

The Season of giving

HOLIDAY CHEER FEEDS LOCAL FAMILIES

The holidays provide a time to gather friends and family for celebration, gratitude, and the anticipation that a new year brings. We are fortunate to enjoy these special moments of celebration with those we love and reflect on all that we have to be thankful.

But we know this is not the holiday experience many in our community have. Many of our neighbors in need are seniors living on fixed incomes, families struggling to pay heating bills, veterans looking for work, and children going to bed without enough to eat.

For the past 36 years, we have worked together with Burger King, "Gold Country" WOBL 1320AM & 107.7FM, "Kool Kat" Oldies WDLW 1380AM & 98.9FM to raise funds during the holiday season.

Second Harvest provides millions of pounds of food annually to a network of over 112 partner charities throughout Lorain, Erie, Huron and Crawford counties. **For 36 years, Holiday** November 18th through December 24th

Cheer has helped provide millions of nutritious meals to families struggling to make ends meet during the holidays. It would not be possible without our generous community who supports Holiday Cheer each year.

We are asking for your support in a special way by making a donation to the 2019 Holiday Cheer effort. For every \$1 donated, Second Harvest is able to provide five meals.

How can you help?

- VISIT participating Burger King restaurants from November 18 through December 24 to donate in Lorain, Erie & Huron counties
- ONLINE donations accepted anytime at www. secondharvestfoodbank.org
- TUNE-IN to "Gold Country" WOBL 1320AM & 107.7FM, "Kool Kat" Oldies WDLW 1380AM & 98.9FM to hear stories from those who are helped, those who work at the pantries, soup kitchens and shelters and those who give.



Holiday Cheer is sponsored by Burger King, "Gold Country" WOBL 1320AM, "Kool Kat" Oldies WDLW 1380AM and Second Harvest.

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Valor Home Lorain County appreciates the support of the community. Donations are always needed



HOW YOU CAN HELP

Gift cards are the #1 needed items: Gas, Fast Food, Grocery, Department store (they take no storage space and can be used for what ever a Veteran needs) Mail to: Valor Home Lorain County Attention Sandra Wright 221 W 21st Street, Lorain, OH 44052

5	Lorain County Office On Aging								
	Subscribe now to Lorain County's best kept secret! Senior Years a monthly publication provided by								
	the Lorain County Office on Aging.								
Special One Time Offer for First time subscrib									
	\$10.00 for the first Year \$14.00 at the time of renewal								
Makes a Great Gift for Dad, Mom, Grandparents, Family & Friends!! Sign Up Today!!!									
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	Address								
	City	State	_ Zip						
	Phone	e mail							
	Make checks payable & mail to: Lorain County Office on Aging 320 N. Gateway Blvd., Second Floor, Elyria OH 44035								
7_	All New Subscriptions Are	Entered into a	Gift Card	Drawing!					

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Bringing accessible healthcare to the underserved

TO GET INVOLVED CALL... VOLUNTEERS ARE OUR DRIVING FORCE **440-277-6641**

WWW.LCFREECLINIC.ORG 5040 OBERLIN AVE, LORAIN



The LCOOA, Helping Older Adults Age Well at Home

The Lorain County Office on Aging (LCOOA), a non-profit organization located at 320 North Gateway Blvd. in Elyria, provides services to seniors such as homemaker, home delivered meals, transportation to medical appointments, and social work support services. We also have two food pantries, provide senior food boxes, Kinship Caregiver Services for grandparents and other relatives raising relative children, volunteer placement and congregate meal vouchers to eligible older adults in Lorain County.

The Retired Senior Volunteer Program needs volunteers throughout the year in varying capacities, however, **we urgently need volunteers to assist in delivering meals in the southern part of Lorain County. Call 440-647-0777.** We also need volunteers to help drive seniors to medical appointments. Call 440-326-4816.

As a non-profit, we rely on grants and the generosity of community members to support the great work we do for our older adults in Lorain County. Donations can be mailed or made to the organization on our website www.lcooa.org. With the continued growth of the older adult population, our programs and services are becoming that much more important to help our clients age well in the place they choose to call home. **LCOOA UPDATES**

Our food pantry needs non-perishable food items, canned goods (tuna), dry goods, peanut butter... Call 440-326-4800.

