FOCUS ON FILLES

Summer 2024

Paul and Heather pose for a photo during the 4th of July festivities at the Cardinal home in Williams County, capturing the joy that comes from being surrounded by those who support and uplift us. More on pg. 4.



Lutheran Ministries of Mercy

Giving Heart and Soul

Within our bustling agencies, the summer months often include a time set aside for more formal moments of staff appreciation. Gift cards, favorite treats, lunches, notes of thanks and even a family "Singo" game are small gestures of gratitude for the hundreds of staff members working with passion in support of our missions. With these moments of appreciation, we acknowledge the tireless dedication and commitment of staff, recognizing each individual's contribution - not just for their unique skills - but also for the character they bring to their role, day in and day out. Some who are very new to our agencies, others, recognizing their life's work in service to others. Individual acts of kindness or understanding, moments of humor, times of care and concern; these are the many ways staff members impact the people we serve and craft the cultures of our organizations.

We are reminded that these individual efforts join together to make a collective impact in the lives of those who seek our services and, together, our work becomes greater than any one of us individually. This shared commitment, fueled by individual inspiration, drives our agencies forward and leads us down exemplary paths of service.

Terri Rodriguez President and CEO Lutheran Ministries of Mercy

When people come together...staff, volunteers, families and friends...with a shared purpose - to uplift, empower and serve - wonderful things happen. Our work is a testament to the profound impact of collective effort and the enduring power of compassion. For as long as there are hearts willing to give, there will always be the light of hope, shining brightly for all to see.

So today, and always, I hope you will join me in a prayer of thanks for the dedicated people who make the vital work of our ministries possible.

Terri Rodriguez

2024 Calendar

August 23, LHM Golf Outing

September 15, LHM Fall Festival

September 28, FH Festival of Tables

November 2, FH Fall Fling

LSS: Lutheran Social Services of Northwestern Ohio LHM: Luther Home of Mercy FH: Filling Homes

VOLUNTEERING - to freely offer to do something. To give back to a good cause.

Summer is a wonderful time to offer your services to one of our agencies. In our Together Toward Tomorrow campaign which runs through July 30, we ask for gifts of time, talent and treasure. All three of these giving options provide the resources necessary to meet the individual and collective needs of those in our care. You can visit our website to learn more about this campaign or to give.

If you would like to spend time volunteering, we would love to utilize your talents and expertise in a way that makes volunteering a great experience for you, and in some cases your children too! For more information on volunteering please call:

- Sarah Jackson, Filling Homes, 419-592-6451 ext. 1350
- Lisa McNary, Luther Home of Mercy, 419-836-7741
- Debbie Lisk, Lutheran Social Services, 419-243-9178

Jeanette Hrovatich Director of Planned Giving



Lutheran Ministries of Mercy, founded in 2013 in partnership with Filling Homes, Luther Home of Mercy, and Lutheran Social Services of Northwestern Ohio, continues to find new ways to meet the demands of our clients and residents. Administrative services, information technology, and planned giving services are combined, shared and designed. Together, our organizations impacted 31,874 lives during 2023 and we look forward to working together in the years ahead.

lutheranministriesofmercy.org

A Message from Carol Slight Vice President, Filling Homes

Greetings and wishes for a summer filled with fun and laughter to you all. I want to take a moment to recognize the incredible dedication and impact of our employees. Their tireless efforts make a profound difference in the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

Each day, our employees embody the true essence of compassionate, person-centered care. They empower our residents and clients to reach their full potential, fostering an environment where everyone feels valued and supported. Their commitment to this important work is not just a job; it is a passion that resonates throughout our organization.

Their dedication, creativity, and resilience have been truly inspiring. Whether they are providing direct support, managing programs, administrative tasks or caring for our buildings and grounds, each of our staff plays a vital role in fulfilling our mission.

In closing, I want to thank our staff for bringing their whole selves to this important work. Their passion and expertise are key to our success. They make a difference every single day. And to our community, I express my heartfelt gratitude. Your support and involvement are crucial in our efforts to enhance the lives of those we care for.

Blessings,

arol Slight

Vice President

Our Mission Statement

Rooted in faith, we support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, enriching lives full of value, hope, and choice within their community.



