

BROOKLYN SENIOR CENTER  
2019 ANNUAL REPORT



January 27, 2020

Mayor Katherine Gallagher  
Members of Brooklyn City Council  
Brooklyn, Ohio 44144

Dear Mayor Gallagher and Council Members:

The following is the 2019 annual report for the Brooklyn Senior Center.

This report contains information regarding the staff, senior advisory council, volunteers and members.

Also included are statistics on the many services, programs and activities that are offered to our 55+ residents.

As we move forward in 2020 our goal will be to serve the senior community that wants to age in place by providing services to assist them in that effort. Our Resource Fair in March will bring in help and guidance from various city, and county agencies as well as private vendors that will have important information for senior residents who want to remain in their homes.

We will continue to strive to provide the senior services our residents have come to expect as well as offer new programs and activities to enhance the lives of the senior community we serve. Our new newsletter "Active Brooklyn" has proved to give us a voice now to the entire community and more exposure to reach the younger 55+ residents. Look for more evening and special events geared to reach that audience.

Finally I do want to recognize my great staff and our crew of volunteers, both of whom keep things running here and are the back bone of the senior center. Thank you for your hard work and dedication.

I and my staff look forward to working in 2020 toward a year of great accomplishments for our 55 + community.

Sincerely,

Karen Fratto  
Coordinator  
BROOKLYN SENIOR CENTER  
CITY OF BROOKLYN, OHIO

## **STAFF**

- 1 Coordinator
- 1 Assistant Coordinator
- 1 Van Driver (Local Union #1099)
- 1 Independent Contractor Ceramics Instructor – (up to Twenty-Four hours per week)
- 1 Independent Contractor Part-time cook – (up to Twenty-Four hours per week)

## **ADVISORY BOARD**

The Advisory Board of seven adults, over 55, appointed at large representing various senior citizen groups in the community. The Senior Center Advisory Board meets on a monthly basis to discuss, as needed, any upcoming programs or activities. They also share any positive and/or negative comments (suggestions) from members in the organization.

## **VOLUNTEER AREAS**

- Aerobics
- Chair Yoga
- Chair Volleyball
- Bingo
- Blood Pressure Program
- Men and Women Bocce Ball Committees
- Ceramics
- Corn Hole
- Crafts for Corner Store
- Health and Hearing Screenings
- Income Tax Scheduling
- Indoor Garage Sale
- Library
- Meal Delivery
- OHSHIP
- Quilting
- Reception Desk
- Special Event
- Sports - Tournaments
- Senior Advisory Board
- Weekly Meals Crew (Thursday, Luncheon & Tuesday, Soup & Sandwich)

**TOTAL NUMBER OF ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS: 35**

**TOTAL NUMBER OF VOLUNTEER HOURS: 4,441**

## **SERVICES AVAILABLE AT THE SENIOR CENTER**

- Absentee Voter Applications
- AARP Safe Driver Course
- AARP no cost Tax Service
- Blood Pressure Screenings
- Blood Sugar Screenings
- Cholesterol Screenings
- Computers Available
- Coupon Exchange
- Current Books and Magazines on Health, Travel, Hobbies and Fiction
- Energy Assistance Applications
- Flu and Pneumonia Shots
- Golden Buckeye Applications
- Hearing Screening
- Homestead Exemption and H.E.A.P. forms
- Information on Home Health Care, Assisted Living, Nursing Rehab Facilities
- Information on Senior Transportation
- Large-type Reading Material in our Library
- Meals for the Homebound Program
- Medicare Assistance
- Post Office on Wheels once a month
- Power of Attorney and Living Will Forms
- Referrals for In Home Health Care
- Referrals for In Home Alert Systems such as Life Alert
- Resume Help
- Snow Removal
- Social Security and Medicare Handbooks and OSHIP counseling
- Social Work Information and Referral Service
- Speakers on Health and Other Current Self-Help Topics
- Transportation - Senior Center Bus and Car for Medical or Vital Shopping needs for shut ins
- Trips for recreational purposes
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Wheelchairs, Walkers, Canes and Crutches are available for loaning
- Xerox Copies (.10¢ per copy)

## **RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES & PROGRAMS OFFERED BY THE CENTER**

- Afternoon Films
- Art Classes
- Bingo
- Bocce Ball (Men and Women's Leagues)
- Book Review
- Card Games
- Ceramics
- Chair Aerobics and Low Impact Aerobics
- Chair Yoga
- Chair Volleyball
- Corn Hole Coed Teams
- Corner Store Crafts
- Dominoes
- Exercise
- Flower Arranging
- Indoor Garage Sales
- Ping Pong
- Pool Playing
- Post Office-on-Wheels
- Hands on Demonstrations – food or crafts
- OSHIP Consulting for Medicare Open Enrollment
- Quilting
- Special Events (Dances, Women's Tea, Picnic's)
- Senior Olympics
- Sewing
- Speakers on Various Topics
- Shuffle Board
- Television and VCR or DVD free rentals
- Trips – Local Day Excursions
- Walking Program
- Weekly Luncheon Meal on Tuesday and Thursday
- Wii Bowling and other sports games

