



InTouch

WITH THE RESOURCE CENTER

A newsletter brought to you by The Ohio Masonic Communities Resource Center

WINTER 2023

YOUR OHIO MASONIC COMMUNITIES RESOURCE CENTER

The goal of The Ohio Masonic Communities Resource Center is to help members of the Masonic family, and other Ohioans, find solutions for their financial, social, and clinical needs. Our focus is on helping those we serve receive the resources they need in the best location, whether that be their home, one of our campuses, or elsewhere.

Our community outreach coordinators do that by providing:

- Information and referrals to local resources
- Education and care coordination
- Financial assistance for those who qualify
- Connection to benefits
- Well checks
- Advocacy and support

If you would like more information on any of our programs, including our Masonic Volunteer Program (MVP), Masonic Youth Outreach Program (MYOP), or Masonic Bereavement Program, or if you are interested in learning more about implementing the Mason's Care Program for widows and widowers outreach in your Lodge, please contact us.

During the holiday season, we offer the Hope for the Holidays Program. This special program provides help with a holiday meal and/or a winter care package. We send care packages for older adults facing social isolation and loneliness. We also have a toy drive that benefits children in need. If you know anyone that could possibly use a little extra holiday cheer, please contact your local Community Outreach Coordinator today.

In addition, if you have a child or youth group that would like to send a letter or holiday card to an older adult, please contact us. All these things provide blessings to those that need a little extra hope this time of year.

**We understand that the holidays are hard for some, and that's okay.
Please know that we are here for you. If you need support or information
on local resources, please call us at 877-881-1623.**

We are here to help!

MVPs IN ACTION



*Randall G. Reynolds,
USMC veteran*

MVP Bob Hadfield, 17th District committee volunteer, ran into Shirley Finch at the post office and she noticed the Square and Compasses on his shirt. Shirley told Bob of her beloved son, Randall Reynolds, a Marine Corps veteran who had numerous service-related health issues and recently passed away. Shirley had a piece of equipment, a Merlin LCD Vision Enhancer, that her son used avidly and would want to go to someone in need. Bob connected Shirley with DeAnna Kinney, Southeast Ohio Community Outreach Coordinator for The Ohio Masonic Communities Resource Center. DeAnna reached out to the MVP Committees to find a client who might benefit from

the machine. Upon hearing this, 6th District Committee Chairman, Jay Rothenbach, immediately thought of a local client, Joann, who is dealing with macular degeneration. Jay reached out to Joann who, after speaking with her doctor, agreed to try the machine. So, Bob picked up the machine from Shirley and met Jay in Portsmouth, where Jay took it from there to our client's home in Milford, Ohio. Joann loves the machine and stated that she is using it several times a day and has been able to read her church bulletin easily for the first time in a long time. Randall G. Reynolds, USMC veteran, would have been very pleased to know this donation is being put to good use, according to his mother. Joann Tissot's late husband, Fred, was a member of Milford #54. Joann has also agreed to donate the machine back to The Ohio Masonic Communities Resource Center for other clients if she is no longer able to utilize it herself. Joann thanks Shirley for her generous and thoughtful donation.



*Joann Tissot with the
Merlin LCD Vision Enhancer*



*Chairman Jay Rothenbach (L)
and Masonic volunteer
Bob Hadfield (R)*

This is just one example of the tasks our Masonic volunteers do all the time. Our volunteers are our “eyes and ears” out in the Fraternity, and they are an integral part of The Ohio Masonic Communities Resource Center. We have some new leadership to announce in our program and would like to welcome Committee Chairs, Ralph McLemore in District 1 and Tim Eames in District 20. Thank you, gentlemen, for stepping up to lead your committees. We are still in need of a Committee Chairman in the 9th District. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer or in starting a committee in your district, please call DeAnna Kinney at (740) 262-1974 for more information or to set up a presentation. Having a MVP Committee in your district is another way The Ohio Masonic Communities Resource Center can partner with Lodges and Chapters to help coordinate your outreach efforts and identify those who may be in need before they are in crisis.

