

# InTouch

A Newsletter  
Published By



THE OHIO MASONIC  
COMMUNITIES  
RESOURCE CENTER

SUMMER  
2024

## Help Needed: The Lodge and The Ohio Masonic Communities Resource Center Answer the Call

We were contacted by one of our MVP volunteers, Carl Keller from Dayton Lodge #147, and asked to reach out to Christa and Bill Young to see if we could help with anything. We called Christa and she shared that Bill had been in rehab for a while and she needed help with the electric bill and food. Through our Emergency Assistance Program, we were able to pay her electric bill and provide a Walmart gift card for food. We did a home visit with her and helped her apply for SNAP, Senior Food Box Program, and HEAP. She has been very appreciative of the help that we have been able to provide. A few days later, she called and stated that her car had broken down and it was now in the shop. She wasn't sure how she would pay the repair bill or get to the rehab facility to visit with her husband. The Ohio Masonic Communities Resource Center reached out to Carl Keller and he provided transportation to her while her car was being repaired. The Lodge passed the hat and helped pay for her car repairs. On a separate occasion, they passed the hat at their Table Lodge for a separate donation.

It's hard asking for help! Sometimes you may need to just offer, "I'm going to contact The Ohio Masonic Communities Resource Center on your behalf and let them know you need help." If you or someone you know needs help, please reach out to The Ohio Masonic Communities Resource Center's Community Outreach Coordinator in your area.



**We are here to help!**

# Masonic Volunteer Program News



*Jeff and Bev Gallaher, MVP members, at the Senior Health Support Fair at the Ohio Valley Mall.*

Our Masonic Volunteer Program (MVP) volunteers have been busy helping out all over the place! Volunteers have been sharing The Ohio Masonic Communities Resource Center (OMCRC) information at some of the Lodge open houses around the state, assisting with information booths at Scottish Rite reunions, and community events such as the Belmont County Senior Health Support Fair. Volunteers have been transporting clients to medical appointments, donating items like wheelchairs and hospital beds, and helping with yard cleanup and minor home maintenance.

We have four new MVP Committee Chairpersons: Ralph McLemore in the 1st District, Becky Cason in the 9th District, Jennifer Pertee in the 20th District, and Rick Miller in the 21st District. Welcome to the program! We are happy you have chosen to support the MVP, which is a partnership between the Fraternity and OMCRC, which helps to identify and assist those Masons, wives, widows, and Eastern Stars who may need help coordinating services and exploring options.



*DeAnna Kinney, SE Ohio Community Outreach Coordinator, and long time client, Sandy Edgell, at Glouster Lodge, sharing information about how the RC can help.*

We would also like to sadly acknowledge the loss of five of our volunteers: Eileen Morgan from the 23rd District, Tim Beardsley and Donald Douglas from the 17th District, Ed Miller from the 1st District, and Chuck Musselman from the 24th District. All will be greatly missed by those who knew and loved them. Their support was much appreciated.

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Volunteers can be as active as they choose, using their time and talents as they wish. The most important thing we need from our volunteers is information, such as who has been sick or hospitalized, who has suffered the loss of a spouse, and who is on your sick and distressed list. If your Lodge has passed the hat, did you also reach out to your local OMCRC Community Outreach Coordinator to see if other help may be available? The Ohio Masonic Communities Resource Center and our MVP Committees are here for you. If you would like to become involved or learn more about the MVP, please contact DeAnna Kinney at 740-262-1974 or [dkinney@omcoh.org](mailto:dkinney@omcoh.org).



**For anyone interested in becoming a volunteer or learning more about the MVP, there will be an MVP meeting and training for new volunteers in District 1 at Norwood Lodge on Saturday, July 27th at 11am and one in District 20 at Ashland Lodge on Thursday, July 20th at 6:30pm.**

# Brotherly Love

In times of loss and transition the support of a community makes a world of difference. Such is the case with the Masonic Volunteer Program, whose recent act of kindness has touched the hearts of many.

In March, Brooke Simonson, Central Ohio Community Outreach Coordinator for The Ohio Masonic Communities Resource Center, reached out to Wanda Kelly to offer condolences on the death of her spouse. Her husband, John Kelly, was a Master Mason and belonged to West Gate Lodge #623. Wanda's daughter, Tammy, answered the phone and shared that they had a hospital bed John had barely used and they wished to donate it.

This simple act of generosity sparked a chain of events that showcased the true spirit of Freemasonry. Upon learning of the donation, Stacy McClain, Chairman of the 14th District Masonic Volunteer Program Committee, swiftly sprang into action. He coordinated a group of dedicated men to pick up the donated hospital bed and ensure it was safely stored for a future fellow Mason in need.



