

Annual Volunteer Appreciation Brunch!!

Middlefield, Ohio — On Wednesday, July 16, the Geauga County Department on Aging hosted its Annual Volunteer Brunch at Mary Yoder's Amish Kitchen in Middlefield, Ohio, to honor and thank the remarkable volunteers who dedicate their time and energy to supporting seniors across Geauga County.

This annual gathering, attended by 80 dedicated volunteers, is one of the highlights of the year for the Department. It is a moment to reflect, recognize, and most importantly to extend heartfelt gratitude to those who serve our senior community.



“Every volunteer brings something special to the lives of those we serve,” said Jessica Boalt, Director for The Geauga County Department on Aging. “Whether delivering meals through our Home Delivered Meals Program or creating warmth and connection within our senior centers, their contributions are immeasurable.”

The event highlighted the profound impact of volunteerism. When a meal is delivered, it is more than just nourishment—it’s a wellness check, a friendly conversation, and often the only social interaction a senior may have that day. These volunteers bring not only food but dignity, compassion, and a reminder that every senior matters.

At the Geauga County Department on Aging’s senior centers, volunteers nurture spaces where friendships flourish and community thrives. They assist in kitchens, serve lunch, help with programs, lead activity groups, and offer companionship. Their selflessness helps make these centers vibrant, welcoming places for Geauga’s seniors to stay active and engaged.

During the brunch, Nathan Gorton, Home Delivered Meals and Volunteer Coordinator, shared 2024 volunteer statistics, showcasing the scope and scale of the volunteers' impact:

- 93 volunteers at senior centers, contributing over 5,017.25 hours of service
- 214 volunteers in the Home Delivered Meals Program, logging 6,453 hours and driving a noteworthy 98,938.25 miles to deliver meals and smiles across the county

Geauga County Commissioner Carolyn Brakey attended the Volunteer Appreciation Brunch to personally recognize and celebrate the essential role volunteers play in supporting Geauga's aging population. Her presence stressed the County's deep commitment to honoring those who give their time, compassion, and energy to improving the lives of Geauga's seniors.

The Department on Aging emphasized that volunteers are not just helpers, they are an essential extension of the agency's team. Their work uplifts not only seniors but also staff and the community.

"We could not serve our community without them," Jessica Boalt added. "They make our mission possible."

For more information on volunteer opportunities with the Geauga County Department on Aging, visit <https://departmentonaging.geauga.oh.gov> or call Nathan Gorton, Home Delivered Meals and Volunteer Coordinator, 440-279-2138.