

FOCUS ON FILLING

Summer 2025

Smiles, songs and celebration!
Hannah and Rockne lit up SINGO Night during Revival Week 2025 - just one of the many moments honoring the heart and joy our staff bring to Filling Homes every day. More on page 5.



Lutheran Ministries of Mercy

Celebrating the Passion Behind Our Mission

During the summer months our agencies spend some dedicated time recognizing and thanking staff for their work and dedication to ministry. Whether it is an all-staff training day, a special lunch, or even a few games of SINGO, we come together to recognize staff efforts and give thanks for the impact they make each and every day.



Terri Rodriguez
LMM President and CEO

Our staff often wear many hats—counselor, advocate, mentor and problem-solver—as they work to adapt to meet the ever-changing needs of those they serve. Staff coordinate resources, provide care, navigate complex systems and often do more with less, relying on creativity and compassion to overcome countless hurdles. These amazing staff are blessed with the ability to find meaning in challenge and fulfillment in service. The blessings they carry are reflected in the lives they touch: a family connected to food, a client given comfort and care in times of distress, a young artist “Soaring” in a day program.

This work may seem to go unnoticed by many, yet we know that behind each of these stories are countless hours of often unseen labor. Day after day and all through the night, this work of dedicated staff is fueled by their resilience and a deep compassion for others.

Our staff do the hard, human work of caring. And, while we take some time this summer to say thank you, their service is genuinely recognized and appreciated all through the year. Through their commitment, they show us that the greatest measure of success is the good we do for others. Thank you to our staff and all those who join us in this work!

Sincerely,

A SUMMER SEASON OF GIVING

The generosity of our donors in time, treasure, and prayer has allowed us to remain on the cutting edge of program delivery, while investing in staff and volunteer ministries. Across our organization, children, adults, seniors, and families receive vital services that support their health and well-being.

There is always more work to be done—and that means balancing our strong foundation with a renewed sense of mission. Right now, we are working together to raise funds for our summer campaign, **Together Toward Tomorrow**. This annual appeal offers a meaningful way to express your faith while meeting your personal giving goals.

We gratefully accept one-time or recurring gifts by cash, credit, retirement distributions, stock, or life insurance. *Thrivent Action Teams* and *Thrivent Choice Dollars* also help fuel our mission through service and generosity.

If you want to learn more, visit our website at lutheranministriesofmercy.org, call Jeanette, Director of Planned Giving, at 419-972-4373, or email her at jhrovatich@luthmin.org.

Together, we can make a difference for those in our care.

YOU'RE INVITED!

We would love to have you join us at one or more of these events!

September 27 | Festival of Tables Luncheon at Filling Homes, *presented by Women's Guild of Filling Homes*. Doors open at 11. Lunch at Noon.

October 5 | Fall Festival at Luther Home of Mercy: *Outdoor gathering for worship, family activities, and dinner*. Event begins at 2:30.

November 1 | Fall Fling at Filling Homes: *A celebration including a live and silent auction, luncheon and raffle*. Doors open at 11.

November 8 | Breakfast with the *Portage Valley Federation of Lutheran Men & Women*, Emmanuel Lutheran Center, Lindsey Ohio. Doors open at 9.

A Message from Carol Slight

Vice President, Filling Homes

As summer unfolds around us, bringing with it sunshine, blooming gardens, and a renewed sense of energy, we are reminded of the growth and beauty that happens when people come together with purpose and heart. That's exactly what we see each day at Filling Homes.

This season, we were incredibly honored to be named the recipient of the 2025 Making a Difference Award by the Northwest State Community College Foundation. This recognition affirms what we already know to be true: that the work happening here matters deeply. It reflects the passion and dedication of our team and the unwavering support of a community that believes in what we do.

Our recent Staff Appreciation Week was a joyful celebration of that spirit. Through laughter, shared meals, uplifting messages, and moments of reflection, we honored the people who make a difference every single day. Our staff are the living expression of our mission—enriching lives and nurturing the values of compassion, dignity, and Christ-centered care.

We are also grateful to our community, whose recognition and partnership continue to lift us up. Whether through kind words, generous gifts, or simply taking the time to understand what we do, you affirm the value of every life touched by Filling Homes.