The annual LCOOA / RSVP holiday cookie sale is 8am, Friday December 6 at the Lorain County Administration building, 226 Middle Ave, Elyria and the Lorain County Justice Center Building, 225 Court Street, Elyria. Call 440-326-4816.

The Senior Years Newspaper has a special limited time introductory offer! First time subscribers can sign up for only \$10!!! Renewal rates are \$14. The Senior Years (a non-profit monthly publication provided by the LCOOA) contains pertinent information about today's health issues, recipes, current events, club news, senior services and is generously supported by local advertisers. MAKES A GREAT GIFT!! Sign up now and be entered into our gift card raffle!! See ad coupon on this page and mail today!

For more information about senior programs, volunteer or advertising opportunities and if you need assistance, please call 440-326-4800 or visit www.lcooa.org.

Happy Holidays!!

Lorain County Veterans Service Commission

The Lorain County Veterans Service Officers (VSO) serve as a liaison to the Department of Veteran's Affairs (VA). VSO's are gualified to advise and assist Veterans and their family members regarding possible benefits and/or obtaining aid from various federal, state, and local organizations. They process claims for Serviced Connected Compensation, Ohio War Orphan's Scholarship, Notice of Disagreements and Appeals, Non-Service Connected Pension for Wartime Vets, which include Aid & Attendance and Survivor's Pension. VSO's also submit application for burial benefits, military awards and medals, high school diploma's for Wartime Vets, upgrading and requesting discharge papers (DD 214), and requesting medical records.

The Service Office has flags and gravemarkers available. There is also a resource room available to their clients

with access to the internet. Printing, faxing and notary services are available as well.

Temporary financial assistance may be available to Veterans or their widow who show a need and meet eligibility requirements.

Transportation is provided for Veterans to their VA Medical Appointments in Wade Park & Parma and the VA Outpatient Clinic in Sheffield Village.

All services are free to Veterans of Lorain County only.

Please NOTE, we are not a branch of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Therefore we do not approve nor deny VA claims. NEVER FILE A CLAIM(S) ON YOUR OWN! Those wishing to inquire about VA benefits or entitlements may call (440) 284-4825 to setup an appointment. Our offices hours are Monday thru Friday 8:00a.m. until 4:00p.m.

Common signs of giving scams

Many people are excited by the prospects of supporting causes they care about. Charitable donations are how millions of people across the globe express such support, and many charities would not be able to function without donors.

Taking advantage of an opportunity to help others is fulfilling and exciting. It can be easy to get caught up in the emotion of giving let your guard down. Doing so opens prospective donors up to charitable fraud, which makes victims of both donors and the people and organizations they want to help. The Federal Trade Commission notes the following are some potential indicators of giving scams.

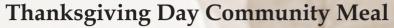
• Poor reports and ratings: Various organizations report on charities, sharing information about how they use donations and how successful their programs are. Give.org, GuideStar.org, CharityWatch.org, and CharityNavigator.org are some examples of organizations that vet and/or rate charities. Reports are accessible online, and donors should



utilize these before giving to ensure their dollars do the most good.

• Unusual payment requests: It's a big red flag if charities ask for donations via gift card or wire transfer, or if they insist donations be made over the phone. When making donations, the FTC strongly advises donors only submit payment via credit card or personal check. In addition, donors should simply hang up the phone if organizations insist on immediate

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Thursday, November 28, 2019

11 AM to 1 PM

Hosted by:

St. Elizabeth Center of Lorain

2726 Caroline Ave, Lorain OH 44052 Phone: (440) 242-0056

&

St. Frances Xavier Cabrini Catholic Parish 2143 Homewood Dr. Lorain, OH 44055

Phone: (440) 277-7266

For Anyone and Everyone!

for all those who find themselves alone on Thanksgiving or those who cannot prepare a meal for themselves

Volunteer sign-ups are coordinated by Saint Joseph Parish in Avon Lake please sign up in advance at StJosephAvonLake.org/Thanksgiving for link to sign-up genius.

