

Neighborhood Alliance

457 Griswold Rd. Elyria, Ohio
440.233.8768

WHO WE ARE

Neighborhood Alliance has been compassionately caring for the community since 1927. We are helping our community grow stronger by caring for our clients' most basic needs. We provide emergency shelter, daily meal delivery and nutrition services for seniors, childcare and child enrichment programs, and access to wellness programs such as Help Me Grow for those in need. We are empowering the people of our community with the tools they need to create better lives for themselves. With our inspired mission of strengthening neighborhoods, we continue to expand programs and services to address the diverse and changing needs of families and individuals in Northeast Ohio.

OUR IMPACT

We're unique because we fit inside of neighborhoods to serve our neighbors in need. Ninety seven percent of the population that we serve lives in poverty. By design, we deliver our signature services such as child enrichment, senior enrichment, family support, or emergency shelter within walking distance of those in greatest need.

Whether it's a hot meal for a senior citizen, an overnight stay in a safe shelter for a mother, father and their children, or rent assistance for a family struggling with layoffs or unemployment issues, Neighborhood Alliance touches the lives of thousands every year.

We bring a collaborative approach to serving our community and work in tandem with other like-mission organizations to deliver services whenever possible to ultimately enhance comprehensive services for residents.

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www.MyNeighborhoodAlliance.org

Annual Report

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Designed by Jadera Patton



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Denise Szabo-Ortiz
-*Senior Nutrition Coordinator*
Dorabelle Rodriguez
-*Director, Child Enrichment Services, Linden at Wesleyan*
Sandy Humphrey
-*Director, Shelter & Emergency Services*
Monica Snipes
-*Rising Titans Coordinator, Lorain*
Aimee Poe
-*Director, Family Support Services, Help Me Grow®*
Laura Kraps
- *Help Me Grow Home Visiting Supervisor &Contract Manager*
Jessica Yorks-Wirth
-*Director, Senior Enrichment Services of Oberlin*



Programming for **infants, toddlers, preschoolers (kindergarten readiness)**, and for **school-age** children before and after school.

In-home parenting **education** and **developmental** support for families with children prenatal up to three years old.



Active Senior programming and Home-delivered meals to **Homebound Seniors** throughout Lorain County.

24-hour, 7 days a week extended stay **family shelter**, with additional services available to address the various needs of the residents.

Greenhouse Classroom Project at CES Lorain

Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Northeast Ohio, Inc. awarded Neighborhood Alliance Child Enrichment Services \$11,189.08 to fund a Greenhouse Classroom Project at CES Lorain. The Greenhouse Classroom promotes learning through exciting year-round hands-on opportunities, offering a variety of programming, promoting curiosity and creating enthusiastic learners. Early exposure to appropriate educational activities and experiences is important, providing a sound basis for development.

Neighborhood Alliance seeks to improve the health and well-being of children, believing early learning experiences will result in positive outcomes, including increased social skills, intellectual and social development. A child is shaped by their earliest, most frequent experiences. Positive learning experiences, and outdoor development early in life, can impact a child's future capabilities, affecting the course of the individual and, ultimately, their entire community.

Our two Child Enrichment Services childcare centers are located in underserved neighborhoods in South Lorain and on the Southside of Elyria. Children, age 6 weeks to 12 years, come to us from an environment of limited opportunity and minimal educational stimulation.



PNC Bank Provides \$10,000 for Computer Lab for Senior Citizens

Neighborhood Alliance unveiled the new PNC Bank Computer Lab. This special computer lab is geared specifically for active seniors in Lorain County and is located at the Neighborhood Alliance Senior Enrichment Services of Oberlin.

The funding from PNC Bank allowed for the purchase of six computers for program participants to use. PNC is also providing computer literacy education on topics such as identity theft protection and online banking.

“Neighborhood Alliance Senior Enrichment Services of Oberlin is thrilled to unveil the highly anticipated computer lab,” said Jessica Wirth, Director of Senior Enrichment Services of Oberlin. “The seniors are most excited about learning how to stay connected with their families on social media platforms, learning sites such as Pinterest for craft/design inspiration, and how to more effectively take advantage of community resources already in place such as reserving books/movies/music from the library. With PNC’s help, we can keep our program relevant and our seniors up to date with technology and the most efficient use of information.”

