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Our PAST and FUTURE IS BASED ON LOVE, PEACE, AND COMMUNITY! We are very pleased to present the annual report for 2016. This was a pivotal year for our organization as it marked the beginning of celebrations honoring our 90th anniversary in 2017. Over the last 90 years, Neighborhood Alliance has become one of the largest not for profits serving Lorain County and our Community.

Through our vital programs and humanitarian aid, we work hand in hand with the county's most vulnerable citizens to implement sustainable solutions that address the root causes of education, family support, homelessness, and food insecurities.

We take great pride in our Staff and their commitment to making a difference and providing vital services to those that we serve. We see many of our past clients coming back to "pay it forward" and returning their gratitude for the support provided that created change in their lives.

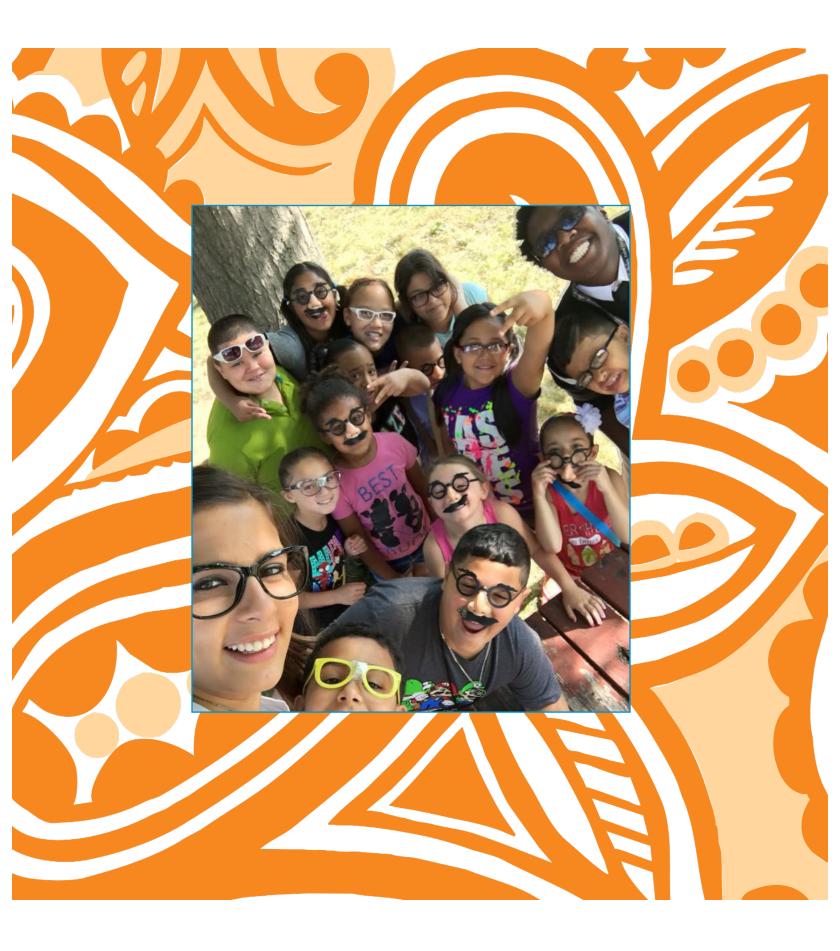
People look to us for opportunities to give back. We have a rich history that totes many success stories that are shared in our programs! Neighborhood Alliance is always looking at ways to do good for the communities that we serve. Community collaboration is key to our being able to provide necessary resources for those that seek our assistance. The strength of our peace and love movement lies in the invaluable contribution of our volunteers and donors.

Neighborhood Alliance would not be what it is today without the dedication and generosity of our community. We will continue to take action alongside the most destitute to help build a just world in which human dignity triumphs.

We would like to thank you for your trust, your dedication to our mission, and your generosity, and wish each of your PEACE AND LOVE!

