

# FOCUS ON FILLING

*"But the seed planted in the good earth represents those who hear the Word, embrace it, and produce a harvest beyond their wildest dreams." Mark 4:20. P 3*







## Advocacy Efforts Prove Successful

For more than a year and a half Filling Home has been an active member of a statewide coalition of agency providers of services to those living with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Coalition first came together to strategize and implement coordinated legislative advocacy efforts with the goal of positively influencing Medicaid reimbursement rates in Ohio's proposed biennium budget.

Across the state and at key times during the budget approval process, agency staff and leadership were joined by Board Members, families and those receiving services in sending thousands of letters to state legislators and influencers, providing both written an in-person testimony, and arranging agency tours, visits and zoom calls. The budget was approved during the last days of June with positive results for our agencies over the course of the next two fiscal years.

After more than three decades of lagging reimbursement rates, the state budget now contains unprecedented rate increases for our Intermediate Care Facilities as well as for our community-based services. These rate increases will enable Filling Home to have less reliance on Foundation assets to assist with operating costs, help us meet rising inflation and positively affect our ability to recruit and retain qualified staff in the numbers needed for the health, safety, security and enjoyment of those in our care.

We are truly thankful for all those who joined in this tremendous effort and look forward to the many opportunities this funding will provide in the lives of those we serve.

In gratitude,

Terri Rodriguez,  
President and CEO



### Leadership Team



**Carol Slight**  
Vice President



**Amy Krassow**  
Director ICF Services



**Jenny Borgelt**  
Director of Community Services



**Jean Cohrs**  
Director of Mission Advancement

### Stay Connected



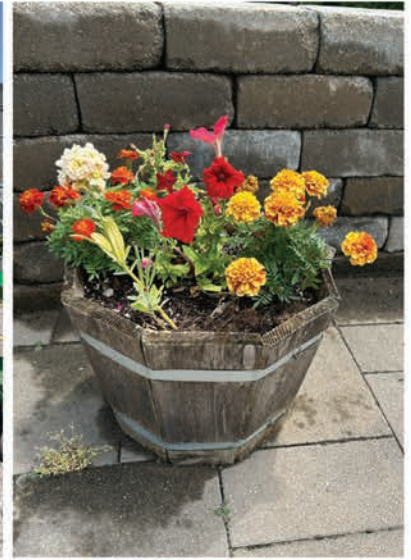
facebook.com/fillinghomes  
facebook.com/SoaringArtsStudio  
facebook.com/FillingHomesCareers



## Summer Gardening

Just as a seed, when sown in the ground dies, so is it in our lives as we place ourselves in the hands of the master gardener to care for us and help us grow and produce good fruit in our lives. Filling Homes has many talented gardeners, rooted in faith, helping to produce beautiful flowers, healthy fruits and vegetables. This gives the people we serve a sense of purpose. It allows them to learn a new hobby and skill, relieves stress, and gives them a sense of responsibility while making the landscape so beautiful.

Josette and Mike (cover photo), at Filling Homes Adult Day Program, spent time planting seeds early this spring and placed them in the indoor greenhouse, looking each day for sprouts. They later moved the growing plants outside to the garden beds and now spend time each day tending to their project. Tim and Chrissy shopped with Beth for colorful flowers at a nearby greenhouse, while Chris, Tyler and Jenna shopped another. We are blessed with many gardens and gardeners at Filling Homes!



## Farewell and Best Wishes!

We would like to congratulate Lori Siclair on her appointment as Henry County Commissioner! Lori has been an integral part of Filling Homes for the past 10 years as the Public Relations Coordinator. Her love for the people we serve and passion for advocating for them as well as her love for creating and writing will surely be missed as she moves on. Pictured is Marissa, an artist at the Soaring Arts Studio, presenting Lori with a plaque of Ohio to thank her and wish her well. Congratulations Lori!

As we say goodbye to Lori, we welcome Tina Parsons, who has filled the Public Relations Coordinator role.