Leadership Team



Carol Slight Vice President







Jenny Borgelt Director of Community Services



Jean Cohrs Director of Mission Advancement

Creative Rest - 2024



Soaring Arts Studios has received a grant from The Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) of Northwestern Ohio Synod for community activities revolving around "Creative Rest." Over the next 4-5 months, the artists and staff will be doing a lot of activities that promote slowing down and finding rest for our minds, bodies and spirits through mindfulness, creativity, play, writing, music and etc.

There will be many free activities, such as "CAN" (Community Art Nights) Rest." This will be held on Tuesdays from 4-7PM and will be open studio nights where the community can come and have a space to relax and create. Each night will have a specific theme, and one of the Studio Artists and staff will be there to guide participants into the creative rest activity, and then let guests create independently. Community members are welcome to stay the whole time or come and go as they'd like.

Creative Rest Kits will be popping up in coffee shops and spaces in Henry and Williams County to guide customers in creative rest activities, in the midst of their busy lives.

Interactive pop-up art installations are also planned and will be showing up randomly in our communities. These will be a call-out for people to slow down and unexpectantly interact with their surroundings and art.

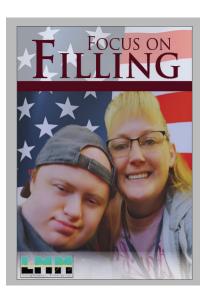
Finally, there will be some month-long planned creative rest activities hosted by a few local churches that will allow participants to be creative in many different ways. It will then be followed up with a church member art show, displaying their mindful creations, created throughout the month.

We are all very excited about this project and thankful to the ELCA of Northwestern Ohio Synod for the Grant that will make it all possible.

Pictured are Bobby and Becky with their chair designs that will pop up in the community!



ABOUT THE COVER



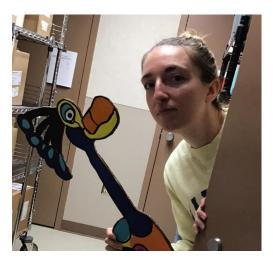
Filling Homes currently operates two ICF/IDD (Intermediate Care Facilities/Intellectual Developmental Disabilities) group homes in Williams County, Ohio. Each home provides residence for six individuals within the community. One home, known as Cardinal, is located in Bryan, and the other one, known as Egly, is located in West Unity. Our summer issue cover photo features Paul, who lives at the Cardinal home and Heather, who has been one of Filling Homes great staff for over 13 years. "I love being with the residents and caring for them, they're like family and they make me smile".

Paul came to Filling Homes in 2004 initially living at our base facility in Napoleon, OH. In this new supportive environment, Paul made many friends and kept staff on their toes with his orneriness. He attended Napoleon High School while living at the base facility. After high school, Paul moved into the Cardinal Home, where he learned to navigate different daily activities and formed new friendships. Paul loves to play with his cd's, he carries his radio/cd player around the house and listens to cd's. He enjoys interacting with staff, his iPad, water guns, nerf guns and playing ball.

The growth Paul experienced over the years is surely in part due to his own determination but we must also acknowledge the direct care staff, nursing, therapy, simply every staff walking alongside him during his journey and truly making it their mission to see him live a life to the fullest!

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REVIVAL 2024 An Uplifting week!

Filling Homes annual employee appreciation week was celebrated late June and was a week focused on lifting staff UP. An annual event that began in 2016 – each year with a special theme, is carefully and thoughtfully planned by a committee of staff from throughout Filling Homes programs.

Our theme this year was simply "UP!", based on the Disney/Pixar movie that has friends Carl and Russel on an adventure of a lifetime filled with balloons, life lessons, and friendship.

On Fuel UP Monday we enjoyed a delicious boxed lunch from Mama Mirs. Brighten UP Tuesday was movie day where staff, residents and clients were able to come together to watch the movie "UP" and enjoy snacks and refreshments. Glam UP Wednesday was a day to deliver special 65th anniversary gifts to all staff then we moved in to Party UP Thursday - we had a great turn out at the Family Night SINGO event, where DJ Jenny Borgelt and her assistant Megan Ridley led us in music bingo while staff, clients, and family members enjoyed pizza, refreshments and prizes. We saw a lot of staff and client participation throughout the week with a "Snipe Hunt" as Kevin the snipe made his way around to different programs posing for pictures.

A big thank you to Thrivent, the Revival Committee and everyone who pitched in to make this staff appreciation event a great week. We are truly thankful for our amazing employees!



