

BROOKLYN SENIOR CENTER 2016 ANNUAL REPORT



February 1, 2017

Mayor Katherine Gallagher
Members of Brooklyn City Council
Brooklyn, Ohio 44144

Dear Mayor Gallagher and Council Members:

The following is the 2016 annual report for the Brooklyn Senior Center.

This report contains information regarding the staff, advisory council, volunteers and members.

Also included are statistics on the many services, programs and activities that are offered to our senior residents.

This year has certainly been a year of learning for me since being assigned Coordinator. I have tried to reach out to our resident seniors to better understand their needs and desires. I have taken the information they so readily gave and offered them some additional fun activities such as game days, prize giveaways, and day trips to local attractions. These activities I believe were very well received. My plan is to continue to look for more of these types of fun activities in 2017 as well as ways to educate them and provide services they need, all while trying to trim and save money like we did with our "Meals on Wheels" program and "Chit Chat" newsletter this year.

I welcome all of your feedback and look forward to working with you in serving the senior community in Brooklyn.

Sincerely,

Karen Fratto
Coordinator
BROOKLYN SENIOR CENTER
CITY OF BROOKLYN, OHIO

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STAFF

- 1 Coordinator
- 1 Clerk – Meals-on-Wheels (AFSCME)
- 1 Van Driver (Local Union #1099)
- 1 Ceramics Instructor – (up to Twenty-Four hours per week)
- 1 Part-time cook – (up to Twenty-Four hours per week)
- 1 Quilting instructor – (Three and one-half hours per week)
- 1 Craft Instructor – (Five Hours per week)

ADVISORY BOARD

The Advisory Board of seven adults, over 55, appointed at large by the Mayor representing various senior citizen groups in the community. The Senior Center Advisory Board meets on a monthly basis to discuss, as needed, any upcoming programs or activities. They also share any positive and/or negative comments (suggestions) from members in the organization.

VOLUNTEERS:

- Blood Pressure Program
- Bocce Ball Committee
- Ceramics Program
- Chit Chat Newsletter
- Crafts for Corner Store
- Health Screenings
- Income Tax Assistance
- Indoor Garage Sale
- Librarian
- Pancake Breakfast
- Quilting Group
- Reception Desk Workers
- Special Event Workers
- Sports - Tournaments
- Travel Coordinator
- Volunteer Hour - Record Keeper
- Weekly Meals Crew (Thursday, Luncheon & Tuesday, Soup & Sandwich)

TOTAL NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS: 52 active volunteers

TOTAL NUMBER OF VOLUNTEER HOURS: 4,921

SERVICES AVAILABLE AT THE SENIOR CENTER

- Absentee Voter Applications
- “Are You OK?” Program
- AARP Safe Driver Course
- AARP no cost Tax Service
- Blood Pressure Screenings
- Blood Sugar Screenings
- Cholesterol Screenings
- Computers Available
- Coupon Exchange
- Current Books and Magazines on Health, Travel, Hobbies and Fiction
- Energy Assistance Applications
- Flu and Pneumonia Shots
- Golden Buckeye Applications
- Handicapped Parking Permit Applications
- Hearing Screening
- Helping Hands Assistance File
- Homebound Meals (long term program)
- Homestead Exemption and H.E.A.P. forms
- Income Tax Assistance (AARP)
- Large-type Reading Material in our Library
- Meals on Wheels
- Medicare Assistance
- Notary Services
- Power of Attorney and Living Will Forms
- Skin Cancer Screening
- Snow Removal
- Social Security and Medicare Handbooks
- Social Work Information and Referral Service
- Speakers on Health and Other Current Self-Help Topics
- Transportation - Senior Center Bus and Car
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Wheelchairs, Walkers, Canes and Crutches are available
- Xerox Copies (.10¢ per copy)

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES & PROGRAMS OFFERED BY THE CENTER

- Afternoon Films
- Art Classes
- Bingo
- Bocce Ball (Men and Women's Leagues)
- Book Review
- Card Games
- Ceramics
- Corner Store Crafts
- Crocheting & Knitting
- Dominoes
- Exercise
- Flower Arranging
- Indoor Garage Sales
- Line Dancing (Friday)
- Pool Playing & Tournaments
- Post Office-on-Wheels
- Program Speakers & Demonstrations
- Quilting
- Special Events (Dances, Women's Tea, Picnic's)
- Senior Olympics
- Sewing
- Speakers
- Soup and Sandwich Meal
- Tai Chi
- Television and VCR
- Trips
- Walking Program
- Weekly Luncheon Meal
- Wii Bowling and other sports games
- Zumba®

HOMEBOUND MEAL PROGRAM

The new 2016 Homebound Meal Program is an ongoing weekday meal delivery to qualifying Brooklyn residents. Meals are intended for persons over 60, not able to leave their home due to chronic illness, inability to drive, or inability to prepare meals safely for themselves. It is not intended to be a substitute for family care; therefore, it is for persons who have NO family living in the home or locally. This meal is prepared by the kitchen of the Senior Citizen Resource Center, located at 3100 Devonshire Rd, Cleveland, Ohio. It is a government subsidized program that is paid for by donations by the receiving resident. The recipient of the meals, or his/her family, decides on a donation amount. The suggested donation is \$1.00 per day. The donation goes directly to Senior Citizen Resources in an envelope they provide the recipients once a week.