## 10 years of Together 5 years of our Annual Campaign

### Jeanette Hrovatich, Director of Planned Giving

**M**any Voices. One Story. This powerful theme embodies the spirit of our collective work. It has been a remarkable decade since Lutheran Ministries of Mercy began to unit our affiliates, Filling Homes, Luther Home of Mercy, and Lutheran Social Services of Northwestern, to create stronger outcomes for more than 29,000 individuals served each year. Our affiliates represent the dedication, care and compassion needed to continue to provide the resources needed for our residents, clients and community. Today, we invite you to join us by making a gift to our collective work through the 2023 Together Toward Tomorrow campaign. Our goal is to raise funds to support the essential services we provide including programs for mental health counseling, food & personal needs pantry programs, financial stability, and, for our friends with intellectual and developmental disabilities, safe residential housing, community housing services and adult day programming.

With your generosity, we can continue to offer life-changing opportunities to those in our care.

The Together Toward Tomorrow campaign has raised more than \$370,000.00 over the past five years. This incredible accomplishment demonstrates the impact of together and a promise that we will continue to serve in unity, sharing resources and enhancing lives. All we need now is to have you join us with a gift to this special campaign.

FILLING HOMES • LUTHER HOME OF MERCY • LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES

505

18,791

28,134

**These numbers - and more - are  
lives impacted by the dollars  
you donate.**

**Impact more lives  
through a gift today.**

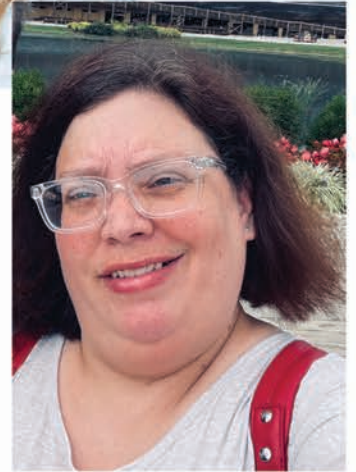


In May, we had the pleasure of meeting Congressman Bob Latta when he visited Filling Homes. We are very thankful for the time he spent with us and his interest in learning about the services we provide for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The visit concluded with a tour of the main campus facility.



## Scholarships Awarded

Filling Homes Women's Guild recently donated two \$1,000.00 scholarships to two very worthy students. The Moser Nursing Scholarship was granted to a 2023 high school student who aspires to go into the nursing field. Lauren Lambert is a graduate of Bryan High School and will continue her education at The Ohio State University. The Employee Scholarship is granted to an active employee of Filling Homes who is interested in pursuing advance education in the Health and Human Service field with the intent of pursuing employment after graduation to serve individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Skye Buehrer, a ten-year employee of Filling Homes, was awarded the \$1,000.00 Employee Scholarship for 2023.



### Congratulations Lauren and Skye!



**Artists currently in our Studio Teaching Team Program: Emilee Schwiebert, Jen Nofziger, Tara Murphy, Derrick Maassel, Dakota Robinson, Mary Cole, Jessica Clapp, Amanda Goheen, Heather Stoner, Brianna Lillie and Marissa Cortez.**

Soaring Arts is a vibrant and inspiring place where artists of all abilities are empowered to explore their talents and express themselves through the arts! Our mission is

## Soaring Teachers

simply to "Inspire Creative Expression!" This applies to the many artists that create regularly at Soaring Arts, those who collaborate with us, those who take classes, and even those who are touched in some way or another by the art on display!

Emilee Schwiebert is one of the newest artists on our Studio Teaching Team! Here, Emilee is teaching an acrylic pour class to her peers at Soaring Arts. The artists at Soaring Arts all have different interests and like to explore creativity in unique ways. Oftentimes, as an artist grows in their skills, they are given the opportunity to share what they have learned with their fellow

artists. This is a fun experience for everyone! It empowers the artist who is instructing, and it helps all of the artists get the chance to try new forms and mediums of art!

For those on our teaching team, instructing their peers first helps the artist learn, prepare and feel more comfortable in their teaching skills! This photo was a part of Emilee's preparation for a Community Class that she taught the following week as a part of our "Acrylic Pour Series!" Emilee did a wonderful job! She came in with confidence and spunk; she was fully ready to inspire others with her art and show them that, they too, could create beautiful works of art!



