COLLABORATING FOR IMPACT
ANNUAL REPORT
2019
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,

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
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

Total Revenue
$12,974,871

- 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 Expenses
$13,410,493

- 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
172 people started their Encore Career

487,613 home-delivered 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 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.
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.
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 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 addition 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.
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).
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.
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
Creating 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 Kanney-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

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Thomas R. Fuller, Alpha Phi Alpha Homes
Pamela A. Hawkins, Retired from AMHA
Barbara A. Venesy, JD, MSN, Retired from Cleveland Clinic
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Simply EZ Meals
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Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro's Department of Job and Family Services
Summit County Probate Court
Sysco
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The Will-Burt Company
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Todd & Nancy Bundy
United Health Care
Young Truck Sales
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Dr. Rebecca Zurava
Don Novosel
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
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). 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.
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.