

# InTouch

A Newsletter  
Published By



THE OHIO MASONIC  
COMMUNITIES  
RESOURCE CENTER

WINTER  
2024

## Hope for the Holidays

During the holiday season, The Ohio Masonic Communities Resource Center offers Hope for the Holidays. This special program provides help with a holiday meal and/or a care package. We send care packages for those older adults facing social isolation and loneliness. We also have a program that benefits children for those in need. If you know of anyone that could possibly benefit from a care package, we'll check, or visit, please contact your local Community Outreach Coordinator today.

An Eastern Star in NW Ohio appreciates the sense of family that comes through the ongoing outreach from her friends at The Ohio Masonic Communities Resource Center. We regularly complete well checks, provide financial assistance, and offer opportunities for her to connect with her grandchildren who are not local. Through our outreach, she receives a holiday meal and is able to exchange gifts with her grandchildren either virtually or in person.

**We understand that the holidays are hard for some. 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.**



## Winter Readiness

Are you prepared for winter? The Ohio Masonic Communities Resource Center can help with getting ready for the winter months! We offer continued support and well checks year-round.

**If you need help with food, utilities, or getting your home ready for the winter months, please call us at (877) 881-1623. We have coordinators and volunteers across the state!**

# Masonic Volunteer Program 2024: A Year of Kindness

*Written by DeAnna Kinney, SE Ohio and MVP Coordinator*

I hear so many people talk of frustration and impatience, but my reality is a bit different. Every day I get to hear stories of kindness, compassion, and support. Our volunteers do a myriad of small kindnesses every day. I've heard how Lodges in the 24th district have come together to support a much-loved client battling cancer. This is the norm, rather than the exception. I've seen volunteers transport vital pieces of medical equipment and other items from one area of our state to another, turning down offers of a gas card to help offset expenses. Clients tell me how much they appreciate the volunteers who call or visit, especially around the holidays, and how much they love the fruit baskets the 23rd district committee members distribute. Just today I heard from a client in the 9th district who has been receiving transportation assistance from a volunteer he now calls "friend."

In 2024, MVP committees have built ramps, cleaned up yards, made hundreds of phone calls, logged thousands of miles, and made referrals of Masons, their wives and widows, and Eastern Stars in need. I am so proud of our volunteers, particularly our committee chairmen, and their willingness to partner with The Ohio Masonic Communities Resource Center to serve the Fraternity. I've seen the outpouring of love and compassion at Masonic and Eastern Star funeral services for volunteers we have lost, including three in recent months. Charles Payne, Bob Coil, and Ron Herman were much loved and respected, and will be deeply missed.

I witnessed the excitement and pride at Grand Lodge as over 100 volunteers came to our booth to receive their MVP lapel pin. Many talked of relationships they have built with clients they have helped over the last year. A volunteer in the 17th district goes every Thursday to take a Brother's trash out, volunteers in the 7th district visit Brothers in nursing homes and the hospital, and a volunteer in the 6th district continues to maintain connections with his Lodge's widows. Community Outreach Coordinators are grateful for the time and efforts offered by our volunteers who also help by handing out brochures, working booths at Lodge events and community health fairs, and sharing information with potential clients.

So, if you want to add a little kindness to your world, try bringing kindness and compassion to others. I'd love to talk with you about becoming one of our almost 400 volunteers or forming a volunteer committee if your district doesn't already have one. Please give me a call at **(740) 262-1974**, or email me at **[dkinney@omcoh.org](mailto:dkinney@omcoh.org)**, and a training can be done via phone, zoom, or in person.





# Moving for Music Therapy

Virginia is from the small town of New Holland, close to Washington Court House, Ohio. She is the youngest of five children. Her love of music started at a young age. Her family had an older piano in their home that everyone enjoyed.

When Virginia married, she and her husband were blessed with three children, two daughters and one son. Virginia enjoys quilting and goes on trips with her daughters to do just that.

Music is still her number one passion. For many years, Virginia worked for Nationwide Insurance and sang in their choir. Dancing is another of her passions. She learned tap and ballet at a young age, but her favorite is ballroom dancing. Virginia gave dancing lessons at her 90th birthday party!

When Virginia and her children made the decision that the time had come for her to move to senior living, they began looking for a place where she would thrive. As luck would have it, while her daughter was attending an Ohio Eastern Star convention, she spotted The Ohio Masonic Communities Resource Center (OMCRC) display.

Two very important words caught her daughter's attention on the OMCRC display – music therapy. With Virginia's love of all types of music, her daughter called OMCRC to discuss visiting Springfield Masonic Community to see if it would be a good fit.