# THE FILLING HOME FOUNDATION

WE SINCERELY THANK OUR FRIENDS WHO GENEROUSLY SUPPORT OUR MINISTRY.

## In Memory of

### In memory of Amanda Parsons

Todd & Carol Slight,  
Napoleon, OH

### In memory of Ben Reese

Joel & Joyce Sutton,  
Maumee, OH  
Philip & Barbara Cochran,  
Napoleon, OH  
Todd & Carol Slight,  
Napoleon, OH

### In memory of Dan Shininger

Rob & Renee Timbrook  
The Andersons,  
Maumee, OH

### In memory of

### Diane Sonnenberg

Fred & Peggy Weber,  
Hamler, OH  
Karen Schroeder,  
Hamler, OH  
Ken & Carol Badenhop,  
Fort Wayne, IN  
Sandy Vocke,  
Napoleon, OH  
Thomas & Charlotte Zgela,  
Deshler, OH  
Wilbur & Lola Miller, Bowling  
Green, OH

### In memory of Don Mitchell

Barbara Bockelman, Napoleon, OH

### In memory of Elizabeth Dora Borstelman

Darwin and Joan Paxton,  
Holgate, OH

### In memory of Family Members

Rita Mahlman,  
Deshler, OH

### In memory of Friends

Jane Claussen,  
Defiance, OH

### In memory of Gary Calkins

Todd and Carol Slight,  
Napoleon, OH

### In memory of Jane Hoeffel

Marie Busch,  
Napoleon, OH  
Marlene Bockelman,  
Napoleon, OH

### In memory of Janet Weirich

Joan Hardesty,  
Liberty Center, OH

### In memory of Joan Lawrence

Wauseon Women's Guild of Filling  
Memorial Home,  
Wauseon, OH

### In memory of John Kibler

Albert & Sandra Bell,  
Napoleon, OH  
Carol Kitchen & Linda Morrison,  
Springfield, OH  
John & Joann Kitchen,  
Springfield, OH  
Todd & Carol Slight,  
Napoleon, OH

### In memory of Julia Ann Luzny

Gregory & Margaret Luzny,  
Bonita Springs, FL

### In memory of Karen Kemper

Thomas & Cheryl Hoefler,  
Kettering, OH

### In memory of Katie McGreal

Thomas & Carolyn McGreal,  
Westlake, OH

### In memory of Keith Tomlinson

Jane Claussen,  
Defiance, OH

### In memory of Leona Bahler

Marian Dickmann,  
Napoleon, OH

### In memory of Leona Hogrefe

Barbara Bockelman,  
Napoleon, OH  
Cynthia Coy,  
Cincinnati, OH  
Dale & Marcia Kern,  
Archbold, OH  
Denny & Kathy Behnfeldt,  
Napoleon, OH  
Donald & Kim Cordes,  
Napoleon, OH  
Gerald & Sandra Wagner,  
Defiance, OH  
Marlene Bockelman,  
Napoleon, OH  
Mary Stutzman,  
Cincinnati, OH

### In memory of Mary Weihl

Harold & Mary Weihl,  
Bowling Green, OH

### In memory of

### Pam Vandenberghe

Dennis & Cathy Price,  
Delaware, OH  
Jodie Harper,  
Columbus, OH  
Martin & Nancy Helmke,  
Napoleon, OH  
Terry & Jean Cohrs,  
Napoleon, OH  
Todd & Diann Grieser,  
Ridgeville Corners, OH

