

InTouch

A Newsletter
Published By



THE OHIO MASONIC
COMMUNITIES
RESOURCE CENTER

SUMMER
2025

Masonic Volunteer Program Grows to 22 Districts in Ohio

We welcome our newest committee in the 22nd Masonic District! Kirk Miller has been talking with Masonic Volunteer Program (MVP) Coordinator, DeAnna Kinney, as well as Chairmen Joe Wicker and John Lovejoy, to learn more about the program, including the integral role it plays with The Ohio Masonic Communities Resource Center (OMCRC), allowing coordinators to better identify and assist Masons, their wives or widows, and Eastern Stars in need. Kirk and Pam Miller will take on the role of Committee Co-Chairs. We thank the Millers and First Lady Zoe Carter for their persistence in getting this committee rolling. We would also like to thank the new volunteers for their willingness to partner with OMCRC and look forward to working with this committee.

As April was Volunteer Appreciation Month, we would like to offer our appreciation to all our chairmen and volunteers around the state. You are an important part of the work we do at the resource center, whether you are making a referral of someone in need, helping with transportation, or making a friendly call or visit. If you feel called to help out by joining the MVP Committee in your district, please call DeAnna Kinney at (740) 262-1974 or e-mail dkinney@omcoh.org. A training can be done via phone, virtually, or in person. We would also love to get a committee started in districts 3, 4, and 16 so we can reach more people who may need assistance. Ultimately, our goal is to assist people before they are in crisis by sharing information and being an advocate as they go through tough times. We also have financial assistance available for those who qualify. If you are from one of those districts and would like to learn more about how to start a committee, or what the resource center has to offer to your members, wives, widows and Eastern Stars, please reach out. Our volunteers perform a myriad of small kindnesses every day. So, if you want to bring a little kindness to your world, offer kindness and compassion to another. Help the resource center reach more people. Give us a call today.



5 Steps for Family Caregivers from AARP

Caring for a parent, spouse, or other loved one can be a rewarding experience, but it can also be challenging. Do you spend several hours per week – or more – helping a loved one with housekeeping, driving, grocery shopping, medical care, or financial responsibilities? Do you sometimes put the needs of your loved one before your own? Are you overwhelmed with the responsibility of caring for a loved one along with work and other aspects of your life?

If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, chances are you could use some help. Family caregivers were asked to come up with 5 steps every family caregiver should take – no matter where you are in your caregiving journey.

STEP 1 START THE CONVERSATION

Many people wait until a crisis occurs before they talk with loved ones about important issues like healthcare preferences, finances, and housing options. While you may be wary of initiating a conversation about sensitive topics, sooner is better – and having a plan will help you be more prepared in case of an emergency.

STEP 2 FORM YOUR TEAM

Caring for a family member or friend can be a big job for one person. Trying to do everything yourself can lead to burnout and contribute to problems with your mental and physical health. Try forming a team including family members, friends, neighbors, community members, and faith networks. Be creative about enlisting support; even younger family members can contribute in special ways.

STEP 3 MAKE A PLAN

Putting together a family caregiving plan can help you organize tasks efficiently and allow you to respond more quickly and effectively should a particular need arise. It can also provide some peace of mind. The plan should include input from your entire care team, including your loved one; outline each individual’s responsibilities; and identify a system for communication with your team like email or online communities.

STEP 4 FIND SUPPORT

Family caregivers, you’re not alone. Reach out to community organizations and professionals that can offer support. Community resources can include meal delivery, transportation, and adult day services. Hired home care services can also be a big help, even on a part-time or occasional basis. And, professional counseling to discuss the challenges of caring for your loved one can be therapeutic.

STEP 5 CARE FOR YOURSELF

Being an effective family caregiver means asking for help when you need it. By taking time to care for your own needs, you’re less likely to feel worn out by your caregiving responsibilities. Try looking into workplace benefits like flextime or alternative schedules. Make time for exercise, nutrition, and sleep. And, caregiver support groups, in person or online, can help you with information, insight, and support.