"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful." Colossians 3:15 (NIV)

ALL ARE WELCOME!



1 in 7 children faces hunger.

There's more than enough food in America for every child who struggles with hunger. Help get kids the food they need by supporting Feeding America, the nationwide network of food banks. Together, we can solve hunger[™]. Join us at **FeedingAmerica.org**





Lorain County Community Foundation

Connecting people who care with causes that matter

The year 2020 marks the 40th anniversary of the Community Foundation of Lorain County. We've been our community's trusted partner in philanthropy since our inception, distributing more than \$100 million in grants and scholarships to help ensure the future strength of Lorain County. That's a lot to celebrate!

A common misconception about charitable giving is that *only people like the Rockefellers can be philanthropists*. Not true. Donations of all types and sizes can have a lasting impact on the world around us, especially when combined with the generosity of others through endowment.

Whatever your charitable interests may be or how much you're able to give, there's a chance to make a difference. Our field of interest funds allow donors to support broad areas of interest like **health and wellness**, **human services**, **animal welfare**, or **arts and culture**. A gift in any of these areas allows you to support a specific field over time, and the Community Foundation will ensure effective grantmaking as the needs arise. Another opportunity for broad-based philanthropy vital to the future of this community is giving through our **Touch the Future** fund. This fund was created in response to the increasing need for unrestricted dollars and allows us to address the most pressing and often changing needs of the county, both now and in the future. **Touch the Future** offers the greatest flexibility by creating a legacy that will grow and change with the times.

As we look to the future, we will always honor the past. The Community Foundation of Lorain County began when a group of community members set out to create an organization to **connect people who care with causes that matter**. We remain committed to that mission today, always listening to our donors and making their charitable intent our top priority.

For more information about how you can get involved with the Foundation, please contact Susan Poole, Development Officer, at 440-984-7390 or spoole@peoplewhocare.org.

GIVING SCAMS FROM PAGE 5

payments.

• Look-alikes: Some perpetrators of charitable fraud are successful because they set up charities with names that are only slightly different from reputable, widely recognized charities. Before making any donations, donors should make sure the charity they're giving to is the one they intend to help, and not a look-alike, fraudulent organization.

• Evasiveness about where donation dollars are going: Transparency is a good sign when it comes to gauging the reputation of charitable organizations. Reputable organizations. Reputable organizations should be willing to indicate exactly where you're donation dollars go. In fact, many take a proactive approach and include such information on their websites. Reconsider donating to any organization that appears hesitant to share how donation dollars are spent.

• Online donations: While most organizations allow donors to submit donations via their websites, before donating online, check the fine print to determine how much of your donation is going toward fees or other charges. Excessive fees is not necessarily indicative of fraud, but they can divert money from the cause you're hoping to help. Donating via personal check or over the phone using a credit card may ensure more of your money goes to the cause and not the cost of maintaining a website and processing online donations.

Recognizing signs of charitable fraud can help donors donate wisely. More information about charitable fraud is available at www.consumer.ftc.gov.



Founded in 1980, the Community Foundation of Lorain County is made up of more than 660 endowment funds valued at approximately \$130M. We wisely invest the funds' assets and the interest earned provides \$6M annually in scholarships and grants to support individual and nonprofit organizations in Lorain County. A gift to the Community Foundation is unlike any other gift as it will continue to grow and have lasting impact on our community . . . forever.

Interested in learning more about establishing your own fund or recognizing a loved one? Find out how: **Peoplewhocare.org/give or call 440-984-7390**



The Valor Home of Lorain County To support homeless veterans in our community

Valor Home was funded in 2010 by grants and donations. Navy Cross Veteran Sam Felton along with Veterans Dan Gillotti, Don Attie and others had a huge part in making Valor home a reality. On December 22, 2014 we opened our doors. Since our opening we have had 325 residents stay with us.

The Valor Home of Lorain County is a transitional housing program for homeless male veterans. We help our residents through structured and engaging therapies such as art, music and life skills therapy on-site four days a week. Our support workers offer advocacy and encouragement to our residents.