### In memory of Randy Vocke

Barbara Bockelman,  
Napoleon, OH

### In memory of

### Robert Hershberger

Barbara Bockelman,  
Napoleon, OH  
Larry & Connie Holers,  
Napoleon, OH

### In memory of Robert L. Stevens

Darwin & Joan Paxton,  
Holgate, OH

### In memory of William Simpson

James & Elaine Brooks,  
Amarillo, TX

### In memory of Jeannette Zeisloft

Lisa Burrell,  
Defiance, OH

## In Honor of

### In honor of Geri Alexander

Chris & Cindy Schubart,  
West Chester, OH  
Linda Meyers,  
Kettering, OH

### In honor of Ian Pozarzycki

Ann Vreeland,  
Marco Island, FL

### In honor of

### Karen & Dave Keesberg's 50th Wedding Anniversary

Janice Rohrs,  
Liberty Center, OH

### In honor of Monica Bassett

Mary Warren,  
Rocky River, OH

### In honor of

### Pastor David Proctor's 90th Birthday

Todd & Carol Slight,  
Napoleon, OH

### In honor of Tina Parsons

Patricia Bilow,  
Pemberville, OH

### In honor of

### Toni & Caleb Mosley's Marriage

Larry & Ross Baker,  
West Jefferson, OH

## Organization Gifts

### AmazonSmile

Napoleon, OH

### Civista Bank

Napoleon, OH

### Defiance Chapter Of VMCCA

Defiance, OH



**Ken's Furniture, Inc.**

Defiance, OH

**Panorama**

Reston, VA

**The Andersons**

Maumee, OH

**The Kroger Company**

Cincinnati, OH

**Napoleon Faculty Association**

Napoleon, OH

**Thrivent Choice**

Napoleon, OH

**Individual Gifts****Andrew Wilch,**

Gahanna, OH

**Antoinette Wilhelm,**

Maryland Hts, MO

**Carol Chatham,**

Defiance, OH

**Carol Schroeder,**

New Bavaria, OH

**Charles & Jeri Campbell,**

Toledo, OH

**Colleen Dotson,**

Waterville, OH

**Don & Terri Grimm,**

Grand Rapids, OH

**Jean DeWalt,**

Delaware, OH

**John & Wanda Schimpf,**

Bloomville, OH

**Kurt Meyers,**

Toledo, OH

**Paul & Sandra Oehrtman,**

Napoleon, OH

**Sandra Weirauch,**

Napoleon, OH

**Stanley & Pamela Engle,**

Leo, IN

**Steven & Amy Thieroff,**

Holgate, OH

**The Harold & Carol Leupp****Foundation Fund of the Greater****Toledo Community Foundation,**

Holland, OH

**Veda Crawford,**

Napoleon, OH

**William & Linda Wallace,**

Pittsford, NY

**Larry & Nelda Irving,**

Napoleon, OH

**Congregation Gifts****Wauseon Women's Guild****of Filling Memorial Home,**

Wauseon, OH

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church**

Defiance, OH

**Emanuel Lutheran Church**

Napoleon, OH

**Hope Lutheran Church**

Hamler, OH

**St. James Lutheran Church**

Bradner, OH

**St. John Lutheran Church**

Deshler, OH

**St. John Lutheran Church****Women**

Celina, OH

**St. John's Lutheran Church**

Montpelier, OH

**St. Paul Lutheran Church**

Sulphur Springs, OH

**The Trinity Evangelical Lutheran****Church Women Account**

Crestline, OH

**In-kind****360 Care,**

Perrysburg, OH

**Arnulfo & Terri Rodriguez,**

Sylvania, OH

**Cheryl Wyse,**

Ridgeville, OH

**Chief Supermarket,**

Napoleon, OH

**Culligan Water,**

Napoleon, OH

**Diana & Roger Ashenfelter,**

Archbold, OH

**Dunkin',**

Napoleon, OH

**GFS,**

Fort Wayne, IN

**Glenn & Patricia Alexander,**

Miamisburg, OH

**HOT Graphics,**

Northwood, OH

**Jennifer Lambert,**

Holgate, OH

**Kay Armbruster,**

Napoleon, OH

**Leisure Time Winery,**

Napoleon, OH

**Randolph & Theresa Reeder,**

Evendale, OH

**Rick Berg,**

Napoleon, OH

**Stacy Buraszkeski,**

Waterville, OH

**Suzanne Johnson,**

Archbold, OH

**Wauseon Women's Guild****of Filling Memorial Home,**

Wauseon, OH

**Purse Bingo****360 Care,**

Perrysburg, OH

**Absolute Pharmacy,**

North Canton, OH

**Chief Supermarket,**

Napoleon, OH

**CliftonLarsonAllen,**

Minneapolis, MN

**Culligan Water,**

Napoleon, OH

**Dunkin',**

Napoleon, OH

**Elling's****Plumbing & Heating, Inc.,**

Napoleon, OH

**Farmers & Merchants****State Bank,**

Napoleon, OH

**GEM INC.,**

Toledo, OH

**GFS,**

Fort Wayne, IN

**Glenn & Patricia Alexander,**

Miamisburg, OH

