

# We love

2024  
Annual  
Report

# what we do.



**WC****CS**  
WARREN COUNTY  
Community Services Inc.



## A Message from the CEO

### Greetings,

2024 was another incredible year of growth through strengthening and developing new partnerships and addressing any challenges head on at Warren County Community Services. Despite any difficulties that came our way, the WCCS team and our community have demonstrated the power of collective action, and we've emerged stronger than ever.

Through your generosity, support, and our amazing community partners, we were able to expand further into Butler County with our Senior Nutrition program, serving over 400,000 meals to the elderly –that's an additional 16,882 meals from 2023! In addition, we received endorsements from our County Commissioners and each of our municipalities to become designated as Warren County's Community Action Agency, opening the doors and creating access to increased state and federal funding for our neighbors in need.

You will also notice one of the highlights of the year was launching a new program called Our Table. The program focuses not only on nutrition education, but the importance of using the dinner table to connect with family at mealtimes. This initiative touches lives and reinforces the importance of working together to create sustainable change for young children, their parents and our seniors.

When reflecting on this last year I am filled with deep gratitude and respect for the tremendous impact we've made together in Warren -and now Butler -Counties. Your unwavering support has allowed us to continue our mission of strengthening the fabric of our community, helping us to reach new milestones and make a lasting difference in the lives of those we serve so that they can reach their highest quality of life.



On behalf of the entire team at Warren County Community Services, I want to thank you for your dedication, compassion, and belief in our work. Your commitment makes all the difference, and together, we are helping families, children, and seniors overcome barriers and build brighter futures.

With sincere appreciation,

*Dawna Fogarty*



“When reflecting on this year, I am filled with deep gratitude and respect for the tremendous impact we’ve made together in Warren County.”

— Dawna Fogarty

## Bringing Hope and Dignity to Warren County Students in Need

**WCCS, Inc.'s Community Assistance team administers the FAITH/Kohl's Back to School Clothing Program for students across all Warren County school districts. Born out of what was once a collaboration with Faith Ministry — a collective of churches in Mason — the program has continued to grow every year and is making a profound impact on students and their families.**

Through this initiative, families in need receive assistance to ensure their children have proper clothing for school. However, access to the program is made possible only through a referral to WCCS from a School Resource Coordinator (SRC), who then shops alongside the family or student. The effect of this program extends far beyond just providing clothes — it offers hope, dignity, and a sense of belonging. From young elementary students whose families are struggling to make ends meet to grandparents raising their grandchildren due to the devastating effects of addiction or incarceration, the need is great.

Families who receive the Kohl's clothing assistance are deeply grateful for the support, and the stories of students benefiting from the program highlight its life-changing impact. One story in particular stands out — a story that underscores just how vital this program is for students in crisis. A high school student was spotted rummaging through the lost and found box outside the main office at her school. When an SRC approached her and asked if she had lost something, the student responded with heartbreaking honesty:

this was how she was dressing herself. She was living on her own, attending high school and working a job, but unable to afford clothing.

Recognizing the urgency of the situation, the SRC immediately reached out to a staff member at WCCS to see if she could receive support through the FAITH/Kohl's Back to School Clothing Program.

That same day, the SRC was provided with \$150 in Kohl's gift cards to take the student

shopping. During the shopping trip, the SRC was moved to tears when the student said, "This is the first time I have been able to get clothing in my size." Relying on lost and found items does not provide the simple yet essential necessity of having clothing that fits properly. This program not only gave her new clothes but also restored a sense of dignity and self-worth.

When the SRC later shared this story with our team, we were overwhelmed with gratitude that we're able to facilitate such an impactful program. This is why we do what we do — to reach those who are often overlooked and forgotten. At WCCS, Inc., our FAITH/Kohl's Back to School program is inspired by stories like this to keep pushing forward, ensuring that the basic needs of those we serve are met. These moments remind us of the profound impact that kindness, generosity, and community support can have. In giving to others, we find that our own lives are enriched as well.