*Tammy Krebs (Daughter of Wanda and John Kelly) in 2024 St. Patrick's Day celebration*

Thanks to the efforts of Stacy McClain and his team, led by David Gubanc, this donation was not only collected but also earmarked for a Mason who may require it in the future. The selflessness and efficiency with which they acted embody one of the core values of Freemasonry – Brotherly Love.



*David Gubanc and his crew  
(Masonic Volunteer Program members)*

This heartwarming story exemplifies the mission of the Masonic Volunteer Program, to provide support and assistance to Masons and their families during times of need. Beyond the tangible donation of a hospital bed, it symbolizes the strength and solidarity of the Masonic community, coming together to support one another in times of both joy and sorrow.

**If you would like to become a volunteer, please contact DeAnna Kinney by phone at (740) 262-1974 or by email at [dkinney@omcoh.org](mailto:dkinney@omcoh.org).**

## Gina's Story

By Rob Hanrahan, Executive Director  
of The Ohio Masonic Communities Foundation

I was sitting at a restaurant in Springfield feeling badly about my mom's stroke when a young lady looked at me and asked if something was wrong. I shared what was going on with me. She said her dad had also just had a stroke and they could not find a place for him and had looked at two places with no luck. I asked if they had tried The Ohio Masonic Communities in Springfield and she said no, but that her dad is a Mason. I told her I would contact Samantha Loy and see if we could help. Samantha reached out, and additional support was provided by our Central Ohio Coordinator Brooke Simonson. Gina's dad was admitted within a very short period of time. Gina was thrilled with the staff's compassion and concern for her dad and their family. Sadly, her dad passed away two weeks later, but thankfully Gina's mom was able to be there and hold his hand as he took his last breath and went to heaven. Gina and her mom will be forever grateful for The Ohio Masonic Communities.





# Welcoming New Members to The Ohio Masonic Communities Resource Center Team

## Welcoming Rachel Lancaster

We are so excited to announce a new addition to of our team! Rachel is in The Ohio Masonic Communities Resource Center office Monday through Friday, from 8 am to 4:30 pm. We have rerouted our phone number, (877) 881-1623, to ring through to Rachel during business hours. When you call, simply press “4” for the resource center.

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Hello, I am Rachel Lancaster, the new Intake Coordinator for The Ohio Masonic Communities Resource Center. I graduated from Kent State University where I received a degree in Human Development and Family Studies. I began my social services career 20 years ago, working as an intern at the local homeless shelter in Kent. In my free time I enjoy getting outside and exploring the local metro parks. On the weekend you will find me kayaking local rivers or floating the lakes reading!



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## Introducing our new Central Ohio Outreach Coordinator



Brooke Simonson holds a bachelor's degree in psychology and sociology from Ashland University, complimented by a master's degree in social work from The Ohio State University. She is a Licensed Independent Social Worker with Supervision designation (LISW-S) from the Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, Marriage and Family Therapy Board.

Brooke has extensive experience in case management and community services provision. She has navigated complex systems to advocate for individuals facing various challenges, as well as collaborated with clients to identify their needs, develop personalized care plans, and connect them with essential resources.

Brooke is a seasoned mental health clinician. Her proficiency extends to various therapeutic models, including EMDR, TF-CBT and DBT. Outside of work, Brooke finds solace in the outdoors and is an enthusiastic hunter. Brooke and her husband, Matt, along with their two children, reside in Ashland, Ohio.



# Join us for our Intergenerational Day Camps

**June 14 | 7 am - 3 pm**

*RSVP by June 11*

Browning Masonic Community  
8883 Browning Drive, Waterville, OH 43566

**July 19 | 7 am - 3 pm**

*RSVP by July 17*

Springfield Masonic Community  
2655 West National Road, Springfield, Ohio 45504

**July 26 | 7 am - 3 pm**

*RSVP by July 24*

Western Reserve Masonic Community  
4931 Nettleton Road, Medina, OH 44256

The Ohio Masonic Communities are gearing up for our intergenerational day camps!  
Children ages 5-18 are invited to attend.

Intergenerational day camps create memories that will last a lifetime. The Masonic Youth Outreach Program (MYOP) embraces the importance of intergenerational activities and enhancing the quality of life for The Ohio Masonic Communities' (OMC) residents.