**HOT Graphics,**

Northwood, OH

**Leisure Time Winery,**

Napoleon, OH

**Midwest Community****Federal Credit Union,**

Defiance, OH

**Randolph & Theresa Reeder,**

Evendale, OH

**Refrigeration Mechanics,**

Bowling Green, OH

**T & R Total Lawn Care, LLC,**

Morenci, MI

**The Guardian Life Insurance****Company of America**

Independence, OH

**World Class Collision LLC,**

Napoleon, OH

**Thrivent****Bret Speiser,** Napoleon, OH**Kristi Speiser,** Napoleon, OH**Daniel Ludemann,** Defiance, OH**Darmis Demler,** Findlay, OH**James Demler,** Findlay, OH**Larry Maassel,** Malinta, OH**Linda Ludemann,** Defiance, OH**Mary Kruse,** Defiance, OH**Paul Oehrtman,** Napoleon, OH**Lorna Hougland,** Napoleon, OH**Walter Hougland,** Napoleon, OH**William Nolan,** Blue Bell, PA**Grant****Zions Lutheran Church,**

Defiance, OH

**Giving Tuesday****Marie Baker,** Wauseon, OH



## DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT RENTAL

In the past, The Society for the Handicap provided durable medical equipment rental to Henry County Residents from the Filling Home Community Center Building. They ended this service in the fall of 2021. In April of 2023, Filling Home Community Center resumed Durable medical equipment rentals. Durable medical equipment rentals are available Monday through Friday 8am-12pm at the Filling Home Community center located at 470 Independence Dr. Napoleon, Ohio. Low-cost, durable medical equipment can be rented for 60 days and extended, if needed. The Durable Medical equipment that is offered are: wheelchairs, knee scooters, walkers, canes, shower chairs, shower seats, commodes, stool risers, etc. Items are disinfected, cleaned, and have a thorough maintenance check prior to renting. The service is available to residents of Defiance, Fulton, Henry, and, Williams Counties. The Durable Medical Equipment Rental Business serves a need of the community, and also provides work



skills training to FHCC participants in the areas of cleaning, customer service, fiscal planning, inventory, and clerical responsibilities. Pictured above is Tara, and she is ready to help everyone with their medical equipment needs!



## Purse BINGO update

Purses for a Purpose – Designer Purse Bingo was held on April 27, 2023 to a sold-out capacity crowd at Filling Homes Community Center. This popular fundraising event was sponsored by Presenting Sponsors: Civista Bank, Tri-County Roofing and Home Improvement, and VFW Post 8218 along with our Gold, Silver and Bronze Sponsors. Andy Barthel, Financial Advisor for the Endeavor Financial Group of Thrivent Financial, was on hand again to entertain the crowd while calling BINGO. Nearly \$25,000.00 was raised through 21 games of BINGO, a 50/50 drawing, a basket raffle, a Grand Prize Bingo, and wine pull. The proceeds will be used to support the programs and services provided by Filling Homes to the clients served. A huge shout out to those that participated, donated, and volunteered to help make this event so successful! Mark your calendar for next year – April 25, 2024.





## VINTAGE CAR SHOW



The Defiance Chapter of VMCCA (Vintage Car Club of America) arrived at Filling Homes early June 12th to share their love of vintage vehicles with Filling Homes clients, staff, and the community. While the weather at first seemed threatening, the rain and clouds passed and the skies opened up beautifully. Filling Homes clients always

look forward to hosting the Club on our main campus. We appreciate the generous donation the Club gave us to help support the programs and services provided to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Filling Homes look forward to next year when the Defiance



Chapter of the Vintage Motor Car Club of America drive their vehicles to our parking lot so we can meet new people, make new friends, and catch up with old friends too!