Tracy and I share birth month February and wearing red today and my T-shirt is a few years old lol



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1 comment Seen by 145



THE FILLING HOME FOUNDATION We sincerely thank our friends who generously support our ministry.

Billy (Pookie) Hamilton Steven & Patricia Hamilton Toledo, OH Dan Shininger The Andersons, Maumee, OH Rob & Renee Timbrook Perrysburg, OH Emelie Wagner Terry & Jean Cohrs, Napoleon, OH Family Members Rita Mahlman, Deshler, OH Karen Kemper Thomas & Cheryl Hoefler Kettering, OH Leif Teia Benton & Monica Bassett Olmsted Township, OH Eleanor Wacker, La Crescenta, CA Andrea Reed Dennis & Cathy Price, Delaware, OH Baby Jack, Riley and Harper Wanda Schlachter, Defiance, OH **Carolyn Rower** Hope Lutheran WELCA, Hamler, OH Dennis Helberg Jean Plassman, Defiance, OH **Don Schroeder** Terry & Jean Cohrs, Napoleon, OH Donald Slight Benton & Monica Bassett Olmsted Township, OH Ed Otte St. Paul's Lutheran Church Napoleon, OH Hilda Smith Earl LaGorin, Sarasota, FL Jane Claussen Donna Schindler, Defiance, OH Michael & Mary Ann Benecke Napoleon, OH Loryann Eis, Moline, IL Morris & Melody Wiemken Defiance, OH Jana Von Deylen, Napoleon, OH Lester Sanders, Defiance, OH Bette Lighthill, Defiance, OH Todd & Carol Slight, Napoleon, OH Richard & Mary Alice Nagel Defiance, OH Steven & Karen Graf, Defiance, OH Wanda Norden, Malinta, OH Steven & Luanne Marten, Kansas City, MO

Jan Bratton, Delta, OH

In Memory of Jane Claussen cont. Michael & Vicki Rueckert Fort Collins, CO Constance Claussen, Omaha, NE John & Paula Steele, Napoleon, OH Ruth Vondeylen, Napoleon, OH Stephen & Ann Overhulse Napoleon, OH Rodenberger-Gray Funeral Home Napoleon, OH Elaine Brooks, Amarillo, TX Jerry & Marilyn Hershberger Napoleon, OH Lee Higbea Terry & Cheryl Bostelman John & Debbie Marten Harriet Schroeder Judy Brown Bethlahem Sewing Ladies Jerry Higbea Bernadine Higbea Marlin & Carolyn Maassel Chris Mack Kim & Kevin Dunbar Marilyn Behrman Jay Mohulland Bridette & Jean Meyer Craig & Julie Drewes Randy & Deb Ehlers Dan & Beth Behrman Mildred Gerken Betty Marten Karolyn Subbert Ginny Tomlinson Jayme Schiff Jeff & Cindy Casserly Jim & Phyllis Knape Jennifer Godeke Jennifer Gerken, Napoleon, OH Lisa Burrell, Defiance, OH Jim Drihood Earl LaGorin, Sarasota, FL Jovce Frank Earl LaGorin, Sarasota, FL June Baden Ronald Slaven, Columbus, OH Dell Technologies, Dublin, OH Lorna Bremer Kenneth & Arlene Freytag Napoleon, OH

