

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **WCCS ADDS ADULT NEW READER PROGRAM**

Warren County Community Services, Inc. (WCCS) is growing again. The 501(c)3 non-profit began 2018 with the acquisition of the Warren County Adult New Reader Program (ANR).

ANR Program Director, Barbara Geiger said she's "delighted about the merger. It's become increasingly challenging to survive as a smaller non-profit these days" continues Geiger.

WCCS ANR is a program that trains volunteers to tutor adults who live and work in Warren and nearby Counties. The program helps adults with literacy challenges to learn to read and write. It also helps legal immigrants learn English as a second language.

Merger talks started in the summer of 2017 when ANR Board Chair, John Roesch joined the WCCS Board. Roesch asked WCCS CEO, Eugene Rose if Rose would consult with Geiger regarding the viability of ANR. Discussions followed concerning the future of ANR and long-term strategic planning.

"After our initial meeting, it occurred to me that ANR's mission fell squarely within that of WCCS" said Rose. "We identified benefits and economies that would help ANR provide their services efficiently and reach more people. Our WCCS RSVP Program already provides volunteers as tutors." Soon, Rose, Geiger and Roesch spoke to their respective Boards and the library boards that are the primary funders of ANR. All agreed to the merger.

Effective January 1, 2018, ANR is now a new division of WCCS. Offices are in Room 202 of the 741 Administration Building at 570 N. State Route 741, Lebanon, OH. Please call the program directly at (513) 695-2243.

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**About WCCS:**

For more than 50 years, WCCS has served as the community's primary link for social services in Warren County. WCCS operates a wide range of programs and services that:

- § Allow seniors and families to obtain and maintain long-term housing.
- § Assist families and individuals with emergency needs, employment, and rising energy costs.
- § Help older adults to remain active and independent.
- § Prepare children to succeed in school.

**About WCCS ANR:**

In 2017 ANR celebrated 30-years of service to the community. WCCS ANR helps adults learn reading and writing skills and teaches legal immigrants English as a second language. With the merger, these services will continue and expand under the veil of WCCS. The geographical footprint of ANR will expand as well as its collaborative opportunities with the many other programs offered by WCCS.

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