## **HOMEBOUND MEAL PROGRAM**

The 2019 Homebound Meals Program is an ongoing weekday meal delivery program offered to qualifying Brooklyn residents. Meals are intended for persons over 60, not able to leave their home due to chronic illness, inability to drive, or inability to prepare meals safely for themselves. It is not intended to be a substitute for family care; therefore, it is for persons who have NO family living in the home or locally. There is sometimes a waiting list and all applicants are screened to see if they meet the qualifications. This meal is prepared by the kitchen of the Senior Citizen Resource Center, located at 3100 Devonshire Rd, Cleveland, Ohio. It is a government subsidized program and also funded in part by proceeds in the form of donations by the receiving residents. The recipient of the meals, or his/her family, decides on a donation amount. The suggested donation is \$1.00 per day and it is optional. The donation goes directly to Senior Citizen Resources in an envelope they provide the recipients once a week.

The meal consists of a hot dinner, a fresh piece of fruit, a milk and piece of bread or a roll. Some days it can be a cold sandwich type meal, but mostly it is a hot meal. It is delivered Monday through Friday, between 10 a.m. and noon. We have delivered more meals this year than last year with a total of 1,960 meals in 2019 delivered compared to 1,876 meals delivered in 2018.

Kathy Messeri is in charge of overseeing the Homebound Meal Program for the City of Brooklyn and works along with Senior Citizens Resources to ensure things run smoothly. There are five volunteers that deliver the meals five days of the week, each taking a day with an alternate as back-up and Kathy Messeri as an additional back-up driver. We are always looking to recruit volunteers that have a heart to deliver the meals to our residents in need. It is a very rewarding program. All volunteers are run through a background check.

**TOTAL Homebound Meals Delivered in 2019:**

**1,960**

## **SNOW REMOVAL PROGRAM**

Snow removal sign-up was held the month of September and late sign ups well into December. The cost for the program is:

\$40.00 per person/household

An income guideline is instituted for all new applicants

Guidelines are as follows:

\$36,300 maximum income for one person in the household;

\$41,500 maximum income for two person households;

\$46,650 maximum income for three person households.

If a resident is unable to come into the Senior Center because of illness, provisions are made for a "house-call" Anyone signing up after the initial registration time will be subject to a late fee of \$15.00, unless previous arrangements were made.

## **CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING CITY SNOW REMOVAL SERVICE**

- Resident and all other occupants of your household must be 65 years of age or older;
- Residents meet income guidelines per Ordinance #2009-60 (listed above)
- Resident must own the single family home they live in;
- Current property Tax Bill must be presented;
- The driveway must be solid, no grass strip or gravel down the center of the driveway;
- Resident must agree to release the City, its servants, agents, and employees from any liability arising out of the removal of snow from their driveway.

**TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS THAT RECEIVED THIS SERVICE in winter of 2018/2019 = 274**

## **PRIVATE SNOW AND GRASS SERVICE**

The Senior Center also provides the names of people who shovel snow and cut grass. We supply the names of contractors with snowplowing or grass cutting for those who want to have a private contractor. Fees are charged by contractors and **must** be pre-arranged between contractors and resident.

## **PEOPLE ATTENDING THE CENTER FOR PROGRAMS AND/OR SERVICES**

We asked participants to sign in when they enter the building to come and sign in at our MySenior Center kiosk located at our front desk. This program helps us to track the usage of the various programs. This new scan in method checks in both residents and non residents who have received a key fob card. This method has proved to be much more accurate. Membership with the key fob card is free for all residents 55 + and non residents pay \$12 a year.

**Combined Residents & Non Resident Members visits to the Senior Center in 2019 = 16,312**

## **NEWSLETTER**

In September we switched our newsletter from “Chit Chat” which was only mailed to 900 Brooklyn senior residents to “Active Brooklyn – with the senior portion named “55+” which is now is mailed to every Brooklyn household.

We have had a favorable response from the community. The combination of Recreation and Senior Center information has been something beneficial for all of our residents.

Non-residents may come into the Center for free copy if they are a member of the Brooklyn Senior Center

## **INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE**

Income tax assistance is provided by AARP and offered to all seniors regardless of income.

Started on February 1<sup>st</sup> thru April 15<sup>th</sup>, volunteers are here Mondays and Wednesdays to provide this **free** tax service. It is made available to all age groups, but primarily services are for seniors. Electronic filing is also offered. It is a great service to the seniors!