This summer, we celebrate the goodness around us and the grace that carries us forward. Thank you for walking with us, believing in us, and being part of something that truly makes a difference.

With deep appreciation,

Carol Slight



Leadership Team

Carol Slight
Vice President



Amy Krassow
Director of ICF Services



Jenny Borgelt
Director of Community Services



Chelsea RedFox
Director of Mission Advancement



New Director of Mission Advancement

We are excited to welcome Chelsea RedFox as the new Director of Mission Advancement at Filling Homes! With a heart for service and a passion for helping others, Chelsea brings valuable experience in organizational development and leadership as well as strategic communication.

In this role, Chelsea will help advance our mission by strengthening partnerships, cultivating donor relationships, and sharing the powerful stories of those we serve.

We look forward to the leadership and fresh perspective Chelsea brings as we continue forward the mission that guides everything we do.

Making a Difference Award Received

Filling Homes is honored to have been nominated and to be named one of the 2025 Making a Difference Award recipients by the Northwest State Community College Foundation. This award was created by the NSCC Foundation as a way to recognize and celebrate individuals, businesses and organizations whose mission and impact extend far beyond their walls—and we are deeply grateful for this meaningful acknowledgment.

The award was presented at Northwest State's annual Green Carpet event, where Filling Homes, was celebrated for its decades-long commitment to enhancing the lives of individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities. From our residential programs to community engagement, art initiatives, and faith-filled care, this honor reflects the heart of our mission in action.

"This award is a celebration of the people we serve, the staff who support them, and the belief that everyone deserves to live with purpose and dignity," said Carol Slight, Vice President of Filling Homes. "It affirms that what we do matters—not just to those in our care, but to the communities we're a part of."

In addition to the Making a Difference Awards, the Green Carpet Event included a performance by Michael Griffin, Escape Artist who is pictured below with Filling Homes' Jenny Borgelt and Colton Wagner assisting in his escape performance. Gourmet food stations, a cash bar and a silent auction rounded out the festivities, as the Auditorium and surrounding areas were decorated in the event's "Unlock Students' Possibilities" theme. "The Green Carpet Event and the Making a Difference Awards celebrate hard work, community support and giving," said Robbin Wilcox, NSCC Executive Foundation Director. All proceeds from this event goes directly to student scholarships.



Peter Beck, NSCC foundation, Carol Slight Vice President Filling Homes, Kathy Shaw Director of Triangular Processing and Todd Hernandez, President/CEO NSCC at the Green Carpet Event.



We extend our sincere thanks to the Northwest State Community College Foundation for recognizing the work we do—and to every staff member, donor, family, and friend who helps make it possible. Together, we continue to make a difference, one life at a time.

For more information on the NSCC Foundation Making a Difference Award, visit <https://northweststate.edu>.



It was a great honor for Filling Homes to attend the Green Carpet Event. Front row: Chelsea RedFox, Tina Parsons, Lori Wanemacher, Lindsey Bailey, Carol Slight, Jean Cohrs. Back row: Terri Rodriguez, LMM Presiednt and CEO, Jenny Borgelt, Kim Stevens, Jamie Halley, Derrick Maassel, Tonya Wagner, Amy Krassow, and Colton Wagner.



A Celebration of Spirit, Service, and One Another



Filling Homes' annual Staff Appreciation Revival Week was a joyful celebration of the amazing people who live out our mission each and every day. From laughter-filled activities to moments of heartfelt gratitude, the week was designed to honor our staff for their unwavering dedication and compassion. It was a joy celebrating the recently received Making a Difference Award with everyone.

Highlights of the week included delicious boxed lunches provided by Special Grounds of Wauseon or gift-cards for those who preferred. Custom-designed t-shirts were gifted to all staff, and a SINGO Bingo event was enjoyed by staff, families, and the people we serve. Throughout the week fun and connection were in full bloom with engaging activities like a Who's Who contest, Two Truths and

a Lie, and photo props. Staff were encouraged to lift up their coworkers by sharing kind words and celebrating each other's unique gifts with gold stars throughout the week.

We would like to thank Thrivent Action Teams, the Revival Committee, Special Grounds Coffee, and each and every person who participated and helped make the week a great success! Below is a glimpse of what unfolded during the week throughout all of Filling Homes programs and homes.



