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Shout Out to Donors, Participants, and Volunteers!

Thank you for believing in us and supporting our mission this year. We greatly appreciate all that you do to support the needs of seniors in our community!

To our donors, thank you for your generosity and understanding of the critical need for senior services. Now more than ever, our aging neighbor's risk isolation, hunger, and financial burdens in the wake of the coronavirus crisis. We know that this year has been hard on us all. Your decision to support the essential needs of our most vulnerable population has made an enormous impact on the lives of so many who count on us to keep them safe and healthy at home.

To our volunteers, thank you for your unwavering dedication and support during these most challenging times. Your willingness to serve is an inspiring example of the good in our community. Your efforts are a reminder to seniors isolated at home that they are heard and cared for. Thank you for all that you do!

To our participants in the Senior Community Service Employment Program, thank you for believing in yourselves and VANTAGE as we navigate our nation's current economic situation. Your determination to succeed and willingness to adjust does not go unnoticed. We hope you will continue on this journey with us as you grow your skills and go after your goals.

And to everyone in the community who has shown us support in any way, we are so thankful for you standing by us. We hope that you continue to stay safe this winter. We truly could not do this work without each and every one of you!



Positive Perspectives

BY VANTAGE AGING

Season's greetings and well wishes to all. I want to take a few minutes and thank you all for your support for VANTAGE Aging this year. While 2020 has had more than its fair share of challenges, overall this year was one we can reflect on and see much success. It is through generous support from our community and partners that we have been able to move forward through uncertain times with confidence. Even while facing uncertainty during a global health crisis, VANTAGE Aging never stopped its mission to provide care to the seniors in our communities. Our devotion to those we serve, and our appreciation for our amazing staff, helped carry us through the adjustment into our new normal. Our mission has remained at the forefront of every decision we have made and will continue to be as we roll into a new year.

Our successes for the year have been many, but I'd like to highlight a few here. This year, we were able to serve over 509,000 meals to the community, thanks to our donors, volunteers, staff, and community funders who believe in the power of our mission. Without your support, this would not have been possible. Also, we continued our Home Wellness Solutions services, ensuring each client receives their essential services that we provide, now more than ever. Also, we expanded our RSVP footprint into seven counties, adding Hamilton, Franklin, Delaware, Wayne, and Geauga counties, alongside existing services in Summit and Medina Counties. As our reliance on technology only grows stronger in these times, VANTAGE Aging will address the digital divide among our older job seekers. These workers have so much value to add, and we are positioned to help them overcome barriers they have faced since before the pandemic, including ageism and limited digital access. We have been working alongside the Ohio Department of Aging and have been awarded an Innovation Grant from the Department of Labor. This grant will allow us to expand our seniors' access to technology as an innovative strategy to help prepare older adults for unsubsidized employment. Through this program, we will be able to equip VANTAGE Aging's Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) with computers and other technology tools to help them bridge the digital divide and find employment success in their golden years. Speaking of employment, VANTAGE Aging's Encore program continues to connect candidates who are looking to serve their communities with part-time job sites. Both SCSEP and Encore allow our seniors to age positively while preparing for and doing work that fulfills them.

To be able to grow in uncertain times is a testament to the unwavering support we receive to continue our essential work. I continue to be humbled by all of you. Thank you for all of your support for VANTAGE Aging throughout this year. I hope you have a safe and happy holiday season, however you choose to celebrate. We here at VANTAGE look forward to continuing to serve our communities in every way possible, into the New Year and beyond.

Ted W. Watko

Ted Watko, CEO



OUR YEAR IN REVIEW



995 Hours of deep house cleaning were provided to elderly individuals.



230 Nonprofits received support from job training participants.

3,502 Seniors received home-delivered or congregate meals.



560 Volunteers drove 199,073 miles to deliver meals to the homes of seniors.



10,665 Hours of personal care services were provided to elderly individuals living at home.



Our Work in 2020

WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS

The Senior Community Service Employment Program provides paid job training to income eligible older adults who are trying to re-enter the workforce. Each year, over 800 adults age 55 and older facing barriers to employment work on a career pathway towards their professional goals. Participants train at community organizations, contributing to local needs. In 2020, we partnered with the Ohio Department of Aging to bridge the digital divide among older job seekers. The project aims to grow digital access and skillsets for aging Ohioans in a time when virtual tools are more essential than ever.



MEALS ON WHEELS OF NORTHEAST OHIO

Meals On Wheels NEO provides home-delivered meals to seniors in Summit, Stark, and Wayne Counties. More than meals, MOWNEO helps seniors maintain their independence. Each meal delivery provides a friendly visit and a daily security check. This added protection helps clients to remain safely in the comfort of their own home, especially during the pandemic. This year, MOWNEO served over 509,000 meals to homebound seniors. Although this year was challenging, we were able to continue services with increased safety measures and community support.

RETIRED AND SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) connects volunteers age 55 and older with mission-based organizations to use their experience in service. This year we continued to partner with nonprofits to grow their volunteer base and engage current volunteers. We expanded safe ways to bring joy to those in need in 5 additional Ohio counties. We are excited to see the growth of this program and all the ways Ohio communities will benefit from our RSVP volunteers.



HOME WELLNESS SOLUTIONS

Home Wellness Solutions helps seniors living at home age with dignity and independence. Small, nonmedical supports, such as personal care and light housekeeping, prevent seniors from prematurely leaving home for a facility. Throughout the COVID-19 crisis, we've continued to provide the only free in-home support service in Summit County.



ENCORE STAFFING NETWORK

In Greater Cleveland, Encore Staffing Network offers specialized staffing solutions for older adults and retirees. Encore utilizes the lifelong skills of older professionals to meet the needs of small to mid-sized businesses. The Pandemic has brought on some challenges, but the Encore Program has still managed to enroll 173 Encore candidates and we've worked with six employers who have employed Encores.



Community Partner Spotlights

THE AUSTIN-BAILEY FOUNDATION

In April 2020, the Austin-Bailey Foundation stepped up with a \$25,000 grant to help with the purchase of a new freezer for Meals On Wheels. The freezer helped us centralize kitchen operations and more effectively serve clients.



THE GESSNER FAMILY FOUNDATION

In May 2020, the Gessner Family Foundation provided a \$20,000 grant to the Meals On Wheels program to assist with providing meals in Western Stark and Wayne Counties. We couldn't have done this work without them!

WESTFIELD BANK

Westfield Bank donated T-shirts for our RSVP volunteers. Thank you so much for being in our corner and supporting our dedicated volunteers.



How to Get Involved

DON'T LET A MOMENT GO BY THIS SEASON WHERE YOU MISS GIVING BACK TO THOSE MOST IN NEED.



Volunteer to deliver meals through Meals On Wheels or help out at one of our partnering Retired and Senior Volunteer Program community organizations.



Give a little, mean a lot. Just \$25 provides five meals to an elderly neighbor in need of nutritional support.



Host a fundraiser with your friends, family, or workplace. We can help you set up a virtual fundraising event!



Follow us on social media and share our posts with your circle. You can find us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn @VantageAging.

349,882 Hours of career training were completed by 815 older job seekers.



123 RSVP volunteers met community needs at 27 Ohio organizations.



173 We enrolled 173 Encore candidates looking to serve their community.