Connie Osborn, President & CEO







### Legos for Everyone

Each of our Child Enrichment centers experience an increased number of school age children during spring, summer and winter breaks. Offering a safe and fun place to spend this time our teachers are often in search of interesting things for the children to do. A local student named Nicholas offered to share his interest of Legos during Christmas vacations and we couldn't say no. Nicholas' family has been regularly involved with Neighborhood Alliance for many years. He excited to get the chance to share his hobby with the younger kids at our center along with teaching them how to get the most out of their Lego sets.

During his presentation Nicholas briefly covered the history of Legos along with sharing a few pieces of his collection and offered the children tips on how to cultivate their own collections. What a fantastic idea!!!! Thank You Nicholas and the whole Mackin family for spending an afternoon with us over Christmas break. We truly appreciate your support. #Legos #LegosforEveryone

## **Child Enrichment**

Neighborhood Alliance Child Enrichment Services offer quality child care programs for low income households so parents can attend school or to find and maintain employment, leading to opportunities to improve their current financial situation. It is imperative that low-income children attend early childhood centers that focus on kindergarten readiness skills. The children at our centers are cared for daily by our certified, dedicated and compassionate staff who provide our children with a safe, nurturing and positive environment that allows them to thrive and learn. The children who attend the Centers become like family to our staff; as the children grow up together, they form close bonds with their peers and staff alike. Each child's milestones are celebrated. The staff truly believes in what they do and wants to see each child achieve their academic goals while laying a strong foundation for future educational success to build upon.

Due to current funding specifications, families must be at 130% of the poverty level and working or attending school to access subsidized programming. Our goal is to provide a strong educational background to all the non-transient children in our program as well as provide a positive experience for those children who do not complete the school year at one of our centers. Our locations in South Lorain and South Elyria place us in areas of greatest need where our impact can be the greatest as well.





# **Raising Aspirations**

At Neighborhood Alliance Child Enrichment Services, we fully stand behind our organizations commitment to "serve as a safety net for the community by meeting the basic needs of its most vulnerable citizens, while raising aspirations and offering pathways to enhance and improve their lives and the lives of their children."

Our centers have a diverse caring staff that represents the culturally diverse community we serve causing language not to be a barrier in closing gaps in communication in both business and academic affairs on all levels. Because of this, families, no matter what their make-up, feel supported in making decisions surrounding their children's needs.

"Thank you for a wonderful experience for my grandsons. You helped to get them through a very rough time they had. I appreciate Neighborhood Alliance for being there for them and giving them a very good start in life."



## **Early Literacy**

Bethsaida, single mother of 3, emotionally expressed her gratitude during the holidays last year for the generosity of our organization. Bethsaida, whose primary language is Spanish and has an incomplete high school education works hard to provide for her children age 8, 4 and 2 years old. In November 2016, she lost her temp job because her youngest son had to be hospitalized due to asthma just before Thanksgiving and then again let go from another temp position a week and a half before Christmas. When surprised with gifts which included bikes for her children for Christmas, "Thank you guys for helping me and my kids get through the holidays. Without you, I don't know what I would have done!"

In addition to providing her food for both holidays and gifts for Christmas, her 4 year old participated in our Preschool Early Learning Enrichment Program. We were able to provide her with dual language support which strengthened her English language and comprehension skills that are needed upon entering kinder-garten.



Photo Credit: The Morning Journal

## Thanks for Giving

On Wednesday November 23 2016, Neighborhood Alliance brought together volunteers to prepare a special holiday meals for home-bound seniors in Lorain County. Concerned that our homebound senior clients would be alone and without a warm traditional Thanksgiving meal, Community West Foundation offered to generously sponsor the cost of the 2016 Senior Nutrition Holiday meals for the third year in a row.



# **Senior Nutrition**

One of our greatest needs continues to be financial support for our HDM Program. The situations of the seniors that rely on Neighborhood Alliance's home delivered meals are varied but all share in the basic need for good nutrition. This daily home delivered balanced meal serves as the primary source of nutrition for their day. Recipients who are "at-risk nutritionally" can further heal, maintain and thrive through participation in this program. Whether faced with financial hardship, chronic health issues, a lack of transportation, limited or no family support, physical or mental weaknesses, an inability to shop and cook for themselves, or for reasons of personal safety, many senior adults fall into a myriad of categories which qualify them for a home delivered meal program. Lack of proper nutrition can affect mental and memory faculties, slow body recovery, and reduce absorption of medications while further complicating the personal health situation.