Virginia moved to Springfield Masonic Community a few weeks ago and loves her apartment. She already knows her neighbors and has learned that besides music therapy there is a Sunday choir and numerous concerts covering a variety of genres that she can enjoy.



# Partnering with Lodges

Members of the Wilmington Lodge met with one of our Lodge widows and found she was in desperate need of a new front porch/deck. Her existing deck was dangerous and in desperate need of repair. The Lodge voted to provide the materials and Lodge members planned to build a deck.

Eight members of Wilmington Lodge #52 gathered on June 29, 2024 to build a new deck for her. The old deck was removed and hauled away. Jack Walker and Van Hewitt were the project leaders, drawing up the plans and procuring the necessary materials needed for the project. Other Lodge members working on the project included Ryan Winters, Logan Fields, Matt Walker, Tony Jordan, Keith Newton, and prospect Mike Walker.

Our Lodge members truly enjoyed the day of work, fun, and fellowship that the project brought for us. Even more gratifying was knowing that we helped one of our Lodge widows. We're looking forward to the next project.

It was a Great Day for Freemasonry in the super 8th District and Wilmington Lodge #52! The Ohio Masonic Communities Resource Center can partner with Lodges to help clients and widows. If you know someone who could use assistance, please reach out to us!



## The Gift of Giving

The holidays are a special time of year when we can reflect on all that we're thankful for. At The Ohio Masonic Communities Resource Center, we're thankful for our volunteers and for all of you! Throughout this newsletter, stories are shared by our volunteers, clients, and the community! So many clients wish to pay it forward, and some of the best stories are them giving back.

If you have a story about how The Ohio Masonic Communities Resource Center has helped you or someone you know, we would love to hear it! Sharing these stories raises awareness about what we do and how we can help!



# Disaster Response

In preparation of hurricanes Helene and Milton, The Ohio Masonic Communities Resource Center, in conjunction with Grand Lodge, compiled a list of all Ohio Masons living in Florida and sent out a robo call. The call let the Masons know that we are here if they need anything. The days following the hurricanes, our Community Outreach Coordinators reached out to clients in Florida asking if we could be of any assistance. One of the calls that came in was from a widow stating that she was doing well and appreciated that someone was checking on her. Another call was from a Mason whose house flooded with over 2 feet of water! He was looking for advice from fellow Masons in the area and wanted to give them the work. He was connected with a coordinator who was able to help him.

Over 2,500 calls were made to Brethren in Florida, but there are countless others living in adjacent states that were also affected. If you know of someone who is still recovering from these disasters or needs help, please encourage them to reach out to us. We are here to assist Ohio Masons and their families, whether they live in Ohio or elsewhere.



## Watching After Our Own

Two men, George Tilden and Ron Nockengost, have known each other for many years as friends, coworkers, and more importantly, Masonic Brothers. In fact, their friendship goes back to meeting at DeMoley. Ron is a member of Coventry- Akron Lodge #83 and George is a member of Victory Lodge #649. Both Lodges are located in Akron, Ohio. They spent quite a few years working at the University of Akron and have since retired. Both men have given of their own time to volunteer at a local funeral home, providing comfort to those that are grieving.

The time came when Ron needed comfort and assistance too. He was grieving the loss of his wife, his health was declining, and he needed support. Working together, The Ohio Masonic Communities Resource Center completed a home visit with Ron, and George became Ron's Power of Attorney (POA) to make sure that he always received the help that he needed. Ron had some health issues and was hospitalized followed by much needed rehabilitation. The Resource Center was able to make a referral to one of our trusted partners, a local senior living community, where Ron is thriving!

After three weeks of rehabilitation, he was able to move into assisted living. Ron was able to sell his home and with George's help they were able to organize his personal belongings. This has given Ron a sense of peace, knowing that he wasn't doing it alone. He could always turn to George and OMCRC.

Ron's health has improved greatly. He is now living in independent living and working in the campus store. He and George attend their Lodge meetings regularly. He is happy, thriving, and enjoying life. He appreciates George and the support that he received from The Ohio Masonic Communities Resource Center.