The most important thing to remember is that you don’t have to do this alone. We can help. If you or someone you know needs assistance, call The Ohio Masonic Communities Resource Center at (877) 881-1623.



Your Guide to Navigating the Caregiving Journey

In this guide, we cover a lot of essentials that come with being a caregiver including taking care of yourself and finding support from others. You’re not on this journey alone. We’re here to help.

Download this guide at omcresourcecenter.org/careguide or scan the QR code with your mobile device.



A Trusted Partner



When Susan Bennett called the resource center, she was looking for a referral. She needed someone who could help them with some minor home repairs. Someone had been hired to fix the railing on their porch. However, once paid, the handyman left – never to return or be heard from again. It left the porch railing wobbly and only half finished, a stack of lumber, and a front door that wouldn't lock.

Upon calling The Ohio Masonic Communities Resource Center, we were able to reach out to our volunteer chairman in the 21st Masonic District. Brother Rick Miller of William H. Hoover Lodge answered the call. Without hesitation, Rick said that Brother Christian Vallance with Vallance Construction was the man to help us out. Upon following up with Susan, she stated that she was so happy with the services provided. Their porch had been unsafe for over 2 years. Within 1 ½ days, the project was completed. Vallance Construction readjusted her storm door, down spouts, and fixed the railing. They cleaned up the old pile of lumber, and she's now able to lock her door! Susan said she was tickled pink. They did beautiful work.

Susan's husband, Fred, of Clinton Lodge, passed away earlier this spring. She said he would be so glad to know that the project had been finished. "He would have really loved it and enjoyed it." Susan said she knows he's looking down on it from heaven.



People Helping Together

When people come together, support can be achieved. The Southern Ohio Community Outreach Coordinator, Trinity Davidson, received a call from a Masonic member stating that his sister and brother-in-law, Amy and John Walker, needed help in the 12th District. Before reaching out to the Masonic member, Trinity was contacted by Lodge secretary Troy Thacker. Troy knew of the needs of the family and wanted to see what The Ohio Masonic Communities Resource Center could do.

Trinity, Troy, and Amy Walker were able to work together over the phone to address immediate needs. John is facing some serious health issues requiring a lot of travel and medical attention. The resource center was able to provide a gas card to help cover the travel cost while John was in the hospital for rehabilitation. Once John was released to go back home, Troy and Trinity were able to meet with the Walker's to dive deeper into their needs. The resource center and Black Diamond Lodge are working together on home modifications to make mobility easier for John. After talking more with the Walker's, the resource center found needs that volunteers would be able to meet along the way. Trinity is working with the MVP members in the area to arrange additional help.

It is amazing and heart warming to see the multiple levels of the Masonic Fraternity come together to help a Brother and his wife out in their time of need.



Supporting our Brothers and Sisters in need

The Ohio Masonic Communities Resource Center has extended vital support to a young Mason facing serious health challenges. Brother Shawn Bell, 22, a member of Licking Lodge #291, is currently battling cancer. His father, Brother Noel Bell of New Home Lodge #338, reached out for assistance as Shawn's condition and the resulting financial strain became overwhelming.

Shawn is dealing with severe physical limitations, including reduced mobility in one arm and memory issues, leaving him unable to work. While The Ohio State University is working with the family on medical payment arrangements, the financial burden continues to grow. For Masons who qualify, The Ohio Masonic Communities Resource Center offers emergency assistance to help alleviate financial hardship. Many of these challenges are medical in nature, and the resource center provides support for housing, gas, and other essential household needs. This program serves as a lifeline for Masons in distress, ensuring they have the necessary support during difficult times.

This situation exemplifies the Masonic principles of brotherly love, relief, and truth—values that go beyond Lodge affiliation, uniting the Masonic family in times of need. The Ohio Masonic Communities Resource Center remains steadfast in its mission to support Ohio Masons and their families when they need it most.

Meet your Northwest Ohio Coordinator!