Physical benefits aside, this program also provides psychological benefits to the recipient. For many who are isolated within their community by disability or lack of family support, the Neighborhood Alliance staff driver delivering the daily meals may be the only person that the senior has any consistent contact with. The exchange, though brief, often may be all that is necessary for the elder to feel like someone who knows them by name truly cares about them, while expressing interest in their welfare and the news of the day. Situations have occurred where that contact has meant a significant difference for the participant. When changes in their condition arise or a client presents a full-blown emergency situation, a driver's arrival can be life-changing or even life-saving. This daily interaction, a 'hello' and 'welfare check,' further allows us to alert next of kin to the aid their elder requires when in crisis.

Neighborhood Alliance's Senior Nutrition program has been a daily stabilizing force for seniors in Lorain County since 1967. The program provided for 56,561 meals to be delivered. Additional funding received for holiday meals by Community West Foundation in 2016 allowed Neighborhood Alliance to provide over 600 in total Thanksgiving and Christmas home delivered meals to some of the frailest elders in the community.





### **JVS Service Day**

In the spring of 2016 Neighborhood Alliance Senior Enrichment Services in Oberlin was approached by the Lorain County JVS to inquire about available volunteer projects. Each spring LCJVS students and teachers venture out into the community to "Give Back" in the form of volunteering. The JVS students arrive at the Oberlin Senior Enrichment Services spent their time organizing the library, hooking up a DVD player, cleaning around the house, doing small repairs, weeding/cleaning up the outside, and setting the tables for dinner. They were able to learn about the history of the house as well as the foundation of the program. One student was even lucky enough of buy a scarf from our on site Boutique featured inside of the Senior Enrichment Center.

## **Senior Enrichment**

According to the National Council on Aging's National Institute of Senior Centers, "A senior center is a community focal point on aging where older adults come together for services and activities that reflect their experience and skills, respond to their diverse needs and interests, enhance their dignity, support their independence, and encourage involvement in and with the community." Senior centers have played an important and highly visible role in the aging services network since its creation by the Older Americans Act (OAA) in the 1970s.

As the local organization directly serving the needs of these neighbors, Neighborhood Alliance understands the greatest long-term needs of the communities within Lorain County and is best able to assess the needs and assist in setting up projects with greatest impact. We served 605 unduplicated seniors with 11,169 units of service in 2016 at our Senior Enrichment Services Oberlin Senior Center. The location of this center allows us to serve not only the local low income seniors who can walk to the center but the surrounding neighborhoods as well.



## Laughter, Support and Learning

Eleanor has been attending the Looms and Needles weaving program at the Neighborhood Alliance Senior Enrichment Services in Oberlin. This group meets weekly and offers a supportive learning environment to seniors in need of new adventures along with meeting new friends. This program at the Senior Enrichment Services is geared towards learning a new art, at your own pace, with others who are at different stages of their creative journey. The Looms and Needles class is very welcoming and friendly to all who attend. These relationships were especially important when Eleanor needed time away to address critical health issues. Her fellow weavers supported her outside of class, with phone calls, visits, cards, and prayers as she struggled through and eventually recovered. This support system of new friends and peers would share updates and makes plans to connect with Eleanor during her recovery. She is in remission and back at her place in the weaving room. Smiling beautifully, as usual, and grateful for the connections made here at the Senior Enrichment Services center.



### **JCP** Mattress Donation

Giving back feels GREAT! Especially when you are giving back to an organization that once helped you. In the summer of 2016 Lauren, an employee of JCPenney, heard that her store was looking to clear out their collection of display mattresses used in the store. The store was making room on their 2nd floor to feature new products and looked to either sell or donate the display mattress sets to people in need.

Lauren whose daughter once received family support services through the Neighborhood Alliance Help Me Grow program reached out to our Facebook fan page to see if we knew anyone in need. Lauren has followed the Neighborhood Alliance fan page for some time and knew we helped from newborn to elderly in Lorain County. She was confident that we could find the right homes for this donation.