Intergenerational day camps allow youth to build relationships with OMC residents, teaching youth valuable skills they'll have for a lifetime and greatly impacting the lives of our residents. Events are open to the children/grandchildren of campus staff and residents, and all youth in the community. A portion of funding for this event is thanks to a generous grant from The Christ Foundation

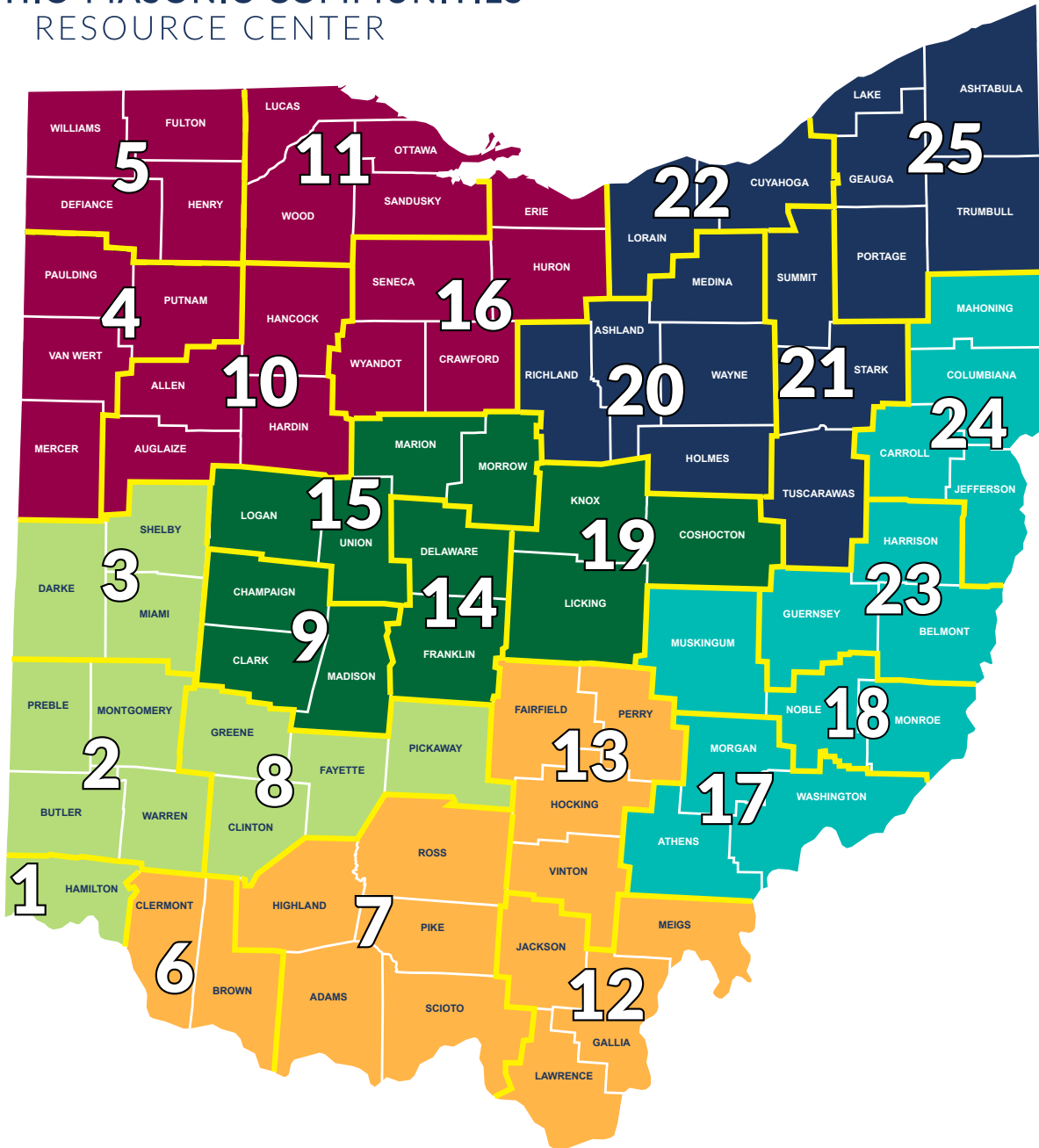
**To register, or for more information about these events or our back-to-school program, contact Rachel Lancaster today at (877) 881-1623 (Ext 4) or [rlancaster@omcoh.org](mailto:rlancaster@omcoh.org).**



# REGIONAL MAP (MASONIC DISTRICTS)

Main Line:  
(877) 881-1623

THE OHIO MASONIC COMMUNITIES  
RESOURCE CENTER



**Samantha Loy**

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



**Rachel Lancaster**

Intake Coordinator  
(877) 881-1623  
Press 4 for the resource center  
M-F 8 am - 4:30 pm



