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AMHERST

GIVING BACK TO HER COMMUNITY

79-year-old has been volunteering for about 55 years along with her husband

By Khadija Smith

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Giving back to the community is all Helga Papay knows

The 79-year-old Amherst resident has been volunteering for about 55 years with her husband, 80-year-old Richard. They have volunteered for St. Joseph Catholic Church, St. Joseph Parish School, and for the Office on Aging in Amherst.

Helga is a homemaker, which she has done for 59 years while her husband worked at Ford Lorain Assembly for 37 years before retiring in 1995.

"After Richard retired, we needed something to do," Helga said. "We were at a Jamboree in Amherst and we saw a sign and thought it would be nice to help out, so we signed up."

Helga has been volunteering for the Office on Aging for about 20 years. They help out with transporting meals to people who are not



ERIC BONZAR — THE MORNING JOURNAL

Helga Papay, 79, and her husband Richard Papay, 80, have been volunteering for the Office of Aging in Amherst, 621 Cleveland Ave., for about 20 years.



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AMHERST

GOING STRONG

At 87, Doris Lyle is still volunteering

By Kevin Martin

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Doris Lyle has been vol-Office on Aging for more than 10 years.

What began as a way to passion for helping seniors. in Amherst," she said.

"I think the Meals on of good because a lot of people are housebound for one very fortunate," Lyle said.

Because the office is lo-Meals on Wheels once per week and is planning to stay active as long as she little town that was just becan.

"I wanted something to do and I wanted something that my husband could do with me," she recalled. "It is right around the block four daughters who live in so it was kind of a natural thing.

Lyle was married for 60 years to her husband, Gene, who was a history and psyfor nearly 50 years. She was a math and chemistry teacher for 25 years in Amfive children.

"We had a wonderful nity to keep them engaged life," she said. "We had five in the community. children and they all grew up to be wonderful people to volunteer around older and that is all you could

herst since 1951 after get- whether it is the library, ting married and relocat- the Amherst Historical Moving to Amherst was the

small town and the experience did not come without its adjustments.

"I'm afraid that many of unteering with the Amherst the people thought I was quite scandalous because I thought nothing at all of going uptown in my shorts for stay active evolved into a an event, but it wasn't done

Lyle is amazed at the Wheels program does a lot amount of growth the area has experienced over the past few decades. In the reason or another and I am early 1950s Lyle remembers Amherst being a town of approximately 3,000 peocal, Lyle volunteers with ple with specialty stores for everything.

"It was a self-sufficient ginning to becoming a suburb when we came here,"

Apart from her work with Meals on Wheels, Lyle has the Amherst area and has nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

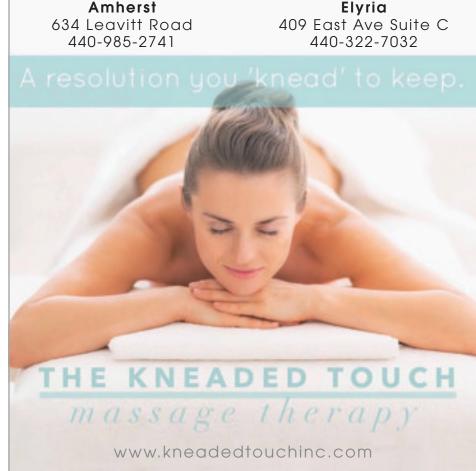
Director of Amherst Office on Aging Nina Loranchology teacher in the area deau is grateful for the dedication of their volunteers. She says that the Meals on Wheels program allows herst while also raising her many of her clients to get visitors that would not oth-Her husband died in 2011. erwise and is an opportu-

"Not everybody is happy people, but there are so many opportunities to vol-Lyle, 87, has lived in Am- unteer around this city **STRONG » PAGE 4** 10 years.



ing to the area from Akron. Society or in the school Doris Lyle has been volunteering with the Meals on Wheels program through the Amherst Office on Aging for more than









AMHERST



Volunteer Tom Jewell, 70, Amherst, reaches for bottles of water to wipe with sanitizer and load into crates Jan. 24 at Second Harvest Food Bank of North Central Ohio, 5510

Full planner, full life

Resident does volunteer work throughout community

By Carol Harper

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Decades ago Tom Jewell discovered a secret ner at the helm, he said. while building, offering hospitality and mowing lawns for others.