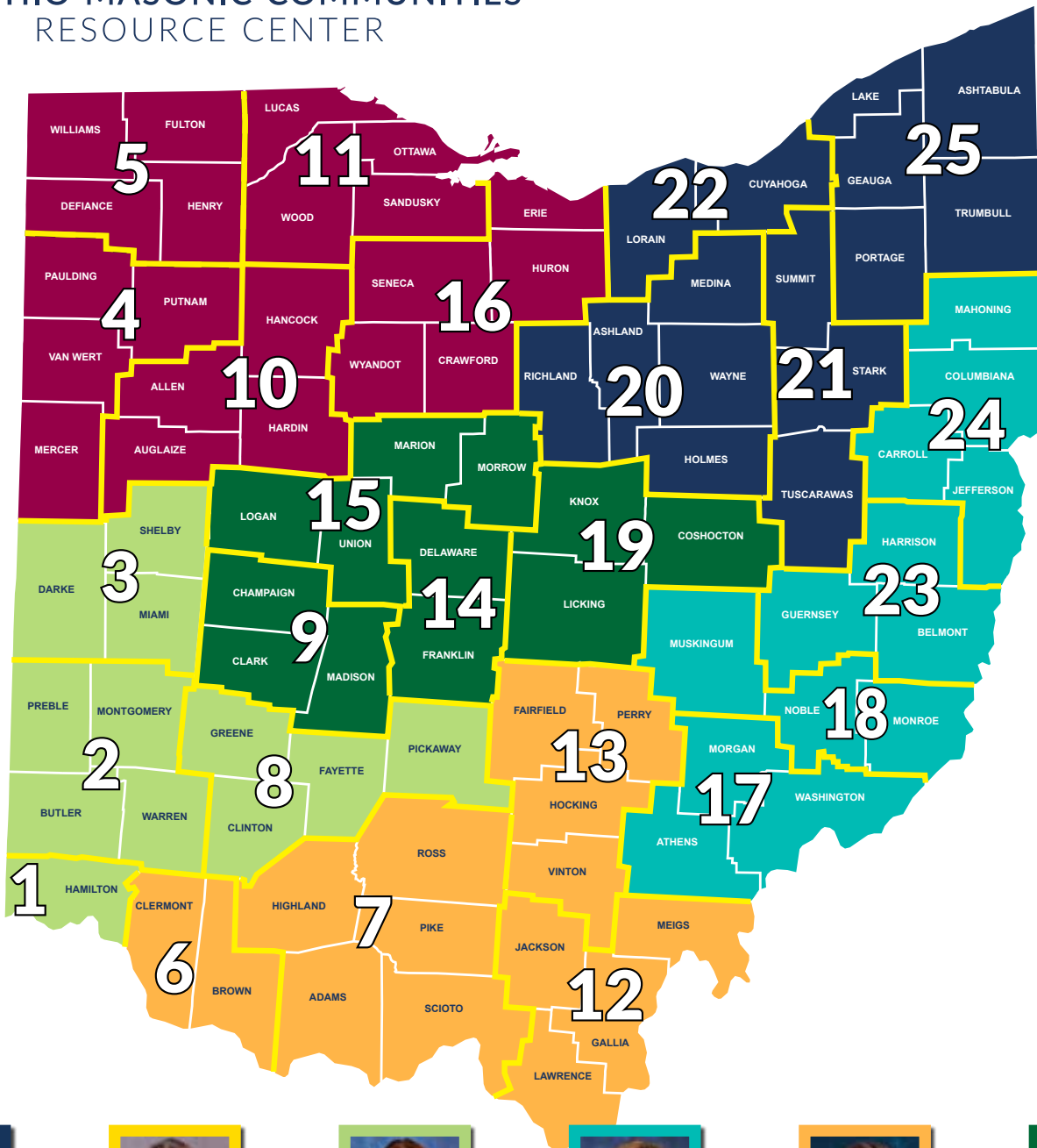




THE OHIO MASONIC COMMUNITIES  
RESOURCE CENTER

# REGIONAL MAP (MASONIC DISTRICTS)

Main Line:  
(877) 881-1623



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



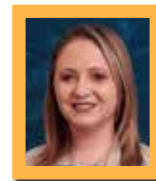
**Rachel Lancaster**  
Intake Coordinator  
(877) 881-1623  
Press 4 for the  
resource center  
M-F 8 am - 4:30 pm