**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**

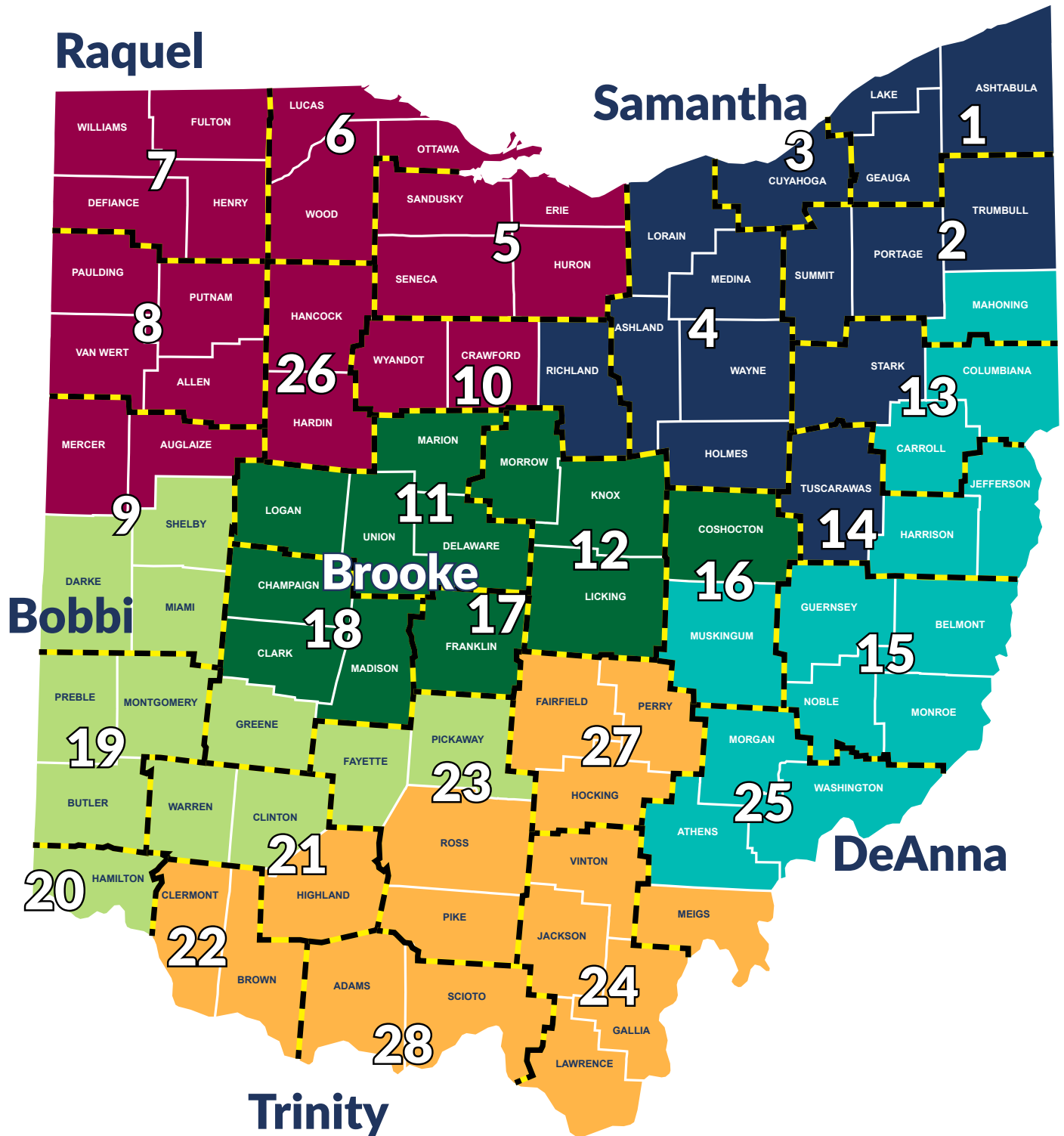
Southern Ohio Community Outreach Coordinator  
(740) 970-7903



**Brooke Simonson, MSW, LISW-S**

Central Ohio Community Outreach Coordinator  
(330) 410-7983

# EASTERN STAR DISTRICTS





THE OHIO MASONIC COMMUNITIES  
RESOURCE CENTER

*A subsidiary of  
The Ohio Masonic Communities*

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(877) 881-1623  
omcresourcecenter.org

*If you no longer want to receive this  
newsletter you may opt out at any time  
by calling (877) 881-1623 (Ext 4).*

## Meet the Eppens Family



Charles Eppens, from Amelia Lodge #590, reached out to The Ohio Masonic Communities Resource Center (OMCRC) trying to find any information to help him and his family during a very stressful and difficult time. His son, Devin, had been in and out of hospitals, test after test, medication after medication. Devin was in complete kidney failure due to a rare genetic condition called Alport Syndrome. This condition attacks the kidneys, hearing, and eyes. Luckily, when Charles called OMCRC, they had found a donor for Devin and had a transplant date scheduled. Unfortunately, with all the medical complications the medical bills were adding up quickly. The Ohio Masonic Communities Resource Center was able to help the family through the Emergency Assistance Program.



Charles stated, "We were very grateful and thankful for the help received. It was very much appreciated in such an overwhelming time of need."



Like us on Facebook to see more of the support we offer!  
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