“We believe that consumers of all ages should have access to technology that will make their lives easier and more enjoyable,” said Maggie Rivera-Tuma, Vice President, Community Consultant in Community Development Banking at PNC. “With this new computer lab, we’ll begin to break down the digital divide between generations.”



SeniorEnrichmentServices





Senior Nutrition Services

I Never Dreamed This Would Happen To Me

My story began in Western Pennsylvania where I was raised, graduated from high school and attended college. I moved to Cleveland in 1988 and started my professional career. I worked constantly with job titles of Supervisor, Manager, Vice President of Accounting and many more middle to upper management titles. I was previously employed by a law firm for 13 years in middle management. I thought would be my last employer prior to retirement. While there I was making the highest income I had ever made. This allowed me to buy a home outright in Elyria and a new car while still working in Cleveland. I'd work 5:00 am to 6:00 pm daily and most weekends. My job had deadlines and monthly goals that my staff and I would have to reach for our banking cliental. The stress level was extremely high but my group always exceeded our goals. Nothing prepared me for what was to come. Someone once told me that most Americans were about 3 paychecks away from being homeless but I never dreamed this would happen to me.

When the CFPB started regulating our clients they stopped placing their business with our firm thus causing downsizing. After 13 years I was let go. I had a 401k so I believed I would be ok until I found new employment. I sent out hundreds of resumes. I was never trained on what to do if you ever become unemployed. I had heard that there were programs out there that can help the unemployed but I thought my bank accounts had to be depleted prior to asking for help. After a year of being unemployed and paying 100% of all my expenses, my life savings were gone and time was running out.

I wasn't getting any offers but several letters that I was over qualified. I do not know if it was my pride or my fear of embarrassment that I kept my situation silent from friends and family. I slowly watched my entire life disappear. After a year and a half of trying to find a job and living on savings I lost my car, my home and all my possessions. On that day I became homeless and was dropped off at the Neighborhood Alliance Haven Center Homeless Shelter.

While at the Haven Center I did exactly what was asked of me and continued to send out resumes daily. I am a 50+ year old man with years of experience but no one wanted to hire me. I applied for everything but found that getting a job later in life is much different than when I was young. I heard that Neighborhood Alliance was hiring for a Senior Nutrition driver so I applied. The senior meals are prepared and sent out right next door to the Haven Center.

I have been employed by Neighborhood Alliance for almost 2 years now delivering hot meals to homebound seniors in Lorain County. Working at Neighborhood Alliance my stress is gone and for the first time in my life I am making a difference. I go home now to my apartment (rent based on income) while driving my beater van held together with duct tape and rubber bands. I am making a difference. I can honestly say I live happier now.



Family Support Services

Language Barrier Overcome to Provide Parenting Education

Maria came from a family of 9. Being the oldest she always felt that being a good role model for her siblings was what was expected from her. Her mom is a wonderful mother, but always working. Maria took in a lot of parenting responsibilities at a young age. Even with having parenting skills, Maria felt lost at the thought of being a mom. Her self-esteem went out the window.

When Maria got pregnant, she told her friend about it. Her friend, also a teen mom, informed her of the “Home Visiting” program through Help Me Grow. Initially Maria found it difficult to discuss anything with her home visitor. The Home Visitor was able to communicate with Maria in her native language “Spanish” and Maria began to feel more comfortable with each visit that occurred. Resources and handouts were also provided in Maria’s native language. After several visits, instead of HV contacting Maria to confirm visits, Maria was contacting HV to confirm those visits. Phone calls were made in between visits just to say “Hi”. Maria found a comfort zone with her HV. Weekly visits through pregnancy and for the first 6 months were going well. Maria understood a lot about her pregnancy and once the baby was born she was taught how to interact with her baby. The home visitor and Maria worked with an appropriate curriculum that the agency uses. She thought she knew a lot on being a parent from being a great part of raising her siblings, but somehow the experience of being a mom taught her so much more. Maria would and does ask questions no matter how silly they might be, though her HV always assures her that no question is ever silly.