With the help of summer volunteers from Next Step Ministries we were able to organize pick-up and delivery of these mattress to new homes in Lorain County. Thank you Lauren!!!

## **Shelter and Emergency**

The goal of the Haven Center is to provide a safe, healthy environment for the homeless population. The shelter serves men, women and intact families. While at the Haven Center, resources are shared with the residents to help them transition into sustainable housing. The Haven Center provides on-site services including Anger Management and Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, assistance procuring identification documentation and provision of basic necessities such as bedding, personal care products and meals. Referrals are made to mental health facilities and housing programs as well as to other social service providers such as Lorain County Jobs and Family Services. Through weekly meetings with participants, the staff works with each client to create a sustainable housing plan to ensure successful transition to permanent housing.

Once a resident comes to stay at the shelter, a case plan is developed within the first week; this plan will have a detailed plan for moving the individual from homelessness into sustainable permanent housing. During each week at the shelter, a progress report is completed to keep the focus on moving forward. Participants receive financial assistance for identification documents, birth certificates, rental assistance or security deposit without being required to travel from agency to agency to use resources within the poverty assistance network.

Annual statistics show an increase in the number of children as part of intact families, as well as an increase in veterans and adults over the age of 55 at the shelter. This trend has changed the dynamics of what support is needed to allow residents to develop long term solutions to their short term situation; family issues also need to be considered with appropriate referrals made by the staff to other social service providers when indicated. The number of children residing at the Haven Center has risen from 18% in 2013 to 28% of the total sheltered population in 2016.



## **Pushed to Succeed!**

"My name is Rachel, my husband Bill and our baby came to the Haven Center with nothing. No place to live, no clothes nothing at all. Now we are ready to leave. We have everything we need to start a new chapter in our life. All the things and help we have gotten from all the stuff here at the haven center. All the encouragement from the staff helped us to leave the center in only 11 days. The first week we came here we were already collecting clothes and shoes, starting the process of getting a place to live. The second week Sandy pushed me to get a job and the next day I had one. The staff here is caring and the most respectful people. Soso and Theresa helped us with anything and everything and lots of resources they could possibly do. Now we are ready to go with so much confidents and encouragement about to be on our way if the Haven Center and staff was not here. Gloria helped us with the funds through the Nord Center to help us move into our own place. I am so grateful for the staff and the resources to help us get on our own. My husband and baby got help with birth certificates and help with many more.

So to all that helped us. With everything in the Haven Center and to all the staff. Thank You!" - Love, The Newman Family



### **Red Nose Day**

Red Nose Day brings people together to have fun, raise money and change the lives of kids who need our help the most.

Neighborhood Alliance couldn't help but to celebrate alongside the nation as we helped spread awareness about childrent living in poverty throughout the United States.

# **Family Support**

Neighborhood Alliance Family Support Services provides Help Me Grow Home Visiting in Lorain County; the program is offered to families at 200% of the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines. Families are referred to our program by their pediatrician or nurse practitioner if they believe there are some type of risk factors present including child abuse and neglect, disabilities, developmental delays or parental substance abuse.

Our Help Me Grow (HMG) Home Visiting service coordinators are well-trained professionals who use a non-judgmental and compassionate approach that empowers parents with skills, tools and confidence to nurture the healthy growth of their children. Help Me Grow believes all young children deserve the same opportunities to realize their full potential in life, regardless of economic, geographic and demographic considerations. The parenting education and child development resources provided to families allows them to maximize this critical period of development in their child's life, providing a foundation for lasting success. Participating children have been shown to score 25% higher on first-through-third grade reading and math achievement tests (Ohio Department of Education, HELP ME GROW ®).





## **Envisioning the Future Together**

Home Visitor (HV), Alison Roman, has been working with a couple and their 2 year old daughter. This little girl that has a medical condition called septo-optic dysplasia that has caused her to be born with limited to no vision. Around 4 months old the vision impairment started to become more obvious. Through screenings that Alison completed, Early Intervention services through Neighborhood Alliance was recommended to assist with developmental delays. Mom followed through with the services and has a team of providers that continually support this family. Over the past two years, Mom and Alison have been working together to get her interested in reading and literacy. During this time, mom was provided with sensory books that have different textures as well as brail to introduce her to reading. Alison was recently at a visit when the daughter said, "Mommy book." Her mom asked, "Do you want to read a book with me?" She replied, "Yes." Her mother immediately found an animal book with different textures and read the book, her mom told Alison that that was the first time she requested to read a book and was engaged throughout the entire time they were reading it. In more recent visits, their daughter reads with them and the parents have reported that it has become a part of their routine. Her parents are looking forward to her beginning preschool in the winter of 2017!