The meal consists of a hot dinner, a fresh piece of fruit, two milks and piece of bread or a roll. It is delivered Monday through Friday, between 10 a.m. and noon. **Service started on September 19, 2016** and was well received by all so far. We have delivered 350 meals.

We have recruited volunteer to deliver the meals and so far have them deliver 3 days out of the five. We are actively recruiting more volunteers but until we have more Kathy Messeri delivers them the other 2 days.

The figures below are from the **2016** Homebound Meal Program where it was provided by Parma Hospital. Through this previous program the meal had a daily cost of \$7.00 per day to recipients. Parma Hospital would receive \$5.50 of this daily amount, with the Brooklyn Senior Center receiving \$1.50 per day, per meal. The meal through Parma Hospital consisted of a sandwich for lunch, fresh fruit, milk and a frozen dinner. Parma Hospital increased the cost of the daily meal to over \$8.00 which was very costly to our residents, most of which are on fixed incomes. This resulted in the decision to go with the donation program through Senior Citizen Resource Center as it was more cost effective for the residents and still provides a basic, nutritious meal.

Totals for 2016:

Homebound Meals Delivered: UH Parma Hospital Meal:	962
Homebound Meals Senior Citizen Resource Meals Delivered:	<u>350</u>
Total:	1,312

Parma Hospital received:	\$5,291.00
Brooklyn Senior Center received:	<u>1,443.00</u>
Total 2016	\$6,734.00

SNOW REMOVAL PROGRAM

Snow removal sign-up was held the first three weeks in September. The cost for the program was \$40.00 per person and an income guideline was instituted for new applicants only.

Guidelines are as follows:

- \$36,300 for one person in the household;
- \$41,500 for two people;
- \$46,650 for three.

If a resident is unable to come into the Senior Center because of illness, provisions are made for a "house-call" Anyone signing up after the initial registration time will be subject to a late fee of \$15.00, unless previous arrangements were made.

CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING CITY SNOW REMOVAL SERVICE

- Resident and all other occupants of your household must be 65 years of age or older;
- Residents meet income guidelines per Ordinance #2009-60 (listed above)
- Resident must own the single family home they live in;
- Current property Tax Bill must be presented;
- The driveway must be solid, no grass strip or gravel down the center of the driveway;
- Resident must agree to release the City, its servants, agents, and employees from any liability arising out of the removal of snow from their driveway.

333 HOUSEHOLDS RECEIVED THIS SERVICE in 2016

PRIVATE SNOW AND GRASS SERVICE

The Senior Center also provides the names of people who shovel snow and cut grass. We supply the names of contractors with snowplowing or grass cutting for those who, for various reasons (age, etc.), do not qualify for the Snow Removal Program. Fees are charged by contractors and **must** be pre-arranged between contractors and resident.

PEOPLE SIGNING IN AT THE CENTER FOR PROGRAMS AND/OR SERVICES

Located at the front reception desk is a daily sign-in sheet. We ask participants to sign in when they enter the building. This also helps us to track the usage of the **various programs**. **Unfortunately, it's not 100% accurate as we have the sign in sheet at the front desk so many times they enter through the back door and do not sign in. When it is a major activity we try to have the sign in sheets there for them in the particular class / activity or in dining area.**

Brooklyn Residents using the Senior / Community Center in 2016	7,506
Non - Residents using the Senior / Community Center in 2016	6,935
Unmarked for resident or non-resident	<u>1,092</u>
<i>Total for 2016</i>	15,533

NEWSLETTER / Chit Chat

We are proud of our bi-monthly mailing of newsletter "Chit Chat" which is mailed to 900 Brooklyn resident seniors at no cost. Non-residents may come into the Center and purchase a copy for **50** cents.

This year we changed the process a bit, and now we use a company named LPI that prints and delivers the newsletter to us free of charge. LPI solicits local businesses that advertise to defray the cost of the publication. It is in color now and much nicer looking. We no longer have to print on the ancient duplicator machine, which has saved the city on paper, ink, and time. Not to mention all the time it used to take with assembly. It now comes collated and folded.

INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE

Income tax assistance is provided by AARP and offered to all seniors regardless of income. Starting in February 1st thru April 12th, volunteers are here Mondays and Wednesdays to provide this **free** tax service. It is made available to all age groups, but primarily services are to seniors. Electronic filing is also offered.

Taxes prepared in 2016 - 414

"ARE YOU O.K.?"