Janaye Guess holds both a bachelor's and master's degree in social work from The University of Toledo. She is a Licensed Independent Social Worker with Supervision designation (LISW-S), certified by the Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board.

With extensive experience in therapeutic services, case management, and community-based support, Janaye has a proven track record of advocating for individuals navigating complex systems. She partners closely with clients to identify their needs, develop individualized care plans, and connect them with vital resources that promote long-term well-being.

Outside of her professional work, Janaye enjoys reading, traveling, crafting, and nurturing her collection of plants. She lives in Liberty Center, Ohio, with her husband, Jordan, and their two sons.

Join us for our



INTERGENERATIONAL DAY CAMPS

June 27 | 7:30 am - 3 pm

RSVP by June 24

Browning Masonic Community
8883 Browning Drive, Waterville, OH 43566

July 18 | 7:30 am - 3 pm

RSVP by July 16

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

July 25 | 7:30 am - 3 pm

RSVP by July 23

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



Our annual school supply drive is open!

If you would like to donate supplies, or if you know a child or family who needs school supplies for the upcoming school year, please contact us at **(877) 881-1623 x 4.**

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.

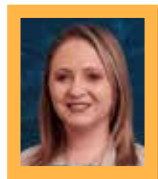
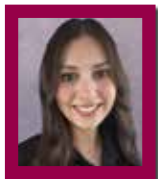
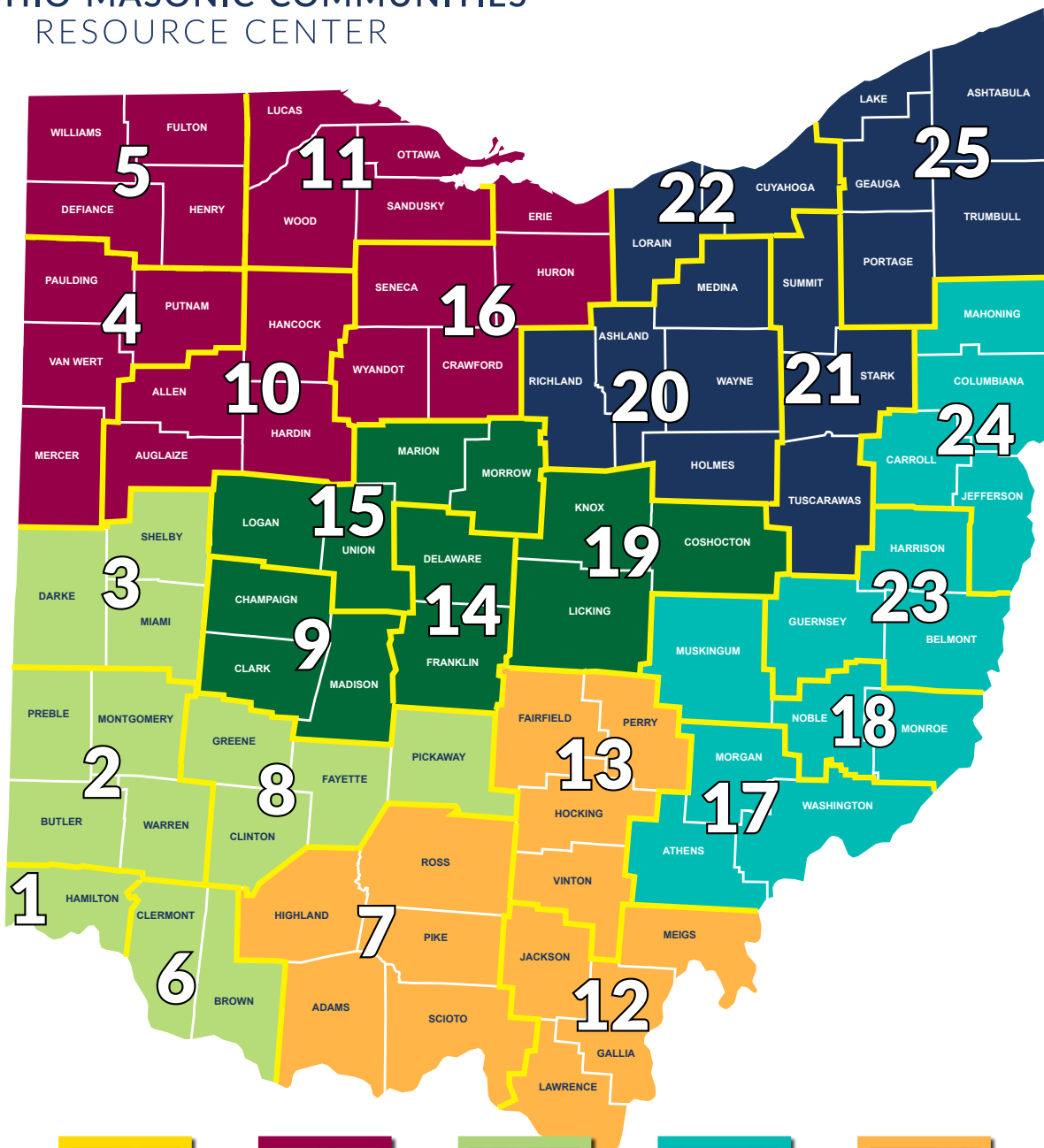
To register, or for more information about these events or our back-to-school program, contact Rachel Lancaster today at (877) 881-1623 (Ext 4) or rlancaster@omcoh.org.