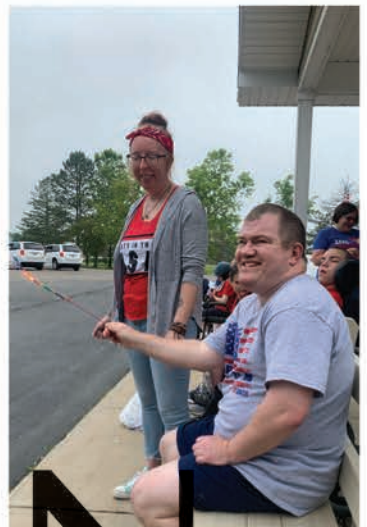


## RETIREEE LUNCHEON

April 3rd marked the date for Filling Homes First Annual Retiree Luncheon for former staff. Twenty-two retirees and five current staff gathered for the event. After opening remarks from President Terri Rodriguez and a prayer by Rev. Dr. Denise Brown, lunch by Bavarian Catering was served. Following the delicious meal, Jean Cohrs, Director of Mission Advancement offered updates on Filling Homes as well as honoring the retirees for their service to Filling Homes mission and ministry. Vice-President Carol Slight closed the luncheon with a door prize drawing and the Irish Blessing. Many thanks to all of Filling Homes retirees for their dedication to serve those entrusted in our care!







# MISSION

INSIDE THE



## Change of Address

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Please make address/name correction
- ☐ I am receiving two copies
- ☐ I would like to 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 :

[maggieburk@fillinghome.org](mailto:maggieburk@fillinghome.org)

## Upcoming Events:

### September 23, 2023 @ 11:00 a.m. - Festival of Tables

Please join the Filling Women's Guild at their Annual Festival of Tables event. Tables are decorated in the theme of the hostesses choosing. Table viewing begins at 11:00 a.m. followed by a delicious lunch and entertainment. Proceeds from this event will be used to help offset the cost of a double oven and electric range for the Adult Day Services site located on Filling Homes base facility. Ticket price is \$15.00. Please contact Micky Baker at 419.267.3439 with any questions.

### October 1, 2023 @ 2:00 p.m. - Service of Remembrance - Celebrating Life, Faith & Hope

Filling Homes Chaplain, Rev. Dr. Denise Brown will lead the service to remember the residents we have lost. While we remember those that have passed, there will be a time for sharing stories and memories. The service will be held in Filling Homes Chapel. Refreshments and fellowship will follow the service.

### November 4, 2023 @ 11:00 a.m. - Filling Fall Fling

The Annual Filling Fall Fling will be held at Filling Homes Hanson Aquatic Therapy Center. This is the 18th year for this annual event. There will be food, entertainment, a live and silent auction, a raffle, bake sale and so much more! Please join us this Fall day to raise funds for our Transportation Fund, which is used to purchase transportation for clients so they can be transported to and from work, to doctor's appointments, and other activities.

### November 28, 2023 - #Giving Tuesday

Filling Homes will participate in #Giving Tuesday on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving. #Giving Tuesday is a global day of giving and it encourages people to give back to a nonprofit that they care about. In 2023, funds from Giving Tuesday will be utilized to support the programs and services provided by Filling Homes.





† Filling Memorial Home of Mercy †

N160 State Route 108  
Napoleon, OH 43545

419-592-6451  
fillinghome.org



## Change Service Requested

**Filling Homes Community Center**  
***Paid Employment Opportunities and  
Serving the Community***

**470 Independence Dr  
Napoleon, OH 43545  
419-599-6909  
fillinghome.org**



**Document  
Destruction**

**\$.50/lb (under 100 lbs)  
\$.40/lb (over 100 lbs)**

**\*Free pick-up less than 20 miles**

**Monday - Friday  
8:00 am - 2:00 pm**

**3 Ways to Shred:**

- 1. Schedule pick-up by contract**
- 2. Schedule pick-up as needed**
- 3. Drop-off at location**



**Durable  
Medical  
Equipment  
Rentals**

**Monday - Friday  
8:00 am - 2:00 pm**

- **60 day equipment rental**
- **Offering wheelchairs, shower chairs, walkers, stool risers, etc.**

**Formerly Society for the Handicap**



**Public  
Walking**

**Monday - Friday  
8:00 am - 12:00 pm**

- **Free to the Public**
- **Large open space with climate control for indoor walking**