Valor Home Lorain is a drug-free, alcohol-free, and smoke-free facility. Valor Home provides support services to residents both on-site and in the community. Each resident is assigned a support worker. Daily routine includes self-improvement activities, exercises in self-sufficiency and personal time.

ELIGIBILITY

Must be a male veteran At least 18 years of age Able to live in an environment with people from a variety of backgrounds, sexual orientations, race, color, cultures, disabilities and ages Veteran must be at or below 35%

of area median income

PROGRAM MISSION

To support homeless veterans in our community in their efforts to achieve greater self-sufficiency, including the ability to secure and maintain permanent housing.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Gift cards are the #1 needed items: Gas, Fast Food, Grocery, Department store (they take no storage space and can be used for what ever a Veteran needs).

Mail to :

Valor Home Lorain County Attention Sandra Wright 221 W. 21st Street Lorain, OH 44052 Those Wishing to Adopt a Veteran Family For the Holidays Please Call: Valerie Rafferty 440-670-6362 or 855-234-7310

We were Blessed in 2018 to open the very first Women Veterans housing in Lorain county. The property has 3 apartments for Female Veterans. Thanks to UAW Local 2000 volunteering labor, private donors and a grant from the Ohio attorney generals office this project was done in record time.



Your Goodwill® purchases fund job training and more in your community. Yet another reason to say "yes" to that statement bag you found.





Bringing Communities Together

(Family Features) It's important today to find ways to connect with others to help deepen your understanding of those around you. In a time when differences seem to dominate today's culture, it can help to find similarities, draw connections and bridge worlds.

From community leaders and organizations to embassies and consulates, cultural events and programs are popping up in communities across the country in unexpected ways. For example, Germany is wrapping up a year-long campaign called Wunderbar Together, a Year of German-American Friendship that was designed to bring diplomacy from Washington's K street to America's main streets. This effort, funded by the German Federal Foreign Office, implemented by the Goethe-Institut and supported by the Federation of German Industries (BDI), brought together more than 400 partners in an effort to strengthen existing networks while also bringing more Americans into the dialogue about the German-American relationship.

"The German-American friendship is built on myriad personal connec-

Thank

You!

tions that span the Atlantic - centuries-old family ties and new friendships, twin towns and sister cities and friendships between schools and universities," said German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier. "Recently, thanks to Wunderbar Together, many people in the two countries have added thousands of new snapshots depicting this friendship - pictures that were taken pretty much every second at more than 2,000 events in all 50 states."

The campaign reached 560 communities. On top of the more than 1 million attendees reached in-person, Wunderbar Together also built a multifaceted, strong digital presence that engaged 10.1 million users online and secured approximately 235 million impressions across traditional media and owned social media channels.

Events and opportunities that bring together communities and cultures is not unique to this campaign. For example, people in communities across the country experience other cultures through initiatives like sister city programs, cultural moments like Chinese New Year and food festivals in cities like Chicago exploring everything



from Polish to Puerto Rican delicacies. If you're looking for ideas to introduce your family to other cultures, keep an eye out for opportunities like these in your own community:

Cultural festivals and traveling exhibits. Events that celebrate the traditions of a particular group, country or region take place all over the country. Cultural festivals and traveling exhibits can provide a unique perspective on a specific subject and offer the opportunity to sample traditional foods, hear unfamiliar languages and observe games or demonstrations for various crafts and skills. For example, the Wunderbar Together PopUp Tour

combined a culture tent with mobile presentation modules and various flexible pop-up edutainment elements. Programs ranged from business conferences, science slams, art exhibits and concerts to interactive. student-focused events. Guests got to taste authentic German food, watch live streams of Germany's premier professional soccer league, learn from a decked-out WanderbUS equipped with German language activities and get immersed in the arts and sciences through events like "Science is Fun" and Circus Mojo workshops. You can expect to learn a great deal about a

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Mary Lee Tucker Clothe-A-Child Needs YOUR HELP!

Your donation goes to buy warm school clothing, coats, shoes, and boots for children in our area who are in need. Please consider Donating as part of your holiday giving.