REGIONAL MAP (MASONIC DISTRICTS)

Main Line:
(877) 881-1623



THE OHIO MASONIC COMMUNITIES
RESOURCE CENTER



Samantha Loy, MBA-HCM, CDP
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

Janaye Guess, LISW-S
NW Ohio Community Outreach Coordinator
(419) 378-6203

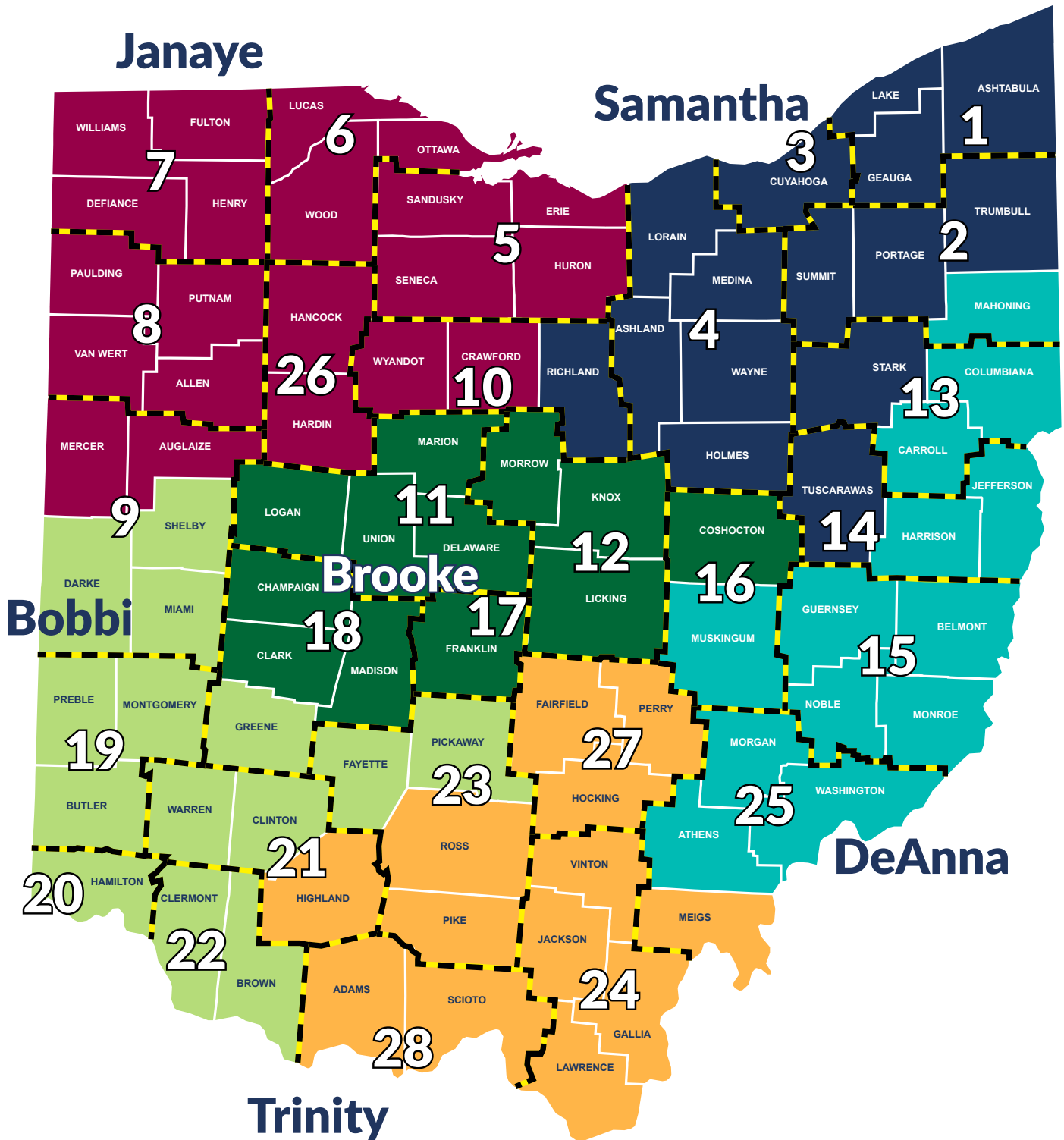
Bobbi Schickler, CSA
Certified Senior Advisor®
SW Ohio Community Outreach Coordinator & Masonic Bereavement Program Coordinator
(513) 567-1100