By giving, he enriched his own life.

terial planner position and logging more than 44 years at Nordson Corp. in Amherst, Jewell developed a habit of plugging blocks of free time with board of directors and served for 25 years, chairacts of service.

"I think everybody should volunteer if they're able to do it healthwise and timewise," Jewell said. vide a safe environment for someone to live in," volunteers as well as the recipient of the volunteering."

said she sees Jewell all over the community.

"One time I knew of this elderly couple who needed help raking their leaves," Wasilk said. "So I called Tom (Jewell) and said, 'Do you know of anybody who could help these people rake their leaves?' The next thing I know, Tom is out there raking the leaves himself."

When hearing Wasilk's comments, Jewell smiled and said he did not realize anyone was watching.

He spent a day raking and bagging leaves that through Amherst Office on Aging. had fallen after the cutoff of city leaf pickup. The leaves blew into the street and clogged drains, he said.

Born and raised in Amherst, 70-year-old Jewell first rolled up his sleeves for others in 1988 in a Nordson Employee Volunteer Program.

"That's how I got involved at Second Harvest Food Bank," said Jewell, adding he sorts boxes and cans of food, ensuring secure packages and unex-

pired dates. "Every can in a box helps a hungry person have a meal."

At the time he started with the organization, it was called "County Cupboard" with Paul Baumgart-

He's also very involved at Amherst Congregational Church of Christ, serving as a clerk.

"In 1988 a letter came to our church, inviting After retiring about eight years ago from a ma- churches in our county to meet in Oberlin to start

an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity," Jewell said. With mostly women involved, he signed on to the

ing committees and managing a Restore in Lorain. "I knew a house I helped build was going to pro-"I think volunteering is good for the person who Jewell said. "I used to love the Habitat home build-

ing. We started building houses in 1990.' As they hammered on the almost 50 homes, they Amherst City Councilwoman Jennifer Wasilk built friendships, he said. And some families managed their affairs exactly as the board of directors hoped: They lived in the Habitat home for a number of years, improved their lives and moved up to a better home, he said.

Some people need care through recuperation from an accident or illness, or because of dwindling mobility, he said.

Every Friday Jewell delivers Meals on Wheels to eight households with difficulty preparing food

"They have a lot of senior citizens who need rides," Jewell said. "I started doing that on a regular basis."

He also mows five to seven lawns and performs other yard work on a weekly basis from spring through fall, he said, adding he visits an aunt seven days a week.

"I just started falling in and doing this type of PLANNER » PAGE 4



Lowell Brumby, 73, Elyria, left, and Tom Jewell, 70, Amherst, sanitize bottles of water and pack them into crates Jan. 24, at Second Harvest Food Bank of North Central Ohio, 5510 Baumhart Road, Lorain. A retired pipefitter, Brumby has volunteered for several months at the food distribution warehouse. Jewell began volunteering in 1992 at the County Cupboard which became Second Harvest, he said.

"I think everybody should volunteer if they're able to do it healthwise and timewise. I think volunteering is good for the person who volunteers as well as the recipient of the volunteering."

— Tom Jewell



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FROM PAGE 3

stuff and adding things as I'm able," Jewell said. "Senior citizens think, 'I'm old. I should sit in my chair.' I don't think people should out and volunteer.

"About 20 years ago, now, I met a friend who doing it," he said. "I go to worked at St. Augustine on (14th) Street in Cleveland," Jewell said. "They're a main distributor of food in Cuyahoga County. I head he donated blood durthe program up on big holidays, three days a year. I'm not even Catholic."