Maria’s child recently celebrated her 1st birthday. Maria was able to continue school and has now graduated, found a full time job and is making wedding plans with her future husband. Like anything in life, she is still learning and asking those questions about her child’s development stages. She has found that confidence with her home visitor to ask questions. Maria has learned that once one sets their mind on something, anything can be accomplished especially when one has the support system from a program such as Home Visiting as well as a home visitor who can relate to you with your native language, provide a curriculum that is not only teaching you, but also is fun. She does not feel that she has been a disappointment or that getting pregnant was a mistake. She feels that her siblings see her as the role model of one that has accomplished her dreams even if adjustments have had to be made. Having that outside support of home visiting program has given Maria the self-esteem that she was lacking at the time when she found out she was pregnant.

Early Intervention Helped Navigate Sensory Issues

Brooklyn wasn't talking and had many sensory issues including severe aversion to food. She would only eat 4 specific food items, but was slowly becoming adverse to those, severely restricting her food intake. Little Brooklyn would become frustrated and agitated and would often stand on her furniture, or turn a bucket over and randomly stand on the bucket for a minute or two. It was after that break that she would get down and rejoin the group.

The mom was very concerned that her daughter wasn't eating but the pediatrician told her "she would eat when she was hungry." Brooklyn would become so distraught even when her parents had food on their plates. The mom tried an Occupational Therapy program to help with her sensory, but they would not address it with food and eating. Mom then looked into the Early Intervention program with Neighborhood Alliance, Brooklyn was immediately assigned a Developmental Specialist who then brought in a Speech-Language Pathologist for a second opinion. The Speech-Language Pathologist shared with her a program called Abilities First that helps children with sensory concerns including food. The specialists also shared with her another resource for a different pediatrician.

Neighborhood Alliance Early Intervention program supported mom and heard her concerns when no one would, including her pediatrician. The Speech-Language Pathologist and the Developmental Specialist helped the family with sensory and language concerns. The pediatrician contact given to the family listened to the family and the mom was happy with the switch. Brooklyn began therapies at Abilities First and they told mom that Brooklyn would not "just eat when she is hungry", but that her sensory aversion to food was severe enough that it needed to be addressed.

Brooklyn has made progress in a short period of time and is now tolerating not only food on her parents' plate, but some on her own and is trying some new foods. She has other ways to regulate herself and is now talking in complete 4-6 word sentences!

Family Support Services



Dear Haven Center Staff,

My name is Jalissa Saddic and I'm 16 years old. As a young child with my three siblings, we were in and out of foster homes/family member's homes and Shelters. The Haven Center was one of the best places I've been when I was younger. I made a lot of friends there and I'm grateful for this place. Although I do not remember the names of the people pictured beside me, they made the biggest impact on my life while I was there. They were like another set of grandparents to me. I loved when they worked their shifts while we were there, it made all the days we were there better. After we left The Haven Center, we stayed at a church. We were there for a few months, then our biological mom found a house which we also stayed in for a few months. In 2011 my oldest biological sister Yasmine called Child Services because our home was so unstable and our family had fallen apart for forever. We were then placed in a foster home for 2 years and almost 2 years I say "2 years and almost 2 years" because me and my oldest biological sister were kicked out. She was kicked out almost a year before our "2 years anniversary", and I was out just 5 days before the anniversary.

We were then separated for 7 months before three of us were brought back together. Our oldest did not come with because she was eighteen. On December 9th, 2013 my sister Jocelyn, me (Jalissa) and our little brother Antonio moved to Pennsylvania with our forever family. On July 22nd 2014 we were finalizing our adoption. In this second picture is my forever home/family (not the guy in the way back making a face, he was our judge).

You're probably still wondering why I'm writing this...It's because this place has helped not only my siblings and I, but tons of other people. Without the Haven Center I don't think we would have made it as far as we did. On Friday the 16th there will only be a month until my 17th birthday and that's because of God and everyone that helped me get through my life before. I hope whoever is reading this knows how much the Haven Center means to people and families, my family. Thank you for everything you do... It means the world. Also, big thanks for helping me in my past.