This program is a daily call from the Police Department (Dispatchers) to Brooklyn residents who have signed up requesting this daily call, at a designated time of their choosing. If he or she doesn't answer the phone, the Dispatcher will call back in 15 minutes. If there is still no answer, an emergency contact person, named by the resident, will be called to get a key to enter their home to see if they are in distress. If all of the above safety measures fail, the Police and Fire Departments will be dispatched to the resident's home.

HEALTH SCREENINGS

The Center continues to offer a variety of health screenings as they are made available by various health organizations: Lutheran Hospital, UH Parma Hospital, Metro Health Center, Life-line Screening Inc., and L.A. Christner Hearing Inc. Some of the screenings are free and others have a minimum fee. We actively pursue as many free or low cost screenings as possible.

Health care workers speak on various topics of interest to seniors as well as community residents. Over **300** residents attended the various lectures and over **640** took advantage of the screenings listed below:

Bone Density	Hearing Screening
Blood Sugar	Life Line Screening
Cholesterol	Flu Shots
Pneumonia Vaccine	Glaucoma/Vision

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS

- UH Parma Hospital comes once a month on the first Thursdays from 9:30a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- The Brooklyn Paramedics screen the second and fourth Thursday of the month.
- Greenbrier Senior Care sends a nurse once a month on 2nd Tuesday of the month

TUESDAY SOUP & SANDWICH

On Tuesdays, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., soup and sandwich is available for **\$3.50**. During the summer months, cold salads and sandwiches are served. This menu is planned for two months at a time. Last year we served **1,225 meals**.

THURSDAY LUNCHEONS

The Senior Center offers a luncheon on Thursdays. The cost of this full course meal is **\$6.00**. This menu is also planned for two months at a time. Last year **1,794 meals were served**.

TRANSPORTATION WITH THE SENIOR VAN

Door-to- door transportation is provided to Brooklyn residents who are 55 years of age or older and do not drive. Also included are handicapped or disabled persons, regardless of age. The van is in service Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Service is provided for medical appointments, shopping, personal errands and activities at the Senior Center or Recreation Center.

PASSENGER CLASSIFICATIONS:

TRIP PURPOSES:

Elderly – Ambulatory	2569	Medical (3 days a week)	358
Elderly – Non-ambulatory	0	Shopping (2 days a week)	403
Other	0	Senior Center	305
TOTAL	2,575	Recreation Center	14
		Home	1221
		Other	236
		TOTAL	2,569

2016 Totals
PASSENGERS: 2569
DONATIONS: \$2,569.00

PURPOSE OF THE BROOKLYN SENIOR CENTER

- Develop, cultivate and bring together the human resources of the community in assisting senior citizens, handicapped residents and others with their problems.
- Encourage and work with public and private agencies in establishing facilities and programs in the city that deal with needs, such as social services, nutrition, transportation and health.
- Direct and bring together individuals willing to donate their time or services in helping others.
- Develop and coordinate social, educational, and wellness programs and service opportunities for senior citizens, which will improve their quality of life.

IMPORTANCE OF SENIOR CENTERS IN THEIR COMMUNITY:

Senior centers are inextricably linked to their communities. For all the support and services they provide, they are, in large part, reliant on the support of contributors, volunteers, community leaders and others for their continued success.

Senior centers offer a place to go for social activities, trips, volunteer opportunities, health screenings, health and consumer education, creative arts, exercise, wholesome meals and more.

Senior centers offer services that help their members maintain independence, while also providing opportunities for them to interact with each other and contribute to their communities. Senior centers provide meaningful and valuable activities.

THE SENIOR CENTER PHILOSOPHY

- Promote self-worth
- Promote positive image of older adults to the community
- Promote continued learning and mental growth
- Promote better health
- Provide needed social services
- Provide socialization and recreation
- Encourage volunteerism and service
- Foster community involvement
- Involve isolated elderly
- Improve the quality of life by exposure & involvement in creative and cultural arts

**FINANCIAL REPORT
2016 Year End Totals**

SOCIAL PROGRAMS AND RECEIPTS

Craft Supply Fees	\$ 2,022.00
Class Fees & Zumba®	2,750.00
Corner Store & Greeting Cards	1,251.96
Luncheon Sales	15,051.85
Coffee Donation	1,691.58
Pizzelles	248.62
Newsletter	48.50
Food Purchase	1,304.10
Raffle Tickets	5.00
Special Activities	9,328.02
Garage Sale, Room Rental	<u>1,270.00</u>
SUBTOTAL	\$ 34,971.63

CHARGES AND DONATIONS FOR SERVICE

Bus Transportation	\$ 2,566.09
Copy Fees	37.60
Homebound Meals	6,916.00
Service Fees - Snow Removal	13,800.00
Late sign-up Fees	<u>230.00</u>
SUBTOTAL	\$ 23,549.69

GRAND TOTAL **\$ 58,521.32**