Donate online at www.morningjournal.com/clotheachild

Mail your donations to: The Mary Lee Tucker Clothe-a-Child Program, c/o The Morning Journal, 2500 W. Erie Ave., Lorain, OH 44053

8th Annual International Tree & Model Train Display

Black River Transportation Center 421 Black River Lane, Lorain

> Fridays & Saturdays 5 – 9pm Sundays 3 – 7 pm Nov. 30th – Dec. 29th

FREE TO THE PUBLIC

*** Donations Appreciated ***

Sponsored By Main Street Lorain/LGC Tourism Committee Lorain Port Authority www.loraintourism.com

FOR EVERY DOLLAR DONATED, \$12 IN MEDICAL CARE IS PROVIDED FOR PRIMARY AND SPECIALTY CARE, MEDICATIONS, DIAGNOSTIC TESTING AND IMAGING.

The holiday season is a time for reflection and a time to give thanks for the many blessings we receive throughout the year. At the Lorain County Free Clinic, we're grateful for the support from our donor friends and volunteer medical providers who help make a difference, one patient at a time.

As you think about how you might give to others, will you consider a gift to the Lorain County Free Clinic? Your support will help our exceptional, all volunteer medical team open pathways to wellness, fill gaps for the most economically vulnerable, and help patients navigate a very difficult healthcare terrain.

In this season when we give thanks for all that we have, and celebrate the universal spirit of peace and hope, we invite you to help us meet one of the most basic needs of all, good health.



Paul Baumgartner Executive Director

This Holiday Season, you can Give the Gift of Good Health, right here in Lorain County

My Donation:	[] \$1,000	□ \$500	□ \$250	[] \$100	[] Other \$				
Made in 📋 Memory of 📋 Honor of:									
Send Acknowledgment to:									
Email:									

Donate online at www.lcfreeclinic.org

	Find us on Facebook	
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Ken's Story

Many patients struggle with tough choices, unable to afford the rising costs of health insurance. The Free Clinic brings healing and hope to those often overwhelmed with burdens, treating each patient with respect, compassion and dignity.

When Ken came to the Free Clinic, he had difficulty breathing, along with significant weight loss. Although employed as a painter, this was the first time in six years that Ken was seen by a medical professional, due to lack of insurance. A battery of tests were ordered, and Ken was given medications including inhalers and a nebulizer machine. When an abnormal CT scan revealed stage 4 cancer, Ken was assisted by Free Clinic staff, so he could see an oncologist. Ken received efficient, comprehensive care, and was given the medications, support and guidance to treat his illness. The Free Clinic staff assisted Ken in obtaining Medicare /Medicaid, and the clinic continued to provide him with medications not covered by his insurance plan.

With a caring, compassionate community, and generous donors like yourself, supporting the Lorain County Free Clinic gives patients like Ken, a place to turn for care, comfort and hope by our devoted staff and incredible volunteer medical providers from our three hospital systems.

Your Gift of Good Health and Wellness this Holiday Season would be a tremendous help!

TOGETHER FROM PAGE 8

culture while you see and experience it first-hand. Museums. A more formal setting like a museum offers a wealth of information with displays, artifacts and often a deep look at the history of a subject, such as a historical event, location or population. Museums continually update their collections, and new programs and lectures can help give you insight into new artists, cultures and traditions. For example, a new exhibition at the New Museum in New York City, "Hans Haacke: All Connected," is one way to experience the work of a German artist in the United States. In addition to identifying museums that pique your interest in your own com munity, be sure to look into museums you might be able to visit when you're traveling for business or pleasure, as well as rotating installations through museums' temporary exhibit spaces.

Historical landmarks. All over the world, there are landmarks dedicated to explaining pivotal moments in history and the ways these events affected the people and communities nearby. Some landmarks are as basic as a monument on the side of a highway while others are entire buildings dedicated to explaining the impact of a single event or series of events. Monuments and historical landmarks can also serve as public convening areas and place for events. For example, to kick off the Year of German-American Friendship, four-time break-dance world champions from Berlin, The Flying Steps, held a special performance at one of the nation's most iconic landmarks: the Lincoln Memorial.