More than 20 years ago, Jewell joined with other churches during annual CROP Walks for a Church Rural Overseas Program to raise money for food for refugees and people in wartorn countries, he said. The route shortened from six to three miles, but they still walk, he said.

poor) walk," Jewell said. 'We're concerned about people. This raises funds and awareness. And 100 percent of the money raised on our CROP Walk is doubled by Nordson Corp. We joy it."

raised \$3,200 last year and it was doubled. And 25 percent of the money comes back to the Amherst Food Pantry, so that's a good

One of Jewell's favorite assignments is offering hospitality through Comfort Rounds at University do that. They should come Hospitals Elyria Medical

> "There are six people still the fifth floor and offer water, juice and refreshments to patients and visitors."

> For years at Nordson, ing drives. Now every two weeks he donates platelets to help leukemia patients through Lifeshare Community Blood Services in

> When the planner is full, saying, "No," is part of the process. Sometimes Jewell declines a volunteering opportunity, he said, but not

"I just saw the need and I have the energy and pas-"We walk because (the sion to help others," Jewell said. "If I have the availability and time, I should do it. I think everybody should help others, and I've been blessed over the years. I'm able to do this, and I en-



CAROL HARPER — THE MORNING JOURNAL

Tom Jewell, 70, Amherst, wipes bottles of water with sanitizer before filling a tub with them and sending them down a roller conveyor to be sorted into boxes for hungry families. The warehouse at Second Harvest Food Bank of North Central Ohio, 5510 Baumhart Road, Lorain, distributes food to area food pantries.

Giving

FROM PAGE 1

able to get around and also transport patients for dialysis as well as other medical appointments.

The number of homes they deliver to can vary depending on availability of volunteers, but Helga delivers usually about eight to

12 meals on Fridays. "We deliver food on Fridays to people who are medical appointments if them a ride."

own cars to transport their routes," she said. "We we are the only faces they meals, Helga gives tours way we will do."

"Sometimes we even sit and talk with them because at times we are the only faces they see all day, sometimes even all week."

- Helga Papay, Amherst resident and volunteer

meals and have trans- have no problem picking meals they deliver are to help.' within Amherst.

home bound, and we have volunteers on Fridays she the people she has come in transported patients to is willing to step up to volunteer on other days when they have no one else to needed by the Office on Ag- are absolutely wonder- called. "We end up finding

ported meals just about up others routes because anywhere in Lorain we know things happen or County, but most of the come up, we are just happy

Helga says the reason Although, Helga only she keeps volunteering is contact with.

take them," she said. "They ing.

Tul, everybody becomes people get friend," she said. "Sometimes people get times we even sit and talk ful, everybody becomes a out that she had passed out sick, or have doctors ap- times we even sit and talk saved her." The couple uses their pointments so we pick with them because at times

see all day, sometimes even at the Lighthouse in June, all week.

"They look forward to seeing us and we look forward to seeing them," Helga said.

With over 50 years of volunteering, her most memorable experience is how she and her husband the trains. saved a life while delivering meals to a patient.

One day we were delivering a meal to a lady who lived in a trailer home and we heard her dog barking uncontrollably so we Aging to get in touch with "The people that we help her next of kin," she refrom diabetic shock. We

Other than delivering

July and August and sets up a table with collectable trains at Lorain Winter Fest

Richard collects trains and she enjoys going to downtown Amherst to help her husband display

Helga and her husband plan to keep volunteering for as long as they can. The biggest part to that is to keeping a smile while helping others, she said.

We don't have time to reached out the Office on just sit around and mope, and it keeps us busy," Helga

> "We just keep going with a big smile, the most important part is help the people and keep smiling.

"Whatever comes our

Strong

FROM PAGE 2

system. Volunteers make everything happen," Lorandeau says.

The Amherst Office on Aging provides a number of support services for seniors including Meals on Wheels, providing transportation for appointments and shopping as well as additional services providing legal and financial assistance.

According to their website the Amherst Office on Aging supports and evaluates policies that affect the quality of life for older adults. Their goal is to help them maintain independence and freedom to live with dignity.

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