Sincerely,
Jalissa Saddic

P.S. I'll be back to visit someday



Shelter and Emergency Services



Neighborhood Alliance

2017 Financial Report

REVENUE	2016	2017
Government Agencies	2,205,217	2,441,686
Program Fees	64,232	59,949
Contributions - Cash	171,117	125,144
Foundations	297,122	78,900
Investment Income	37,135	30,976
Special Events	62,366	54,135
Other Income	646	25,216
Total Revenue	\$2,853,181	\$2,816,006
EXPENSES		
Child Enrichment Services	\$869,593	\$871,208
Family Support Services - Help Me Grow	864,756	856,749
Shelter and Emergency Services	386,700	388,938
Senior Enrichment Services	472,825	487,011
Program Total	\$2,593,874	\$2,603,906
Management and General	226,308	381,278
Fund Development	129,133	124,617
Total Expenses	\$2,949,315	\$3,109,801
Accounts Payable	\$118,584	\$168,892
Change in Net Assets	(\$96,134)	(\$134,433)
Net Assets At Beginning of Year	572,187	128,209
Net Assets At End of Year	\$476,053	(\$6,224)

Audited Financial Figures for 2016 and 2017

Financial audit completed by Barnes Wendling, June 2017. Available upon request.

Child Enrichment Services offers childcare for infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and for school-age children before and after school. We also offer a summer program for first graders through age 12.

Child Enrichment Services - Linden at Wesleyan
424 Earl Court Elyria, Ohio 44035

Child Enrichment Services of Lorain (Cityview)
3835 Clifton Ave. Lorain Ohio 44055

Rising Titans - Collaborative
Kindergarten Readiness Program for the city of Lorain
457 Griswold Rd. Elyria, Ohio 44035

In 2017 these centers served a total of 192 children totaling 29,453 half-days of quality childcare. Along with providing 40,883 meals and snacks.

Senior Enrichment Services provide hot home-delivered meals to homebound seniors and activities for active seniors to stay engaged and remain social.

Senior Nutrition Program
1536 East 30th St., Lorain, Ohio 44055

Senior Enrichment Services of Oberlin
90 E. College St., Oberlin, Ohio 440

In 2017, 84,967 meals were prepared and delivered to 470 older adults throughout Lorain County. Each month at the Senior Enrichment Center 700 active seniors did crafts and attended recreational activities, trips and socialization programs totaling 12,192 units of service.

Family Support Services facilitate in-home parenting education and support, program referral and developmental screenings for families with children up to three years old.

Help Me Grow - Home Visiting Program
457 Griswold Rd. Elyria, Ohio 44035

Early Intervention
1536 East 30th St. Lorain Ohio 44055

In 2017 these programs delivered in-home services to 797 children ages prenatal to three years old. These programs provided for a total of 30,294 hours of service.

Shelter and Emergency Services serves as Lorain County's 24-hour/7 days a week family homeless shelter. Additional programming and services are provided to address the varied needs of the residents.

Haven Center Homeless Shelter
1536 East 30th St., Lorain, Ohio 44055

PATH Program
Project for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness
1536 East 30th St., Lorain, Ohio 44055

In 2017 these programs provided 15,796 shelter nights to 381 individuals (111 were children).

Corporation, Foundation and Agency Donors

\$25,000 and Above



\$5,000 to \$24,999

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City of Oberlin
Community Foundation of Lorain County - Eric Nord Trust Fund
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NRG Energy
PNC Foundation
PolyOne Corporation
Ronald McDonald House Charities of Northeastern Ohio, Inc.
TJX Foundation

\$1,000 to \$4,999

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\$250 to \$499

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Oberlin Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Inc.
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Watteredge LLC

\$250 to \$499

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Collective Goods Cleveland
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Blessing Box by Renee Collins

Renee Collins has gone through tragic times. She has been in need of food and help. She is a mom who lost her first husband and had to suddenly take care of 2 daughters on her own. She wished there would have been a blessing box available during that time. “God has given me many blessings since then”, Renee said. She is now remarried, with a good job and stable life. She decided to make this blessing box because there are people out there who have fallen on hard times that maybe don't qualify for or can't access assistance.

“I picked Neighborhood Alliance because there is a strong need for assistance in the area”, said Renee. These type of boxes give everyone free and unjudged access to everyday necessities. Circumstances can change in the blink of an eye and boxes such as this one help fill the gaps for those struggling in silence. The first in the county is located on Clifton Ave in Lorain right in front of Neighborhood Alliance Child Enrichment Center.

Thank you Renee Collins and her helpers for bringing this Blessing Box to our community.