# Neighborhood Alliance

2016 Financial Report

### **EXPENSES**

Child Enrichment Services PING CON	\$874,809	\$869,593
Family Support Services - Help Me Grow	744,602	864,756
Shelter and Emergency Services	389,452	386,700
Senior Enrichment Services	502,796	472,825
Program Total	\$2,511,659	\$2,593,874
Management and General Fund Development Total Expenses	Senior Enrichment 152,777 Shelter and 168,539 \$2,832,975	226,308 129,133 <b>\$2,949,315</b>
Accounts Payable	\$56,320	\$118,584
Change in Net Assets	(\$75,907)	(\$96,134)
Net Assets At Beginning of Year	648,094	572,187
Net Assets At End of Year	\$572,187	\$476,053

Audited Financial Figures for 2015 and 2016 Financial audit completed by Barnes Wendling, September 2016: Available upon request.

# Coporation, Foundation and Agency Donors

\$25,000 and Above



LORAIN COUNTY











### \$5,000 to \$24,999

3M Foundation Alyce and Ann Metka Foundation CareSource City Of Avon City of Oberlin Columbia Gas of Ohio Inc. The Lubrizol Foundation National Christian Foundation Northern Ohio Golf Charities Foundation, Inc. Rotary Club of Strongsville, Ohio Annalea Stone

### \$1,000 to \$4,999

AgriNomix LLC Avon Lake United Church of Christ Barnes Wendling CPA's Inc. **Bill Long Foundation** Community Development Block Grant Elyria Community Foundation of Lorain County - African American Fund Community Foundation of Lorain County - Eric Nord Trust Fund Community Foundation of Lorain County - Women's Fund Crane Fund for Widows and Children Elyria Service League **Emerson Charitable Trust** Ernst & Young Foundation Falls Rivers Concerts Gerald Prucha Memorial Fund Kendal at Oberlin **KeyBank Foundation** Nordson Corporation North Ohio Women's Ministry Our Lady Queen of Peace Church PolyOne Corporation Sam's Club Elyria #6314 Teletech Community Foundation The First Church in Oberlin, UCC Walmart #4255 Elyria Walmart #5066 Avon Walmart #5309 Oberlin Walmart#1839 Lorain Will Ptak Foundation, Inc.

### \$500 to \$999

American Endowment Foundation American Legion Auxiliary Post 12 Automotive Specialty Services Brownhelm Congregational United Church of Christ Corrigan Krause CPA's Elyria Catholic High School Energizer Charitable Trust Heidelberg Lorain Hope Christian Church Hospice of the Western Reserve Key Bank/Sheffield Premier Toyota of Amherst Washington Avenue Christian Church Wickens, Herzer, Panza, Cook & Batista Co.

### \$250 to \$499

Avon Lake Presbyterian Church Duraclean Restoration & Cleaning Services Grange Insurance Companies Lorain County Community College Lorain County Farm Bureau Macy's Systems and Technology Mandi's Playhouse Childcare & Learning Center Inc. North Coast Rotary Club Oberlin Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Inc. Original Glorious Apostolic Church SuperPrinter United Church of Christ Congregational Vets Helping Homeless/Needy Watteredge LLC

### \$250 to \$499

American Legion Post 211 **Domestic Relations** Ethode.com Fauver, Keyse-Walker & Donovan First United Methodist Women Grafton United Methodist Church Lorain County Domestic Relations Court Lorain Metropolitan Housing Authority McCallum Law LLC Metro Design Inc. National Association of College Stores Progressive Casualty Insurance Company **Rowland Enterprises** Simplified Facilities Group, Inc. St. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church Thermo Fisher Scientific



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