Lowell Snider

Luella Badenhop

Earl LaGorin, Sarasota, FL

Hope Lutheran WELCA, Hamler, OH

Marie Bilsing Trinity Lutheran Church Women Galion, OH Mary Ann Meyer Carol Dille, Napoleon, OH Matthew Maahs David & Anne Maahs, Brighton, MI Darin & Katelyn Johnson Cedar Springs, MI Parker Stroom Earl LaGorin, Sarasota, FL Paula Miller Jeff Mires, Napoleon, OH Ryan Cohrs, Napoleon, OH Gary & Mary Poore, Adrian, MI Rachel Wannebo Earl LaGorin, Sarasota, FL Rev. Edwin R. Fidler Douglas Fidler & Deborah Wissner Cuyahoga Falls, OH **Richard Storch** Hope Lutheran WELCA, Hamler, OH Marian Dickmann, Napoleon, OH **Rick Thayer** Kevin & Kelli Gerken, Napoleon, OH Friends & Family Of Rick Thayer Jon & Judy Schamp, Wauseon, OH Todd & Carol Slight, Napoleon, OH Patricia Newell, Leipsic, OH John & Carol Speiser, Napoleon, OH Amy Morman, Napoleon, OH Diana & Roger Ashenfelter Archbold, OH Robert Mourey Spangler Candy Company, Bryan, OH **Robert Rohrs** Hope Lutheran WELCA, Hamler, OH Rosalyn Junge Linda Rathge, Napoleon, OH Joyce Maassel, Napoleon, OH Ruth Wiegman Shirley Jones, Bloomville, OH Sandy Maahs Craig & Dorothy Farrell Lakeview, MI Sue Hurst Walter & Lorna Hougland Napoleon, OH Kevin & Kathy Sonnenberg Napoleon, OH Suzanne Joseph Martin & Nancy Helmke Napoleon, OH

Focus on Filling | Summer 2024

In Honor Of

Luke Ross Sheba Ross, Acworth, GA Rebecca Lynn Eddington Audrey Sutton, Clyde, OH Geri Alexander Colleen Wallace, Gahanna, OH Sue Funchion Benton & Monica Bassett Olmsted Township, OH **Trey Dille** Carol Dille, Napoleon, OH Filling Home Staff Ann Little, Continental, OH Mary Margaret Cole Laura Cole, Swanton, OH Shane Swartzlander Brenda Wueller, Toledo, OH **Tyler Meyer** Michael & Linda Meyer Defiance, OH Geri Alexander Steven Kemper, Franklin, OH

Individual Gifts

Carol Schroeder, New Bavaria, OH

Sam Denn, Wauseon, OH Roger & Connie Sell, Napoleon, OH Charles & Jeri Campbell, Toledo, OH Linda Rathge, Napoleon, OH Robert & Carol Cain, Delta, OH Patty Michaelis, Defiance, OH David Crandall, Napoleon, OH Timothy Hoops, Napoleon, OH Robert Myers, Defiance, OH Kristan Norden, Napoleon, OH Sandra Holifield, Napoleon, OH Kurt Meyers, Toledo, OH Carol Chatham, Defiance, OH Barbara Hare, Celina, OH Phyllis Hyer, Columbus, OH Andrew & Julie Carlson, Pioneer, OH Edward & Ann Kidston, Pioneer, OH **Donald & Jeannine Leckrone** Antwerp, OH John J. Freund, Van Wert, OH **Patrick & Elizabeth Hart** Fort Recovery, OH Laura Cole, Swanton, OH John & Wanda Schimpf Bloomville, OH Dale & Marcia Kern, Archbold, OH Gary & Mary Poore, Adrian, MI Deb Butler, Napoleon, OH Eugene Metzger, Fort Jennings, OH Gary & Debra Vollmer, Hicksville, OH James & Terry Riggs, Bryan, OH John & Debbie Kendzel, Toledo, OH Daniel & Patricia Ritter, McComb, OH Earnie & Lois Clark, Harold, KY Jane Haggerty, Deshler, OH

In-kind Gifts

Bret Babcock, Napoloen, OH Carol Dille, Napoleon, OH Carol Schroeder, New Bavaria, OH **Emanuel Lutheran Church** Napoleon, OH Glenn and Patricia Alexander Miamisburg, OH Kerry Homan, Napoleon, OH Roger Gerschutz, Holgate, OH Sandra Denn, Wauseon, OH Shirley Jones, Bloomville, OH St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Napoleon, OH St. Paul's Napoleon Twp. Sunday School, Napoleon, OH Steven and Karen Graf, Defiance, OH Suzanne Johnson, Archbold, OH Terry & Jean Cohrs, Napoleon, OH Wauseon Women's Guild Of Filling Memorial Home, Wauseon, OH

Congregational

Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church, Defiance, OH Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Defiance, OH **Emanuel Lutheran Church,** Napoleon, OH **Emanuel Lutheran Church,** Napoleon, OH Hope Lutheran Church, Hamler, OH St Pauls Lutheran Church Women, McClure, OH St. James Lutheran Church, Bradner, OH St. John Lutheran Church, Holgate, OH St. John's Lutheran Church, Montpelier, OH St. John's Lutheran Church Women Montpelier, OH St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church Defiance, OH St. Paul Lutheran Church Sulphur Springs, OH Trinity Lutheran Church, Wauseon, OH Trinity Lutheran Church, Delta, OH Zions Lutheran Church, Defiance, OH

