



Positive Perspectives

BY VANTAGE AGING

Peace and joy to you and your family this holiday season. I want to take a few moments to thank you for your support of VANTAGE Aging this past year. With our continued positive response and handling of the impact of COVID-19 on our clients, alongside our progress in continually improving who we are as an organization, we know our successes are, in large part, due to you and your generous support. Moving into a new headquarter facility this past year brought a fresh perspective to our staff and a

revitalizing energy to our organization. We are truly positioned to transform our programs and services.

Transformation is defined as the act or process of changing, such as in form or structure. COVID-19 has changed how we operate on nearly every level. It is in this spirit that we seek to re-invent ourselves, being open to new options and change, while remaining nimble and flexible as necessary. With a focus on transformation, VANTAGE Aging can reflect on the successes of the past year and set challenging goals for the upcoming year.

I would like to share a few snapshots of our successes that are a direct result of your support. Our **Senior Community Service Employment Program** (SCSEP) completed seventeen months of remote training with our participants, while returning to most host sites during July. Our SCSEP team also implemented our new digital inclusion initiative, bringing technology to those individuals who need it the most. **Meals on Wheels of Northeast Ohio** (MOWNEO) stayed the course, ensuring that those who rely on us for daily nutrition consistently received their meals, precisely 382,304 meals, throughout the year. MOWNEO also expanded their outreach into Carroll, Holmes, Portage, and Tuscarawas Counties, demonstrating that the need for food goes well beyond our original three county service area. Our **Home Wellness Solutions** program continued our important work of providing excellent, direct, in-home care to vulnerable clients during the ever-changing pandemic. In addition, we grew the chore service segment and increased the skills of current staff to be able to better respond to the needs of those we care for in their homes. Last, but never least, our **AmeriCorps Seniors Retired & Senior Volunteer Program** (RSVP) completely redesigned their approach to be digitally accessible and met the need for remote access volunteer opportunities. By cultivating strong partnerships with our volunteer stations, RSVP continued to place volunteers in new and innovative ways while ensuring the pandemic safety protocols were met. It truly was an

incredible year that positioned us for further transformation in the new year.

As we approach 2022, we look forward to accomplishing challenging goals and developing and fostering stronger community relationships to continue to grow in our areas of success. We are poised to take each of our departments and programs to the next level. We are excited to transform our services to be more efficient, more consistent, and more effective in addition to investigating where we can pivot and explore new opportunities, I truly believe we will deliver on transforming our organization in the upcoming year. All of what I just mentioned is not possible without your continued trust and support. Thank you in advance for continuing to believe in our mission of promoting a positive perspective on aging. I wish you peace, presence, joy, and wonder throughout this holiday season.

Gratefully,

Ted Watko, CEO

Our Work in 2021

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 700 adults age 55 and older facing barriers to employment work on a career pathway towards their professional goals.

In 2021, the SCSEP program continued at-home training packets until the State of Ohio advised return to in-person



workplaces in July. Job Seekers continued to build skills at their Training Sites towards the goal of obtaining unsubsidized employment.

The digital divide has always disproportionately impacted older, low-income job seekers. Vantage Aging was awarded a grant from Department of Labor through Ohio Department of Aging to implement a demonstration program to shrink this divide. In addition to equipping Job Seekers with computers and internet, Vantage Aging's Digital Navigator coach the Job Seekers through a series of skills-tested training modules. Job Seeker competency in the new skills is evidenced by certifications earned and confidence gained. We look forward to making this program available to an increasing audience in the coming year.



171 Course certifications were earned by Digital Inclusion program participants



MEALS ON WHEELS OF NORTHEAST OHIO

Meals On Wheels NEO provides home-delivered meals to seniors in Summit, Stark, and Wayne Counties. More than just meals, MOWNEO helps seniors maintain their independence. We continue to provide a friendly visit and a daily security check. Our volunteers and donors show us with support and the ability to fulfill our mission. This year, MOWNEO served over 382,000 meals to homebound seniors. Although we continue to face the challenges of the pandemic, we continued services with increased safety measures and community support.

382,304 Meals were delivered to the homes of 2,809 seniors.

AMERICORE SENIORS PROGRAM

During 2021, Vantage's AmeriCorps Seniors Retired and Senior Volunteer Program has seen an increase in volunteer engagement, recruitment, and has formed many new community partnerships. Through the new community partnerships, RSVP has been able to provide seniors with over 120 meaningful and impactful ways to connect, engage, and give back to their communities.



147 RSVP volunteers met community needs at 71 Ohio organizations



HOME WELLNESS SOLUTIONS

Home Wellness Solutions helps seniors living at home age with dignity and independence. Small, nonmedical support 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.

6,220 Hours of personal care services were provided to elderly individuals living

Support Our Mission

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 as we continue to face COVID-19. We know that the past year-and-a-half 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.

Thank you to **Sysco** and **United Healthcare** for being presenting sponsors of the Helping Hands Raffle and supporting Meals On Wheels.

To our volunteers, thank you for your unwavering dedication and support during challenging times. Your willingness to serve is an inspiring example of the good in our community and a reminder to seniors isolated at home that they are heard and cared for. We'd like to give a special shout out to our AmeriCorps Seniors partners **Red Oak Behavioral Health** and **Acker Moore Memorial Post**. Thank you for giving us an opportunity to volunteer and giveback.

And to everyone in the community who has supported Vantage, we are so thankful for you standing by us. We truly could not do this work without each and every one of you!

Support Seniors Today!

Our Board Members

Leann Schaeffer

Tim Gallagher

Chris Parrish

Bruce Inzetta

Rick Hawkins

Robert Madden

Ron Van Horn

John Marion

Judith Banks

Alex McCallion

Cynthia Bayer

Kimberly Ray

Gary Davis

Nathan Ritter

Joan Davidson

Brenda Scurry

Krista Dobronos

Dr. Harvey Sterns

Elizabeth England

Contact Us

We are happy to answer any questions you may have. Please use one of the contact options below to contact us.

info@vantageaging.org

330-253-4597

[website](#)



VANTAGE Aging

388 S. Main St. | Akron, Ohio 44311

330-253-4597 | giving@vantageaging.org

Follow Us



Having trouble viewing this email? [View it in your web browser](#)

Was this email forwarded to you by a friend? If so, why not sign up to receive your own newsletter direct to your mailbox? [Newsletter Signup](#)

You were sent this email because you have previously signed up to receive our newsletter. If you would prefer not receive VANTAGE Points, please update your preferences below. View VANTAGE Aging's [privacy policy](#).

Please do not reply to this email. It is an automated mailbox.

VANTAGE Aging is a nonprofit 501 (c)3 charity organization. Your donation is tax-deductible as provided in IRC 170(e) of the U.S. Tax Code. EIN#51-0148544. Please consult your tax advisor regarding your donation.

Shop at [AMAZONSMILE](#) to find the exact same convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization.

View our [Sponsorship Page](#).

[Unsubscribe](#) or [Manage Your Preferences](#)