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Community Corner

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. Our aging neighbors' risk isolation, hunger, and financial burdens. 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 an **Anonymous donor** and **MCTV** for being presenting sponsors of the Helping Hands Raffle and supporting Meals On Wheels.

 Thank you to **Massillon Rotary** for their support and monetary donation to our Meals On Wheels program.

Ways to Support Seniors This Season



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



Follow us on social media. Find us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn @VantageAging.



Host a fundraiser with your friends, family, or workplace. We can help you!



Volunteer with Meals On Wheels NEO or one of our AmeriCorps Seniors partners.



Positive Perspectives

BY VANTAGE AGING

Greetings and peace to you and yours this holiday season. I love this time of year. With reflections on the year past and promises of the new year to come, it's always wonderful to take a moment and appreciate what we have accomplished. It has been an incredible year of progress and continued service to those in our communities who need us the most. This holiday season, it is my wish that you and your loved ones find yourselves safe, warm, and healthy as you look ahead to the year to come.

This year has definitely been one of growth and change here at VANTAGE Aging, but neither of those two things are bad. For one, we know that it is impossible to experience any growth – personal and professional – without challenging ourselves and being open to change. Our truest potential lives outside of our comfort zone, and we have definitely stepped confidently into challenges to that zone. However, being innovative and growing is what matters the most to us as an organization, and this year, we have indeed shown growth and have embraced change in order to succeed.

I'd like to take a few minutes here to show you the successes in each of our programs that have come, both from our innovative spirit and your support along the way. First off, for our job seekers, 2022 was an incredible year of growth! Our SCSEP workforce program trained **787 job seekers** through **360 training sites** state-wide. Alongside that, the Digital Inclusion program **graduated 152 participants** who earned a total of **1,319 skill-tested certifications!** Talk about growth and change through self-empowerment and education! Our Meals on Wheels of Northeast Ohio program tackled the challenge of senior food insecurity head on, with our corps of volunteer drivers leading the charge. In fact, volunteers spent **13,700 hours driving 184,187 miles to deliver 324,655 meals.** Speaking of growth, MOWNEO has added Portage County to its service area, increasing our outreach while decreasing senior food insecurity here at home. Home Wellness Solutions continues to innovate the way it provides services, and this year showed no sign of slowing down; the team provided **8,756 hours of nonmedical in-home care to 171 clients**, including **1,447 hours of chore deep cleaning services.** And, our AmeriCorps Seniors volunteer program saw massive growth this year by adding **33 new volunteer stations** to its ranks! This allowed their **251 volunteers** to serve **7,106 clients** through **107 volunteer stations** in their seven-county service area through programs like food pantries, education centers, local nonprofits, and even telecare phone calls to isolated, lonely seniors in our area. In all, our programs fully embraced the challenges they faced and all showed commendable growth this year.

We cannot do what we do and achieve this level of success without support from valuable community members and our board of directors. I would like to personally thank my colleagues on the board for their time, talent and treasure. An investment in the mission of VANTAGE Aging is an investment in the well-being of our communities and the seniors living within them. No one is meant to age alone, and it is our mission to ensure that no one has to. This holiday season, while you're shopping for loved ones and wrapping up gifts, please consider making a gift to the seniors in need in your area.

Season's greetings and glad tidings to you all,

Leann Schaeffer
Board Chair, VANTAGE Aging



OUR YEAR IN REVIEW

324,622

Meals were delivered to the homes of 2,573 seniors.



184,187

Miles driven by Meals On Wheels volunteers across Stark, Summit, and Wayne Counties.



8,756

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



360 SCSEP Training Site Partners leveraged.

Our Work in 2021

WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS

In July of 2021, the Vantage SCSEP Program returned to in-person, hands-on job training at partner Training Sites throughout the state of Ohio. Job Seekers put the workplace techniques they learned during at-home training into practice and continued progress in their chosen Career Pathways.

Over the course of the past year, Vantage Aging advocated for the importance of **1:1 Navigation Services** for Job Seekers and received approval from Department of Labor to hire additional Navigator staff. The addition of these team members will enhance the Job Seeker experience and enable Vantage Aging to provide robust, wrap-around support throughout the employment training journey.