Thrivent Choice Gifts

David Bishop, Deshler, OH Barbara Bockelman, Napoleon, OH Bradley Bockelman, Napoleon, OH Lisa Bockelman, Napoleon, OH Lynn Durham, Napoleon, OH Judith Elarton, Fayette, OH Merlin Elarton, Fayette, OH Shirley Gebers, Defiance, OH Walter Hougland, Napoleon, OH Elmer Junge, Napoleon, OH Bonnie Ohlrich, Liberty Center, OH

Thrivent Choice Gifts cont.

Lawrence Van Karsen, Powell, OH Helen Witte, Malinta, OH Esther Oberhaus, Napoleon, OH Bret Speiser, Napoleon, OH

Purse Bingo

Dotson Construction, Whitehouse, OH World Class Collision LLC Napoleon, OH Rodenberger-Gray Funeral Home Napoleon, OH GEM INC., Toledo, OH Kurtz Ace Hardware, Napoleon, OH GLO Heating, Cooling, & Plumbing, Inc., Bowling Green, OH GBU Life, Pittsburgh, PA David & Jane Crandall, Napoleon, OH Andrew & Cathy Barthel Sylvania, OH Terry & Jean Cohrs, Napoleon, OH

Grants

Ohio Arts Council, Columbus, OH Northwestern Ohio Synod, ELCA Findlay, OH

Gifts listed were received from April 1, 2024 through June 28, 2024.

If we have failed to list your name or have listed your gift incorrectly, please accept our apologies and contact Jean Cohrs at 419-599-6901 or jcohrs@fillinghome.org.



Filling Homes Community Center recently delivered muffins to two of their confidential shred customers. Thank you, Thrivent and Napoleon Family Vision for choosing FHCC for your shredding needs!



COMMUNITY GARDENS

Since 2012, Filling Homes Community Garden has been a place where nature and community intertwine, fostering both growth and connection. Vines stretch out and curl around trellises, poles and any available support, symbolizing the support we provide one another in this shared space. Just as these vines seek out structures to aid their accent, our garden thrives on the contributions and collaboration of our dedicated gardeners of community members, Filling Home resident families and employees. This harmonious relationship ensures that both our plants and our community flourish together while tending to 30 garden plots.

Filling Homes is surely blessed with many wonderful relationships throughout our community. We extend a special thank you to Walmart and the Spark Good Local Grant, which provides the soil, seeds, plants - everything needed to bring these gardens to fruition each year. This allows our gardeners to focus on the community collaboration of beautiful flowers, vegetables and friendships.







Spring 2024 Moser Nursing Scholarships Awarded

Filling Homes Women's Guild recently awarded two scholarships. We would like to congratulate the Spring 2024 recipients of the Moser Nursing Scholarship, Landon Johnson, a 2023 graduate of Patrick Henry High School and Abigail Brown, a 2023 graduate of Holgate High School. Both are furthering their education in the nursing field.

The Moser Nursing Scholarship was formed in honor of Pastor Moser who in August, 1958 became the Homes first Administrator and served through 1968. In April, 1969 the first Moser Nursing Scholarship was awarded by the Women's Guild in the amount of \$250.00.

Pictured above are Landon Johnson, Cathy Aschemeier, Chair of the Women's Guild Scholarship Committee who presented the award and Abigail Brown. Congratulations to both, Landon and Abigail and best of luck in their future endeavors.



Above, Jean Cohrs, Mission Advancement Director receives a check for the purchase of the minivan from the Bodette Family, Danelle, Beth and Dan.



Ann, Kelly and Danelle are all smiles posing with the new 2023 Mini Van.

OUR MISSION IN *MOTION*

We are thrilled to announce the generous donation of a minivan to Filling Homes for one of our community homes, West St. This unexpected gift will greatly enhance the mobility of those living here, allowing them to participate more fully in community activities, medical appointments and community outings.

Danelle has lived at West St. since 2011 and while she knew about the surprise her parents had in store for her and her 3 roommates, she did a great job keeping the secret util the time of the delivery.