PROVIDING INDEPENDENCE AT HOME!

The Ohio Masonic Communities Resource Center is a blessing! They have enabled my husband and I to remain in our home that we designed and built. Our three adult children, all of whom are of retirement age, will be less worried for our wellbeing.

I am 84, have lived with MS for 62 years, and have arthritis. My husband tries to help, but he will be 90 in May. I feel bad if he has to care for all my physical needs like bathing, transferring, toileting, or cooking. The Ohio Masonic Communities Resource Center has provided me with 35 hours of a caregiver who takes much of the burden off our shoulders.

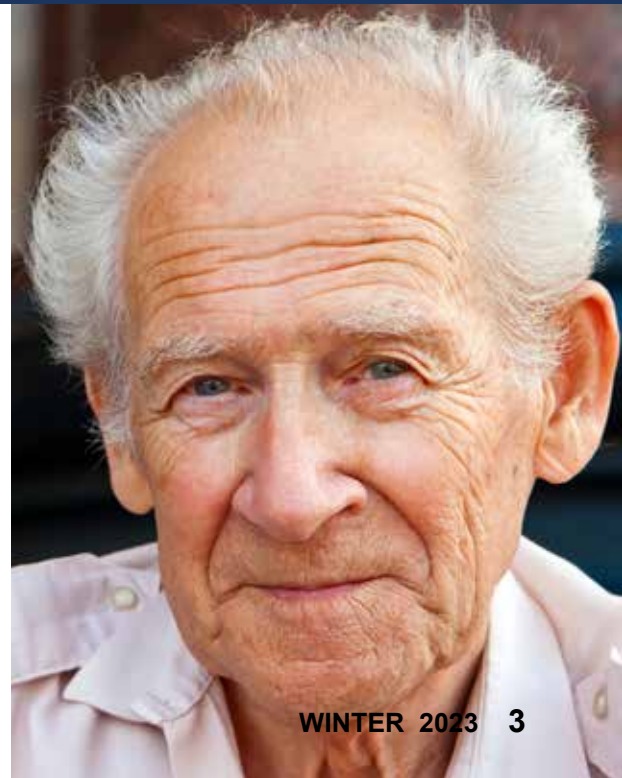
My husband is a 65-year member of the Masons and I have been an Eastern Star for 66 years. Masons are a great caring community!



EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Did you know that The Ohio Masonic Communities Resource Center offers an Emergency Assistance Program that can help with an aging, health, or safety need? This financial assistance is limited for emergency needs and is available for things like a food card, fuel to get to medical appointments, utility assistance for those facing disconnect notices, housing assistance, and more. We have a simple application process to see if you qualify, but you do have to be a Mason, the wife or widow of a Mason in good standing, or an OES member, for at least 12 months. We can also make referrals to local resources in your area or help connect you to other benefits. We are here to help.

"I was at the lowest point of my life. Desperate, and in sudden need after a series of catastrophic events, The Ohio Masonic Communities Resource Center saved me from the abyss. Their quick response and sincere efforts meant more to me than I can ever say. And my gratitude is endless for them and the Fraternity for living up to the Masonic obligation of taking care of each other."



MASONIC YOUTH OUTREACH PROGRAM

For many the holiday season is a time for family, activities, and sharing in laughter; however, that is unfortunately not always the case. For some individuals they may have limited socialization and it's important that options are available to promote these activities for individuals as they age in place.

There are resources and options available that The Ohio Masonic Communities Resource Center can help with through care coordination, and the many programs that we have available can provide additional support options to promote quality outcomes. For example, our Hope for the Holidays Program was designed specifically with these individuals in mind. This year, through our Masonic Youth Outreach Program, we will work with local youth that are interested in working to deliver winter care packages for our residents and community members referred to us that could benefit from this additional support.

If you know of anyone that can benefit from this service and/or any youth interested in joining in on these efforts, please contact your local Community Outreach Coordinator with The Ohio Masonic Communities Resource Center and/or Raquel Brown at (419) 260-0855.