Grace, Chrissy and Sandy enjoying the week!



North Harmony staff proudly Making A Difference!



Julie and Breyanna uplifted by kind words from coworkers!



Jenny and Jennifer from Special Grounds load up lunches!



Lillian and North Harmony homes enjoying the props!



Taelor and Denise at the base take time for some photo fun.

THE FILLING HOME FOUNDATION

WE SINCERELY THANK OUR FRIENDS WHO GENEROUSLY SUPPORT OUR MINISTRY.

In Memory of

Dan Shining

The Andersons
Maumee, OH
Rob and Renee Timbrook
Perrysburg, OH

Karen Kemper

Thomas and Cheryl Hoefler
Kettering, OH

Lois Gerken

Irene Glore,
Hamler, OH
Tom and Linda Behnfeldt
Napoleon, OH
Friends and Family Of
Lois Gerken,
Barbara Christy
Bowling Green, OH
Darlene Oberhaus
Napoleon, OH
Patrick and Sheila Parcher
Napoleon, OH
Rich and Bev Elling
Napoleon, OH
Eldor and Jane Gerken
Napoleon, OH
Terry and Jean Cohrs
Napoleon, OH
Terrance and Cheryl Bostelman
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Jack and Marilyn Krueger
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Todd and Carol Slight
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Robert and Mary Sehlmeier
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Hamler, OH
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Archbold, O
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Chad and Danielle Waleryszak

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Eunice Winzeler
Fayette, OH

Kevin Bell

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Napoleon, OH

Lillian Meyer

Defiance Public Library Staff
Defiance, OH
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Margeret Busch

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Earl and Janice LaGorin
Sarasota, FL

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Barbara Bockelman
Napoleon, OH

Sarah Nims

Todd and Carol Slight
Napoleon, OH

Wayne & Elfrieda Spencer and Emerson & Mary Jones

Robert and Cathy Jones
Napoleon, OH

In Honor Of

Filling Home Staff

Sharon Dailey,
Northwood, OH

Jean Cohrs

Jerry and Donna Drewes
Napoleon, OH

Organizational Gifts

St. John's Lutheran Church Women

Montpelier, OH

BPOE Napoleon Lodge No. 929

Napoleon, OH

Boeing

Annapolis Junction, MD

The Kroger Company

Cincinnati, OH

American Legion Auxiliary

McClure, OH

Individual Gifts

Carol Chatham

Defiance, OH

Carol Schroeder

New Bavaria, OH

Charles and Jeri Campbell

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Dale Kern

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John J. Freund

Van Wert, OH

Kenneth and Marsha Drewes

Defiance, OH

Kurt Meyers

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Michael and Kimberly Cushman

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Patrick and Elizabeth Hart

Fort Recovery, OH

Phyllis Hyer

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*Congregational Gifts***St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran**

