

Yellow Springs Senior Citizens, Inc  
227 Xenia Avenue  
Yellow Springs, OH 45387

Report to the Community  
December 2008

Mission Statement

The mission of the Yellow Springs Senior Citizens, Inc. is to provide supportive services and effective programs that enhance dignity, independence and quality of life for seniors, and to foster interaction with each other and the total community.

**Funders**

**Yellow Springs Community Council, a United Way Agency  
The Greene County Council on Aging  
The Morgan Family Foundation  
The Yellow Springs Community Foundation  
and  
The Reynolds & Reynolds Associates Foundation**

**Yellow Springs Senior Citizens, Inc.**

- Established 1959 -

**Board of Trustees**

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**Staff**

Director.....	Rodney Bean
Financial Assistant.....	Melissa Kuhns
Administrative Assistant.....	Lin Wood
Transportation Coordinator.....	Barbara Mann
Activities Coordinator.....	Corinne Pelzl
Kitchen Manager.....	Addie Reed
Home Assistance Program*.....	Amy Crawford and Caroline Mullin
Homemaker Manager.....	Barbara Brookshire

Homemakers:

Lavina Lichtenfels	Marta Mari Crocker
Moya Shea	Mae Brown
Jane Visbal	Barbara Gillum
Elisa Oribello	Mary Peterson
Jackie Waggoner	Melody Womack
Julie McCowan	Kay Reimers
Gary Reimers.	Marc Sarnow

\*Program supported by the Greene County Council on Aging, Friends Care Community, Yellow Springs Senior Center and the Yellow Springs Community Foundation.

The Senior Center continues to improve its services, striving to find new resources to support its work and ways to improve service and outreach to local seniors.

The board took a fresh look at its role in the organization, how it does its work and the structures that support and constrain its efforts. To focus on these topics it set aside an afternoon retreat led by the Board Chair and the Board Vice Chair. Many topics relating to mission, history and structure were discussed, providing clarity and perspective on these topics and opening new areas of concern to address.

Plans to address space needs are still underway. After a lengthy study of the opportunities and challenges presented by the current site for future expansion, the Board has determined that it will not invest in any major modifications of the current building, seeing the addition of a second story over the Great Room and remodeling the existing space as too costly for the limited gains this approach would achieve. Money will be sought for professionally developed plans for a new building and strategies will be discussed for raising money for such a project. This does not seem the time to launch a new building fund but the Board wants to have the pieces already in place when the time is right.

### **The Home Assistance Program**

With two people staffing this operation and increased support from the Senior Center and Friends this program is able to serve a greater number of people who need services in the home, insurance counseling, health or long-term care advice, or any of the other things the program offers. The Home Assistance Program is supported by Friends Care Community, the Greene County Council on Aging and the Senior Center. It serves an expanded client base of over 200 individuals in the community.

### **Chore Service**

The staff, working with advice from two board members, is designing a program to coordinate the provision of services that fall outside our homemaker program and are often difficult to arrange for. This includes mending, changing light bulbs, and putting salt in softeners, moving furniture, and similar tasks. It will help round out services for those needing support to continue living at home.

**Homemaker Service** This program continues to provide support for older community members by providing light cleaning, meal preparation, limited shopping and errands. Stories from the program follow:

Client #1 –

“I am cooking and eating so much healthier than before Mark came to help me! The reason is that I have been weakened by a chronic illness and have only enough energy to shop for groceries and cook my meals, but then I am very tired and must rest... leaving the dirty dishes to wait until the next day. Now Mark does the dishes three times a week so I don't have to worry about cleaning up, my diet or my kitchen.”

Client #2 –

This elderly gentleman lives alone and spent most of his time sitting in front of the TV and eating microwave meals. Since his homemaker has been working for him, he has been encouraged to attend the Senior Center lunches and activities. The client's family members, who live out of state, are happy that their brother has the support of a homemaker and has joined in Senior Center activities.

Client #3 –

This client's family lives overseas. She has had several strokes and walks with the help of a walker. She wants to remain in her home but is unable to keep it clean and she cannot drive or grocery shop. Her homemaker purchases her food and keeps her home neat, safe and tidy. Her homemaker has become her contact with life outside her home and someone she can rely on. Clearly she could not continue to live in her own home without the support of her homemaker.