The Masonic Youth Outreach Program (MYOP) hosted a back-to-school ministry, serving 30 youth with school supplies. If you have a child that needs school supplies, or if you are in need of help during the holidays, please contact us.

MYOP also hosted an intergenerational day camp on our Western Reserve Masonic Community campus in July! The youth and residents had a very joyous and memorable time together. We can't wait to do this again next year!



SUPPORTING WIDOWS AND WIDOWERS



When we learn of someone's passing, and they have left behind a widow or widower, we mail one of our Bereavement Guides along with their local Community Outreach Coordinator's business card. That local Community Outreach Coordinator then follows up with a phone call to be sure they received the Bereavement Guide and ask if they need assistance with anything. Sometimes we don't have an accurate phone number to be able to complete this follow-up. During our follow-up we can sense those that need extra support and can call them more frequently to provide that support. We can also connect them to local resources for more grief support, whether that be a grief support group or counseling. If you are a widow or widower that would like a call or need local resources, please reach out to your local Community Outreach Coordinator. We are here to help you with whatever you may need!



If you would like more information on any of our programs, including our Masonic Volunteer Program (MVP), Masonic Youth Outreach Program (MYOP), or Masonic Bereavement Program, or are interested in learning more about implementing the Mason's Care Program in your Lodge, please contact us. Through Mason's Care we partner with Lodges and Chapters to help support their widows and widowers. The program works closely with our Masonic Volunteer Program and is led by Bobbi Schickler, our Southwest Ohio Community Outreach Coordinator who also leads our efforts in the Masonic Bereavement Program.

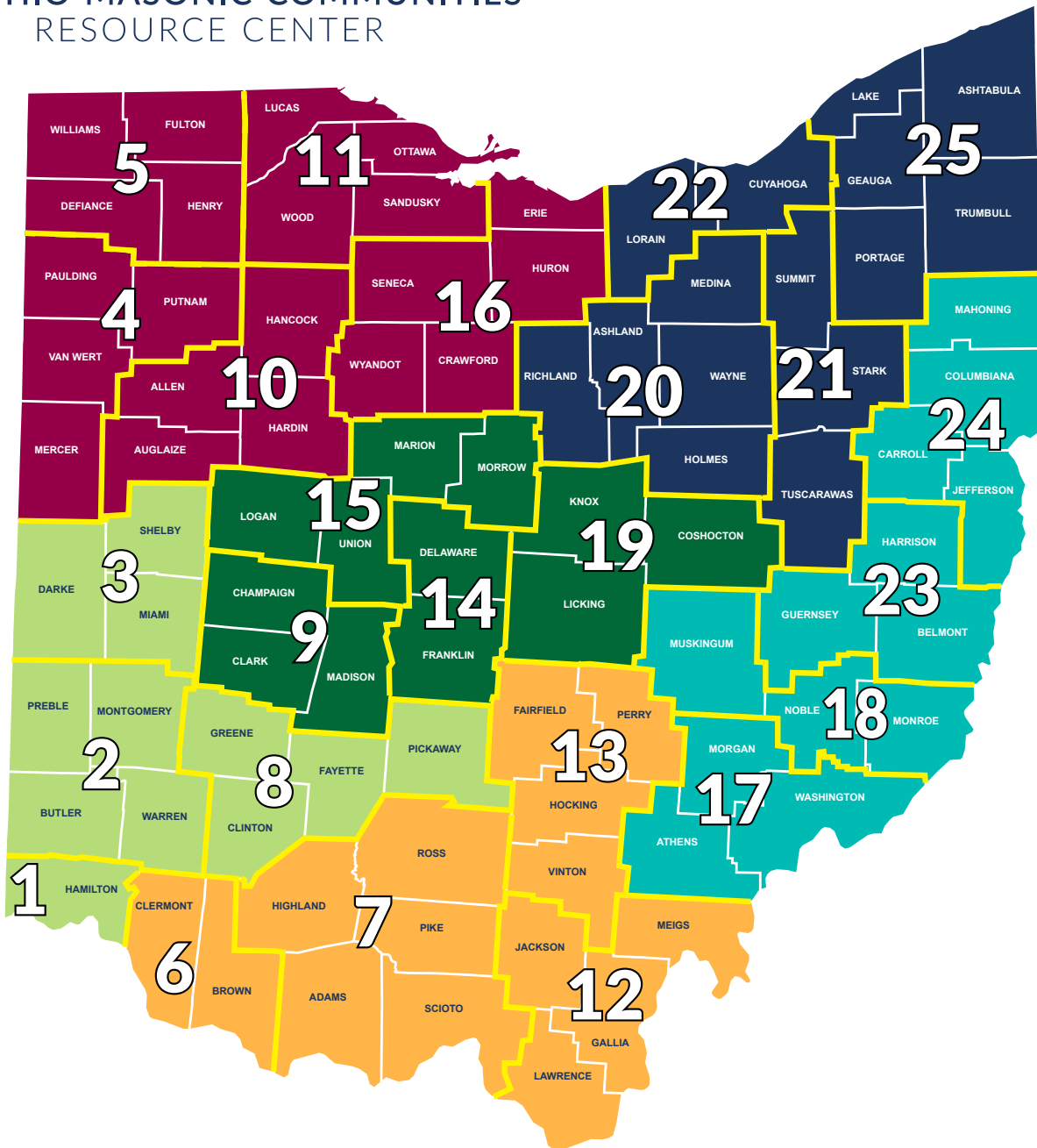
(Pictured: DeAnna Kinney and Bobbi Schickler at OES Grand Chapter in Sharonville, Ohio.)