Defiance, OH

Bethlehem Lutheran

Defiance, OH

St. Marks Lutheran

Wapakoneta, OH

St. Paul Lutheran

Sulphur Springs, OH

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran

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St. Peters Lutheran

Holgate, OH

Emanuel Lutheran

Napoleon, OH

Zions Lutheran

Defiance, OH

Emanuel Lutheran Church Women

Napoleon, OH

Hope Lutheran

Hamler, OH

*Congregational Gifts***Wauseon Women's Guild Of Filling Memorial Home**

Wauseon, OH

The Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church Women Account

Crestline, OH

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran

Defiance, OH

St. John's Lutheran

Montpelier, OH

*In Kind Gifts***Beth Manson**

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Darla Rickenberg

Defiance, OH

Debbie Lundy

Holgate, OH

Emanuel Lutheran Church Women

Napoleon, OH

Esther Oberhaus

Napoleon, OH

Dille Family

Napoleon, OH

Henry County Family Court

Napoleon, OH

Linda Meyers

Kettering, OH

Suzanne Johnson

Archbold, OH

Walmart Supercenter

Napoleon, OH

Wauseon Women's Guild Of Filling Memorial Home

Wauseon, OH

Zion Lutheran Church

Ridgeville Corners, OH

*Estate Gifts***Estate of Paul Klink**

Shelby, OH

*Thrivent Gifts***Marilyn Behrman**, Defiance, OH**Richard Clark**, Montpelier, OH**Betty Kerr**, Bluffton, SC**Amy Krassow**, Napoleon, OH**Mary Kruse**, Defiance, OH**Daniel Ludemann**, Defiance, OH**Bethany Moden**, Napoleon, OH**William Moden**, Napoleon, OH**Carol Schroeder**, New Bavaria, OH**Carol Slight**, Napoleon, OH**Todd Slight**, Napoleon, OH**Maria Barnes**, Hamler, OH**David Bishop**, Deshler, OH*Thrivent Gifts Cont.***Barbara Bockelman**, Napoleon, OH**Bradley Bockelman**, Napoleon, OH**Lisa Bockelman**, Napoleon, OH**Sarah Jackson**, Napoleon, OH**Elmer Junge**, Napoleon, OH**Kristan Norden**, Napoleon, OH**Joyce Plummer**, Defiance, OH**Marirose Replogle**, Defiance, OH**Ward Replogle**, Defiance, OH**Helen Witte**, Malinta, OH**David Darr**, Ann Arbor, MI**Jean Plassman**, Archbold, OH*Grants***The Harold and Carol Leupp Foundation Fund**,

Holland, OH

Zions Lutheran Church

Defiance, OH

*Purse Bingo***Pondview Vet Clinic**, Archbold, OH**Bright Net North**, Okolona, OH**Kurtz Ace Hardware**, Napoleon, OH**The Dotson Company**, Whitehouse, OH**GBU Life**, Pittsburgh, PA*Giving Tuesday***Michael Benecke**, Napoleon, OH**Mary Darr**, Fremont, OH

The gifts listed were received from April 1, 2025 through June 30, 2025.

If we have failed to list your name or have listed your gift incorrectly, please accept our apologies and contact Emma Cohrs at 419-592-6451 or emmacohrs@fillinghom.org



Proof that giving from the heart brings light to every generation. Soaring Arts Balloon Artist, Derrick, reconnected with a childhood babysitter at a Soaring Arts exhibit at Genecross Lutheran Services.

Advocating for Independence

At Filling Homes, we remain steadfast in our commitment to providing compassionate, faith-driven care for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (ID/DD). Many of the people we support rely on Medicaid funding to access the care and services they need to thrive, especially our community homes and our intermediate care facilities (ICFs), which offer around-the-clock support, medical care, therapies, and daily living activities tailored to help individuals reach their fullest potential.

The Arc Action Center states: Across the country, nearly all 55,000 individuals residing in ICFs are covered by Medicaid. These services are a lifeline and yet, even without potential cuts, current Medicaid reimbursement rates often fall short of covering the actual cost of care. This growing funding gap places increasing strain on providers, leading to longer waitlists, fewer resources, and in some areas, the unfortunate closure of programs.

Here at Filling Homes, we are called to be a voice for the vulnerable. We believe everyone deserves access to quality, person-centered care, regardless of ability or circumstance, thus depending on Medicaid to access the care that helps them lead independent and meaningful lives. But with funding at risk, their independence could be, too.

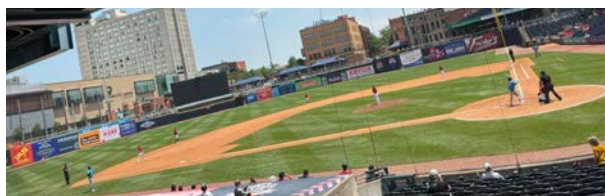
How You Can Help:

- **Stay Informed:** Understanding how Medicaid impacts those with ID/DD is the first step toward advocacy.
- **Share Your Story:** Families, staff, and community members are encouraged to speak out about the importance of this care. Personal stories are powerful tools that influence change. Contact Tina Parsons, Public Relations for Filling Homes, if you would like help telling your story.
- **Contact our State and Federal legislatures.** Let them know you support full and fair funding for ID/DD services.
- **Pray with Us:** As a faith-based organization, we believe in the power of prayer and unity. Join us in lifting up the needs of the individuals we serve.