**Transportation** The Center's Transportation Program continues to provide quality service to local seniors, weathering the rise in gas prices and the challenges of finding new volunteers to serve as drivers for the program.

**Activities and Programs** Our activities and programs continue to be popular with many in the community. Trips to museums and lectures, lunch outings, exercise programs and health programs are features of our expanded activities program. We have tracked participation for September 2007 through August 2008. The total participation levels are as follows: Exercise 4,538, Social programs 3,178, Educational offerings 381, and health related offerings 216. Each time a person attends an activity or event that is counted as one participation point. Together the participation numbers given above total 8,373. The last 12 month's listing of trips is attached. It gives a sense of the variety of opportunities our day trips provide.

**Building Upkeep.** With financial support from the Greene County Council on Aging, the Morgan Family Foundation and the Yellow Springs Community Foundation we were able to get the outside of the building painted, the roof over the side entry hall replaced and several repairs to the outside of the building taken care of. The hurricane blew the roofing off the top part of the Great Room addition. Replacement of this material and other aspects damaged by that storm are covered by the organization's insurance.

**Volunteers** Many individuals volunteer for the Center; they continue to be the backbone of the organization. We have several new volunteers this year at the front desk, in the Transportation Program and on several committees at the Center. Two individuals volunteered to set up a card sales operation and this has been a boon to our members and others and a great help to the Center.

**Financial Position.** The organization's financial position continues to be strong, reserves are at levels the board deems appropriate. We have been successful in obtaining grants to cover major capital expenses, our donors have continued to support the Center and operating costs have been kept in line with budget. See the attached financial sheets.

**Looking to the Future** We have our work cut out for us in the coming months. The Board is adopting goals for next year; the staff is doing the same. We will have the help of two interns, one working on program evaluation and the other helping our Activities and Programs Coordinator and our Transportation Coordinator, providing direct service to our members and others. We look forward to the work that lies ahead and to the continued support and participation of those associated with the Center.

## Day trips November 2007 through October 2008

- Alzheimer's Association Family Forum: Dr. Gene Cohen, M.D., speaking about the games he developed to remain connected with his father and retain his father's abilities, even with Alzheimer's disease.
- Newport Aquarium trip with the Boy Scouts
- Hawthorn Hill, tour of the Wright Brothers' home in Oakwood
- Springfield Art Museum's Western Ohio Watercolorists show
- Wittenberg University M. L. King, Jr., Day visiting lecturer Lani Guinier, first woman of color appointed tenured professor at Harvard Law School, speaking on the civil rights movement
- Air Force Museum and IMAX theater Wings of Flight movie
- National African American Museum, Wilberforce
- Dayton International Peace Museum
- National African American Museum exhibition: Quilting African American Women's History
- Cesar Milan, Dog Whisperer, speaking at the Kuss Auditorium in Springfield
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- Quilt Group Outing to The Fabric Shack, Waynesville
- WSU lecture by Judy Shepard, anti-violence activist
- Historic Grinnell Mill Bed and Breakfast tour with innkeeper Donna McGovern
- Frank Lloyd Wright's Westcott House, Springfield
- Moonshadow Farm tour with Max and Anna Mullin
- Aullwood Garden outing to Marie Aull's home
- Young at Heart movie at The Little Art Theater
- Columbus Rose Festival
- Pyramid Park, Hamilton, Ohio, trip in coordination with the Friendly Gardeners
- America's Packard Museum, Dayton
- Art Affair on the Square, Urbana
- Cox Arboretum Butterfly House
- Dayton Art Institute Ken Butler Hybrid Visions exhibit
- Springfield Museum of Art Ohio Designer Craftsmen Best of the Year exhibit
- Middletown Senior Center Chair Volleyball Tournament
- Rothschild Berry Farm Restaurant and Herb Garden, Urbana
- Jungle Jim's International Food Emporium, south of Dayton
- Cemex Cement Plant tour, Fairborn
- Adena Mansion, Chillicothe

### Lunch Bunch outings November 2007 through October 2008

- Teaberry's, Springfield
- Chantilly Cream, Springfield
- Jeet India, Fairborn
- Jerry and Donna's, Clifton
- Saya Japanese-Korean Restaurant, Fairborn
- Mr. Lee's Fine Dining, Vandalia
- The Meadowlark, Dayton
- Williams' Eatery, Yellow Springs
- Red Lobster, Fairborn
- El Meson, South American restaurant, Dayton