**Bobbi Schickler, CSA**  
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**DeAnna Kinney, LSW**  
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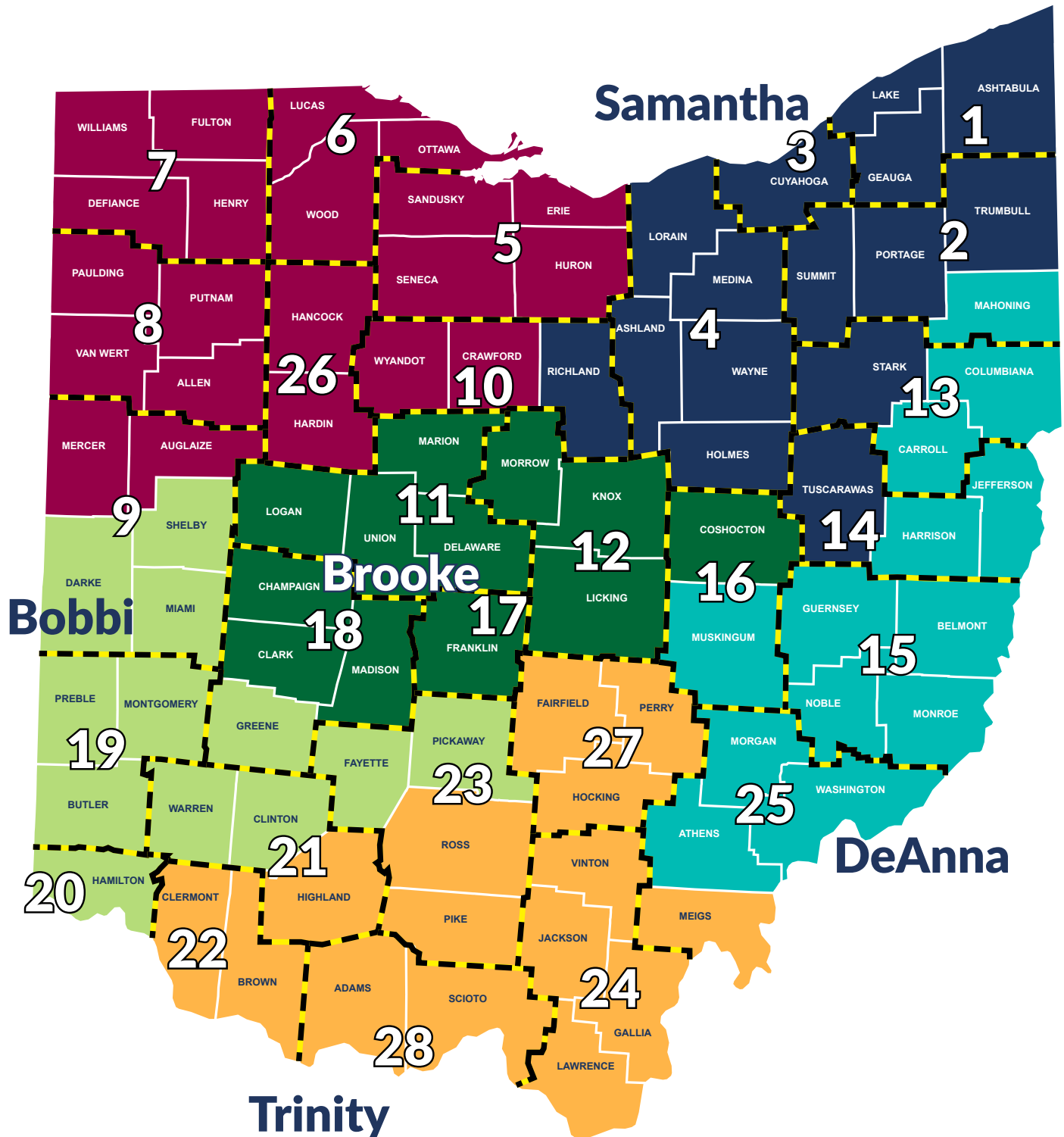


**Trinity Davidson, BSW**  
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**Brooke Simonson, MSW, LISW-S**  
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# EASTERN STAR DISTRICTS





THE OHIO MASONIC COMMUNITIES  
RESOURCE CENTER

*A subsidiary of  
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## Emergency Assistance Program

David Edgell and his wife Sandy are two of The Ohio Masonic Communities Resource Center's trusted volunteers in the 13th Masonic district! Trinity Davidson, Southern Ohio Community Outreach Coordinator, shared that the couple makes a lot of phone calls, and Dave has also taken on making sure that the widows pinning ceremonies and events are coordinated through his Lodge. Dave and Sandy have helped with many events over the years and, even though he's not able to get out as much anymore, he's always making referrals and has such a heart for Masonry and helping others!



They have also received assistance thanks to the Emergency Assistance Program. Dave has been battling cancer for four years and must travel a lot for appointments which has put a lot of wear on his car. He shared, "The cost of treatment is quite expensive and totally wiped me out. But my car needed tires, and an oil change and alignment. The resource center stepped up and covered the cost so that I could get to my medical appointments safely." Through the Emergency Assistance Program, Ohio Master Mason's, their wife or widow, and Ohio Eastern Star members can apply for assistance for aging, health, and safety needs. "The resource center has been awesome. I am very thankful for what they have provided through this difficult time."



Transportation is one of the top needs that we see requests for through this program, along with help with groceries and other housing needs. If you or someone you know needs help, please let us know.



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