THE OHIO MASONIC COMMUNITIES
RESOURCE CENTER

REGIONAL MAP (MASONIC DISTRICTS)

Main Line:
(877) 881-1623



Samantha Loy

Director, OMC Resource Center & NE Ohio Community Outreach Coordinator
(937) 504-4407



Raquel Brown, RN

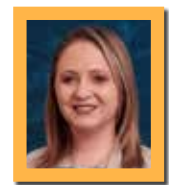
NW Ohio Community Outreach Coordinator & MYOP Coordinator
(419) 260-0855



Bobbi Schickler, CSA
Certified Senior Advisor®
SW Ohio Community Outreach Coordinator & Masonic Bereavement Program Coordinator
(513) 567-1100

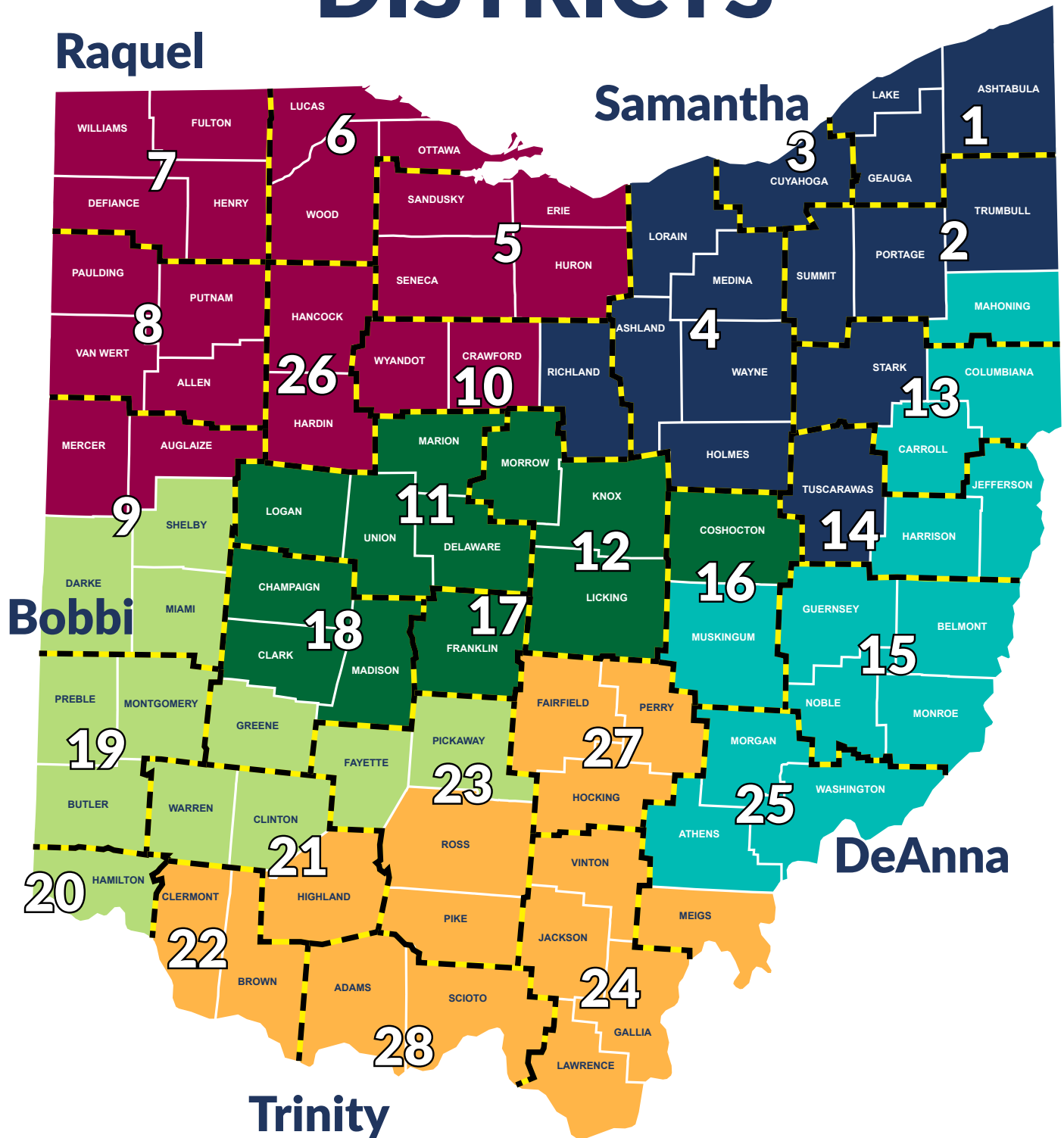


DeAnna Kinney, LSW
SE Ohio Community Outreach Coordinator & MVP Program Coordinator
(740) 262-1974



Trinity Davidson, BSW
Southern Ohio Community Outreach Coordinator
(740) 970-7903

EASTERN STAR DISTRICTS



Inquiries for Central Ohio can be made to the main number: (877) 881-1623.



THE OHIO MASONIC COMMUNITIES
RESOURCE CENTER

*A subsidiary of
The Ohio Masonic Communities*

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HELPING TO AGE IN PLACE

The choice to age in place can be very difficult without the proper resources in place to set you or your loved one up for success. Navigating through the healthcare paradigm can also prove to be a very scary process. Such a process led Raquel Brown, NW Ohio Community Outreach Coordinator, to receive a referral through her local Ohio Eastern Star (OES) Chapter. This referral was for a Chapter member who had one desire after being in skilled nursing. That desire was to return to her home within the community.



This is where the road map was created, the intricate process of care coordination, which is so much more than names on a page. It involved our MVPs (Masonic volunteers) donating boxes and time, contacting movers, and in-home providers to coordinate services such as med-assist, transportation and more. In addition, resource center was able to provide resources to accommodate "Welcome Home" groceries to promote safety, wellness, and nutrition.

What does *aging in place* mean to you? Whether that's within the community, senior living, or moving closer to family, the dedicated coordinators through The Ohio Masonic Communities Resource Center can guide you or your loved one in the right direction for additional options and resources, utilizing our team's combined knowledge and expertise.



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