Restaurants and food trucks. Food may be the way to win over someone's heart, but it's also a way to understand another culture. Learning about traditional dishes and customs surrounding such an essential aspect of daily life can give you a strong sense of the values and a literal flavor for an unfamiliar lifestyle. The explosion of food trucks, many of which offer traditional foods from countries around the world, provide opportunities to sample food you may never have had access to before.

Performance arts and film. Artistic expression can be found among virtually every community. From theater and dance to art gallery shows and musical concerts, there's essentially no shortage of ways to connect communities through the arts. Attending shows or watching films that emphasize cultural education and celebrate diverse perspectives can help open your mind and teach you about new subjects or cultures. Film festivals are a way to experience new types of movies and directors, such as the annual German Currents Film Festival that has become a fixture on the cultural calendar in Los Angeles and is known for screening films from Germany, ranging from art-house films to blockbusters and children's matinees to late-night movies.

'Tis the Season to Give Thanks To Blood Donors!

As Thanksgiving approaches, the staff at Vitalant (formerly LifeShare Community Blood Services) have been reflecting upon the things we are thankful for. Topping our list are the generous volunteer blood donors we work with on a regular basis to keep the blood supply stable for patients here in Northeast Ohio. Because donors are eligible to give whole blood every 8 weeks or platelets every 2 weeks, we tend to develop relationships with our regular blood donors. We know their names, their families, and their hobbies. We live vicariously through their weekend plans, celebrate milestones with them, and sadly, memorialize some of our favorite blood donors as they pass on. This year, we grieve the loss of William T. Dalton, a dedicated platelet donor at our Elyria donation center with more than 600 donations in his lifetime.

Second on our list are the schools, companies, churches, and community organizations who host more than 1,200 mobile blood drives each year. We applaud your dedication to the Northeast Ohio blood supply, and thank you for encouraging your students, employees, and members to graciously give of themselves.

Blood components are used for various medical treatments in the community. Most commonly,

blood is used to treat trauma such as car accidents or gun violence, cancer, aneurysms, premature birth complications, sickle cell anemia, burn injuries, and is used to assist in surgeries. Every two seconds, someone in the United States requires a blood transfusion. As a volunteer blood donor, you can make a difference in their treatment – often the difference between life and death.

As we give thanks this year, we are asking our friends and family to give blood in honor of Mr. Dalton and those in the community who desperately need blood products as part of their medical treatments. Vitalant operates three Donation Centers in Northeast Ohio (Elyria, Middleburg Heights, and Canton) in addition to more than 1,200 mobile blood drives each year. If you're interested in finding out more about donating blood, or to make an appointment, visit www.vitalant.org.



Pearl Avenue - East 28th to East 3lst

Decorated ôtorefront • Holiday Lights • Holiday Music Horse Drawn Carriage Rides • ôecret ôanta ôhop • Visit with ôanta Food Trucks • Petting Zoo • Heroes United • ôanta Pole Decorations





Give Thanks, Give Blood

Receive a \$20 Giant Eagle gift card when you give blood at a Vitalant Donation Center, Nov. 15 – Nov 30.

ELYRIA DONATION CENTER | 710 Leona Street





1-877-25-VITAL | vitalant.org

Attention Veterans SERVICES ARE PROVIDED FREE OF CHARGE **TO VETERANS OF LORAIN COUNTY**

VA CLAIMS ASSISTANCE Service Officers advise/assist Vets and their family of their rights and/or obtaining possible benefits through the VA, the State of Ohio and Lorain County.

TEMPORARY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE may be available to Veterans or their widow who show a need and meet eligibility requirements. Applications are by appointment only.

RESOURCE ROOM Veterans have access to computers, printer, fax and notary.

TRANSPORTATION TO VA MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS A morning shuttle is available to Wade Park & Parma. Home pick-ups are provided to VA Clinic in Sheffield Village. Availability is on a first-come, first-served basis. Wheelchair accessible service is available.

TO SCHEDULE A RIDE CALL 440-284-4624

LORAIN COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE 1230 N. Abbe Road, Elyria, OH 44035

440.652.2943

eterans

www.LorainCountyVeterans.com