We extend our deepest gratitude to Dan and Beth Bodette, whose daughter, Danelle, lives at the West

Street home along with her roommates, Nicholas, Kelly and Ann. Their kindness has opened new doors of opportunity and independence for this home. This gift is more than a vehicle; it is a symbol of compassion and support that will have a lasting impact on their lives.

GRANT AWARDED

A Bureau of Workers Compensation (BWC) Grant was given to Filling Homes (FH) for a little over \$29,500 with Filling Homes matching that amount at \$9,900. The match is made possible by our generous donors, pledging unrestricted gifts that are available for us to use when opportunities like the BWC Grant are available.

Over 80% of FH residents utilize wheelchairs for their mobility and that means that several transfers, pivots and other mobility supports are performed by staff on a daily basis. With clients ranging from 100-300 pounds, these transfers put staff at risk for injury, back aches and



other strains. Lifting, pushing, pulling, slips and falls are all risk factors that our staff face on a regular basis during their workday. With the assistance of this grant, FH purchased new, state of the art equipment that will provide for ergonomically correct lifting techniques and personal care opportunities.

Pictured are Elizabeth Moore, LPTA, Physical Therapist Assistant and Kenzie Eickholt COTA/L, Occupational Therapy Assistant, recently created training videos to be used for staff working directly with residents for proper use of the Maxi 500/Maxi Move lifts.

Achievement Spotlight

Filling Homes is blessed to have Pastor Denise Brown as part of our organization, leading weekly chapel services, bible studies, a monthly community chapel service and much more.

What many may not know is her love for swimming. She has successfully competed in many Olympic events, US and abroad! Denise's most recent award comes from the Pan American Games, which is a multi-sport event for athletes that takes place every four years.

Denise is pictured posing with her award after taking First Place finishes in the 400 IM (individual medley), 800 Free, 200 Backstroke, 400 free and 200 IM! She did not stop there - next up was traveling to compete in the USMS Open Water 5k which is a 3.1 mile open water swimming event that is part of the U.S. Masters Swimming (USMS) Open Water National Championships. Congratulations in winning First Place Overall.

Tune in to This Week at Filling, our weekly radio program aired Saturday mornings on 103.1 WNDH in August to hear more about her swimming successes from Denise herself!



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Change of Address

Please clip and return this form, if you or someone you know has changed addresses. Thank You!

	email	
I am receiving	receive the newsletter via email	Return form and address label from this newsletter to: Filling Homes N160 State Route 108 Napoleon, OH 43545 Email concerns to : maggieburt@fillinghome.org
As we continue to supp generosity of our amazing current needs, should	ort our mission, we rely on the supporters. Below is a list of our the opportunity to give arise. ank you!	Filling Home of Mercy a Ministry of Lutheran Ministries of Mercy
Hot chocolate mix·WashclothsKetchup·Bamboo WashclothsMacaroni·Hand towelsMixes (cake, muffin)·Hot glue sticks (mini)Mustard·PaintbrushesNoodles·Plastic table clothsOatmeal·Cteal apager	BOARD OF DIRECTORS Juli Lejman-Guy - Chair Christina Fletcher - 1st Vice Chair Michelle Dean - 2nd Vice Chair Charles Campbell - Secretary Bobbie Abel - Treasurer	
Rice Shortening Snack-pack pudding Soups (all types) Spaghetti Sugar (brown, white) Syrup (karo, chocolate, Zip Lock bags	 Stock paper String, twine, raffia Tacky glue Water/splash ball 	Members Stephen Lutz, Jeff Mires, Marilyn Ford, Jeffrey Schwartz, Matthew Garrow, Chester Trail, Kathleen Winters, Amy Merkel, Andy Barthel, Becky Stewart
Men's white t-shirts (Sm	aall, Med., Large)	R E D B Y



STAY CONNECTED!







+ Filling Memorial Home of Mercy +

N160 State Route 108 Napoleon, OH 43545 419-592-6451 fillinghome.org



Change Service Requested



Filling Homes hosted the Vintage Motor Car Club of America (VMCCA), Defiance Chapter, for a car tour and breakfast stop at the base facility. VMCCA has been visiting every year since 2014. We welcomed over 20 people attending from the car club and 11 cars!

Filling Homes would like to thank Esther and Dave Plassman, who coordinate the group of vintage vehicle enthusiasts, for the generous donation to Filling Homes.