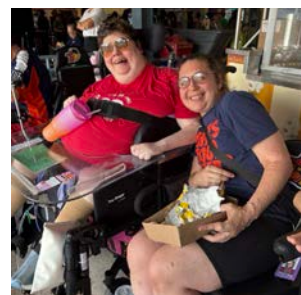


Mike R. enjoys his independence living in a Supported Living home with his roommates, attending a Filling Homes Adult Day Service program and attending church regularly.

Together, we can be a strong, compassionate voice that ensures our loved ones receive the care and dignity they so richly deserve. Thank you for your continued support!



A group of Filling Homes base residents and staff had a great time at the Mud Hens baseball game! Even though our team didn't win, the food was delicious, the souvenirs were fun, and best of all, we got to enjoy it all with good friends. Can't beat that kind of day! The trip was organized by Sarah Jackson, Recreation Coordinator for Filling Homes.



About The Cover

When plans began for the annual "Revival" staff appreciation week, staff were asked to share what is important to them to see incorporated in to the event - and we are so proud of their response - the clients and residents!

Meet Rockne and Hannah - they enjoyed the evening at SINGO, an event held throughout revival week.

Rockne's biggest accomplishment is moving into his "brown house" in 2014 with his roommates! He came from living at home with his parents, but it's important to Rockne that he be as independent as possible. Being in Supportive Living provides Rockne with a routine which is important to him, but still gives him the chance to make his own choices and be involved in the community. Rockne is involved in many activities including Horseback riding, bowling and swimming at the Filling Home pool. Rockne regularly likes to "Eat In" at least once a week at his favorite places, McDonalds or Pizza Hut to get a Coke which he gets to do with staff or his family. He recently got to go on a vacation with his roommate, Dallas, to Hocking Hills for 3 days that he was super excited about and made possible by staff willing to travel with them! Rockne LOVES singing, and listening to his favorite artists like Shania Twain or Garth Brooks. Music is very important to him, he listens to "Friends in Low Places" daily. (Which was the song at SINGO he sang at the top of his lungs lol).

Hannah Long, Team Leader of the Supported Living Home where Rockne and his roommates live, says "Every day I am thankful that I have a fulfilling job that allows me to be involved in people's life, like Rockne's, & that they are excited to see me when I come in. I wouldn't change it for the world!"



part of our care team. Ensuring every role is staffed means ensuring every individual receives the dignity, attention, and compassion they deserve. If you know a nurse with a heart for service, please encourage them to consider Filling Homes as a place where their care can truly make a difference. For more information about joining our nursing team please contact Sue Funchion, Health Services Coordinator at Filling Homes.

National Nurses week is celebrated annually in May. This is a week for recognizing the invaluable contributions of nurses and an opportunity to show appreciation for their dedication and hard work. Currently, Filling Homes employs 20 nurses (full time, part time, and contingent) plus agency nurses. Nurses are a vital



Pictured are Amy Waisner and Jackie Eagleson with appreciation gifts during National Nurses Week.



Pictured are Karly Yarnell, Amanda Cody, Kathy Shieber, Xavier Biden, and Wesley Tiell during Nurses Week.

MISSION



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We invite you to
STAY CONNECTED



SAVE THE DATES
for Filling Homes

FESTIVAL OF TABLES
SEPTEMBER 27

&

FILLING FALL FLING
NOVEMBER 1



† Filling Memorial Home of Mercy †

N160 State Route 108
Napoleon, OH 43545

419-592-6451
fillinghome.org



Change Service Requested

Needs List ❤️

As we continue to support our mission, we rely on the generosity of our amazing supporters. Below is a list of our current needs for the base campus, should the opportunity to give arise. Thank you!

- Hot chocolate mix
- Ketchup
- Macaroni
- Mixes (cake, muffin)
- Mustard
- Noodles
- Oatmeal
- Rice
- Shortening
- Snack-pack pudding
- Soups (all types)
- Spaghetti
- Sugar (brown, white)
- Syrup (karo, chocolate, strawberry)
- Zip Lock bags
- Washcloths
- Water color paper
- Bamboo Washcloths
- Hand towels
- Lotions
- Deodorant
- Men's white t-shirts
- Paintbrushes
- Plastic table cloths
- Stock paper
- String, twine, raffia
- Water/splash balls
- Washable markers
- Glue sticks
- White card stock paper
- Water colors
- Acrylic craft paint