*Taxes prepared in 2019 - 328*

## **HEALTH SCREENINGS**

The Center continues to offer a variety of health screenings as they are made available by different Health organizations: Lutheran Hospital, UH Parma Hospital, Metro Health Center, Lifeline Screening Inc., and L.A. Christner Hearing Inc. Some of the screenings are free and others have a fee. We actively pursue as many free or low cost screenings as possible.

Health care workers speak on various topics of interest to seniors as well as community residents. Over **300** residents attended the various lectures and over **600** took advantage of the screenings listed below:

Bone Density	Hearing Screening
Blood Sugar	Life Line Screening
Cholesterol	Flu Shots
Pneumonia Vaccine	Glaucoma/Vision

## **BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS**

- UH Parma Hospital comes once a month on the first Thursdays from 9:30a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
- The Brooklyn Paramedics screen the third and fourth Thursday of the month.
- Brooklyn Pointe sends a nurse once a month on 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month



**TUESDAY SOUP & SANDWICH**

On Tuesdays, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., soup and sandwich is available for **\$3.50**. This is the meal right before our bingo game. During the summer months, cold salads and sandwiches are served. In the winter we switch over to hot and healthy soups. This menu is planned for two months at a time. In 2019 we served **1,130 meals**.

**THURSDAY LUNCHEONS**

The Senior Center offers a luncheon on Thursdays. The cost of this full course meal is **\$6.00**. This menu is also planned for two months at a time. In 2019 **1,286 meals were served**.

**TRANSPORTATION WITH THE SENIOR VAN**

**Door-to- door transportation is provided to Brooklyn residents who are 55 years of age or older and do not drive. Also included are handicapped or disabled persons, regardless of age.** The van is in service Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Service is provided for medical appointments, shopping, personal errands and activities at the Senior Center or Recreation Center. Most do pay the *Suggested donation* of \$1.00 but if they are unable to pay we do not request it.

**PASSENGER CLASSIFICATIONS:**

**TRIP PURPOSES:**

Elderly – Ambulatory	2,004	Medical (3 days a week)	228
Elderly – Non-ambulatory	15	Shopping (3 days a week)	441
Other		Senior Center	222
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,019</b>	Recreation Center	39
		Home	938
		Other	<u>151</u>
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2019</b>

**2019 Totals**  
**PASSENGER TRIPS: 2,019**  
**DONATIONS: \$1,845.43**

## **PURPOSE OF THE BROOKLYN SENIOR CENTER**

- Develop, cultivate and bring together the human resources of the community in assisting senior citizens, and handicapped residents.
- Encourage and work with public and private agencies in establishing facilities and programs in the city that deal with needs, such as social services, nutrition, transportation, exercise, and health awareness.
- Direct and bring together individuals willing to donate their time or services in helping others. This in turn helps them as they feel needed by others and take pride in their service.
- Develop and coordinate social, educational, and wellness programs and service opportunities for senior citizens, which will improve their quality of life.=

## **A LIFELINE FOR OUR 55 + RESIDENTS**

Senior centers are linked to their communities for all the support and services they provide. They are, in large part, reliant on the support of city government, contributors, volunteers, community leaders and others for their continued success.

Senior centers offer a place to go for social activities, trips, volunteer opportunities, health screenings, health and consumer education, creative arts, exercise, wholesome meals and more.

Senior centers offer services that help their members maintain independence, while also providing opportunities for them to interact with each other and contribute to their communities. Senior centers provide meaningful and valuable activities. Senior centers are helpful in bringing key information to the residents to help them make informed decisions on the many challenges they face as they age and offering help for them to age in place.

## **THE SENIOR CENTER PHILOSOPHY**

- Promote self-worth
- Promote positive image of 55+adults to the community
- Promote continued learning and mental growth
- Promote better health
- Provide needed social interaction
- Provide help for them to remain in their homes
- Provide socialization and recreation
- Encourage volunteerism and service
- Foster community involvement
- Involve isolated elderly, those who are now facing new challenges in aging and are lonely
- Improve the quality of life by exposure & involvement in creative and cultural arts
- Provide information on services available to seniors and the disabled

**FINANCIAL REPORT**  
**2019 Year End Totals**

**SOCIAL PROGRAMS AND RECEIPTS**

Ceramic / Craft Fees	\$ 1,853.02
Exercise Class Fees	4.00
Corner Store & Greeting Cards	134.80
Luncheon Sales	11,672.20
Coffee Donation	920.13
Pizzelles	156.22
Newsletter	4.30
Food Purchase	1,286.85
Special Activities	6,562.04
Garage Sale, Room Rental	<u>3,060.00</u>
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 25,653.56</b>

**CHARGES AND DONATIONS FOR SERVICE**

Bus Transportation	\$ 1,845.43
Non Resident Membership	1,752.00
Copy Fees	13.05
Service Fees - Snow Removal	10,955.00
Late sign-up Fees Snow Removal	<u>1,720.00</u>
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 16,272.43</b>

**GRAND TOTAL** **\$ 41,925.99**