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





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Masonry in Action

A client recently called The Ohio Masonic Communities Resource Center and spoke to Rachel, our intake coordinator. The client didn't have a Masonic affiliation,

but she shared that she didn't have any food, and it would be a few weeks before her next social security check. Rachel dispatched the call to our Southwest Ohio Community Outreach Coordinator, Bobbi Schickler. Bobbi provided support to the client and called a local church to see if they could help. The church had a little food pantry and told Bobbi they would look and see what they had. Meanwhile, Bobbi emailed our volunteers, Worshipful Masters, secretaries, and district 2 officers to see if anyone could help. In a short time, she had responses from a few of our volunteers, including from a Mason whose wife and daughter were close and could take food to the client. In the meantime, the church called back and said they had some food and they were going to get more to deliver to our client. Within an hour, we had a church, Masonic volunteers, and a Mason's wife and daughter all getting her food and delivering it. Bobbi still had a few other Masons reach out to see if she had found someone to help. When she called the client, she was so excited and very thankful for all the help. Another Mason sent the group an email in awe of the action that was taken to help this client so quickly. By partnering together, we were able to help someone who was in need, regardless of their Masonic affiliation.

This is true Masonry in action!

The Ohio Masonic Communities Resource Center is here to assist you with finding the clinical, financial, and social resources you need. We make referrals and coordinate services with appropriate local agencies and fraternal organizations, offer support, provide case management, and connect individuals to information and resources. This could be finding home health care, medical equipment, products and services that help you stay in your own home, connection to benefits like VA, ODJFS, and SSI, and so much more. We also offer financial assistance for Ohio Master Masons, their wife or widow, and Ohio Eastern Star members, who qualify.

We are available to provide education and do presentations at Masonic meetings and events! Invite us to your Lodge or Chapter to speak or to set up a table with information.

We are here to help.



Like us on Facebook to see more of the support we offer!
facebook.com/omcresourcecenter