlene A. Bates  
Cynthia Bayer  
Cathy Boley  
James and Michelle Burchfield  
Marian Calvin  
Joan Crouse  
Joanne Dowdy  
Daniel Daugherty  
Western Reserve Group  
Bobby English  
Sharon Ennis  
Jorge and Lynne Esguerra  
Mark and Carla Frank  
Derelyn Freeman  
Joe and Jennifer Frey  
Fun Services  
Joan Galant  
Patricia Garver  
Trans Associates Engineering Consultants, Inc.  
Massillon Shrine Club  
Richard Hawkins  
Melinda Heath  
Maria Heege  
Patricia Heffner  
Angela Hess  
Judy Hrdlicka  
Karen Hrdlicka  
Sherwin-Williams Employee Giving  
Laura Jolliffe  
Mary Sue Kaliszewski  
Lisa King  
Paul & Michelle Kipfstuhl  
Fun Services  
Timothy Koch  
Irina Korableva  
Cathleen Lance  
Walsh University  
Gessner Family Foundation

Mary Frances Merda, RD, LD  
Dr. Gary Minorik  
Dan & Dawn Moeglin  
Tuscarawas Valley Desk and Derrick Club  
John Morikis  
Charles E. & Mabel M. Ritchie Memorial Foundation  
United Way of Greater Cleveland  
Network for Good  
Phillip Nicholson  
Thomas Palmer  
Linda Paris  
Don Peterson  
United Grinding Machine Co.  
Michael Poverine  
CareSource Foundation  
Diane Popa  
The Canton Repository  
Buckeye Trail Riders  
Joe Ruby  
Massillon Community Charitable Foundation  
Health Foundation of Greater Massillon  
Leann Schaeffer  
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Ted Watko  
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Scott Young  
Lisa Zellers  
Dr. Rebecca Zurava  
Don Novosel

# WAYS TO SUPPORT US



As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit agency, we are primarily funded by federal, state, local, and foundation funding. We are also dependent upon the tax-deductible donations of our supporters. VANTAGE Aging needs your support, and you can give in the following ways:

- Donate to the VANTAGE Aging Endowment Fund through The Akron Community Foundation, including bequests, cash, stocks, bonds, insurance policies, annuities and more
- Cash and In-Kind Donations
- Planned Giving
- Amazon Smiles
- Company Matching
- Purchase services through our social ventures
- Volunteer to deliver meals for our Meals on Wheels of Northeast Ohio program

# GIVE65 FUNDRAISING EVENT



Everyday, 10,000 people in the United States celebrate their 65th birthday. Many of these seniors across the country are in need of social service programs to enhance their quality of life. However, despite the increased need for support, only 2% of funding from the nation's largest grant makers is specifically focused on seniors.

That's why VANTAGE is partnering with GIVE65 to help local seniors. GIVE65, a program of the Home Instead Senior Care Foundation, is the nation's first and only crowd-fundraising platform focused exclusively on helping nonprofit organizations raise funds for programs and services benefiting seniors.

Support VANTAGE's mission by donating to our GIVE65 page ([www.give65.org/vantageaging](http://www.give65.org/vantageaging)). Funds raised are directly used to provide services for seniors who want to stay in their homes.

GIVE65 is July 15 to 17, 2020, but you can preschedule your donation today! All donations are 100% tax deductible in the United States.



# CONTACT US



## WE ARE

Dedicated to providing compassionate and empathetic support to promote the dignity of people and serving the holistic needs of older adults.

## OUR MISSION

Promoting a positive perspective on aging.

## OUR PURPOSE

All people should be able to age with the greatest degree of dignity, independence, and health possible.

Follow Us!

Facebook.com/vantageaging

Twitter: @VantageAging

LinkedIn: @VantageAging

Blog: [vantageaging.org/news/blog](http://vantageaging.org/news/blog)