DIGITAL INCLUSION

The Vantage Aging Digital Inclusion Program surpassed both major programmatic goals set for the initial demonstration project period. Over **150 Job Seekers earned more than 1,300 skill-tested digital certifications** in workplace-based computer applications. By including these recently earned certifications on their resumes, Job Seekers will offset ageism in the hiring process by illustrating to potential employers that they are capable of leveraging technology on the job. Our graduates span a wide variety of demographic groups with success achieved across the board. And even more important than the certifications earned is the pride felt by the Job Seekers upon graduation. Through this innovative program, Vantage Aging has both qualitative and quantitative data to show that digital access and aptitude changes lives.



MEALS ON WHEELS OF NORTHEAST OHIO

This year, MOWNEO volunteers served **13,700 hours** and drove **184,187 miles** delivering meals to clients. Thank you to everyone for stepping up and making our mission a reality. The exciting new Food Truck pilot project was launched in Wayne County, delivering five frozen meals and a half gallon of milk to those who could pick up meals for a donation. This resulted in **13 events**, serving **179 unduplicated clients**, and providing **1,510 meals**. MOWNEO is pleased to announce that we have added Portage County to its service area. Together, with community partners and volunteers, MOWNEO continues to build empathy and compassion in support of NEO seniors.



AMERICORPS SENIORS PROGRAM

Vantage's AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP continued to develop strong connections in the communities the program serves. RSVP on-boarded over **100 new volunteers** and added an additional **30 volunteer stations**. RSVP now offers over **300 volunteer opportunities**, partners with over **100 nonprofits**, and has more than **250 volunteers** providing valuable services in the communities of Summit, Medina, Geauga, Wayne, Franklin, Delaware, and Hamilton Counties.



HOME WELLNESS SOLUTIONS

Home Wellness has been providing services since 1976 and is proud to continue to provide a much-needed service in our community. The program has started a new initiative, a virtual caregiver education program. It has had very positive feedback on the client satisfaction survey, from community partners, and from those who have attended programming. Home Wellness Solutions has a small but very dedicated team.



1,319

Skill-Tested Certifications were earned by 152 Digital Inclusion program graduates.

Community Partner Spotlights

NORTH CANTON MEDICAL FOUNDATION

The North Canton Medical Foundation is dedicated to being a partner in improving the health and wellness of our community through collaborations and financial support. The Foundation awarded Vantage with \$5,000 more than we asked for simply because they believed in our mission. We look forward to becoming more collaborative partners and are grateful for the Foundation helping us continue the work we do.



SUMMIT COUNTY PROBATE COURT

Judge Stormer's Summit County Probate Court has been a continued partner and advocate of Vantage Aging. In 2022, Vantage's AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP program partnered with Summit County Probate Court to recruit and train Senior Visitors. Over 2,600 adults are under guardianship in Summit County alone. These wards need visitors to be the extra eyes and ears to ensure their needs are being met throughout the year. Vantage's AmeriCorps Seniors and its volunteer members are happy to join Summit County Probate Court in its commitment to helping seniors feel heard and valued.



GAR FOUNDATION

GAR grants are awarded to organizations and programs that help Akron, Ohio become smarter, stronger, and more vibrant. The GAR Foundation is a crucial funder of Meals On Wheels NEO. We are thankful for their support and desire to invest in our mission to promote a positive perspective on aging and ensure our growing senior population is cared for.



Check Out Our 2023 Events

We can't wait to see you at our in-person and virtual events!

Caregiver Solutions

Join us each month in 2023 for need-to-know resources and a family caregiver community to connect with at virtual and in-person events.

An Evening of Aging with the Arts

This September, we invite you to view works from local artists and celebrate the beauty of aging.

March for Meals

Stand for more than just meals this March and join us in advocating for seniors' nutritional needs.

Helping Hands Raffle

A month-long raffle event in September with tons of great prizes to win - all proceeds go directly towards providing Meals On Wheels to those most in need.

787

Older Job Seekers completed focused career training to increase their marketability in the workforce.



251

RSVP volunteers met community needs at 107 Ohio organizations.



7,038

Meals served by RSVP volunteers in 7 Ohio Counties by AmeriCorps Seniors Volunteers