## Providing Quality Childcare, Empowering Families

A local parent recently shared how the Warren County Community Services Early Learning Center (ELC) made a lasting difference in their family's life. As the primary caregiver for their children, they struggled to secure employment due to the lack of affordable, high-quality childcare. The ELC provided not only a safe and enriching environment for their child but also the opportunity for the parent to return to work, easing financial stress while ensuring their child received the care and early education they deserved.

The impact of the ELC extended beyond just daily care — it gave this family peace of mind. Knowing their child was in a structured, loving setting allowed them to focus on work and other responsibilities, while their child gained essential early learning skills. The affordability of the program meant they didn't have to sacrifice quality care due to financial constraints, reinforcing the importance of accessible early education in Warren County.

Stories like this are a testament to the dedication of the ELC staff. Their kindness, patience, and commitment to providing a nurturing environment shape the lives of the children and families they serve. To all the caregivers and educators at our Early Learning Centers — thank you for the incredible work you do every day!

## Expanding Support for the Warren County Community

We are thrilled to announce that Warren County Community Services, Inc. (WCCS) has been officially designated as Ohio's 48th Community Action Agency. This prestigious recognition marks a significant milestone in our enduring commitment to enhancing the quality of life for all residents of Warren County.

Since our inception in 1966, WCCS has been dedicated to strengthening our community by providing essential services and connecting individuals to needed resources. This new designation empowers us to further our mission by enabling direct access to state and federal grants, thereby expanding our capacity to serve.

### Enhanced Services and Opportunities

With the Community Action Agency status, we are poised to introduce and enhance programs that address the evolving needs of our community:

- **Nutritional Education:** We are launching cooking classes in collaboration with local chefs, aimed at helping families prepare nutritious meals on a budget. This initiative seeks to promote healthier lifestyles and foster family bonding through shared culinary experiences.
- **Early Childhood Education:** Our Early Learning Centers will continue to provide high-quality educational experiences, ensuring that our youngest citizens are well-prepared for academic success.

### Senior Support Services:

We remain committed to offering comprehensive services for older adults, including care management, senior housing, nutrition programs, transportation, and supportive services, all designed to promote independence and well-being.

### A Collective Achievement

This designation is a testament to the unwavering support and collaboration of our community members, partners, and dedicated staff. Together, we have built a resilient network that addresses the diverse needs of Warren County residents. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has contributed to this achievement.

### Looking Ahead

As we embark on this new chapter, WCCS remains steadfast in our commitment to service excellence. We invite community members to engage with us — whether by participating in our programs, volunteering, or providing feedback — to ensure that our services continue to reflect and meet the aspirations of Warren Countians.

Together, we will continue to build a vibrant, inclusive, and thriving community for all.



“Working for WCCS is just a joy. The collaborative approach to serving older adults in our community is refreshing and so needed.” — **Marcie C.**



# OUR IMPACT

2,616

households qualified for HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE to maintain service



375,438

meals were DELIVERED TO THE ELDERLY ensuring one well-balanced meal per day



21

community members learned about healthy meal choices through the new OUR TABLE program



2,730

older adults received support and REMAINED SAFE AND INDEPENDENT marking a 3.53% year-over-year increase



73

students STARTED SCHOOL LOOKING GOOD AND FEELING CONFIDENT through assistance from the Kohl's Back-To-School Clothing Program



214

volunteers collaborated with 20 partner sites to ADDRESS CRITICAL COMMUNITY NEEDS



447

children RECEIVED EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION in preparation for kindergarten with 98% also partaking in ONGOING HEALTHCARE SERVICES



163

households qualified for FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE enabling them to alleviate emergency situations



234

households were ASSISTED WITH WATER AND WASTEWATER BILLS to prevent disconnection



33,913

meals were served at senior communal dining sites to PROVIDE SOCIALIZATION while enjoying a healthy meal



382

families aided with QUALITY SERVICES AND CARE by our Early Learning Centers



7,831

trips were provided to senior clients to ACCESS HEALTHCARE SERVICES AND MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS and get basic essentials, like groceries and prescriptions



2,436

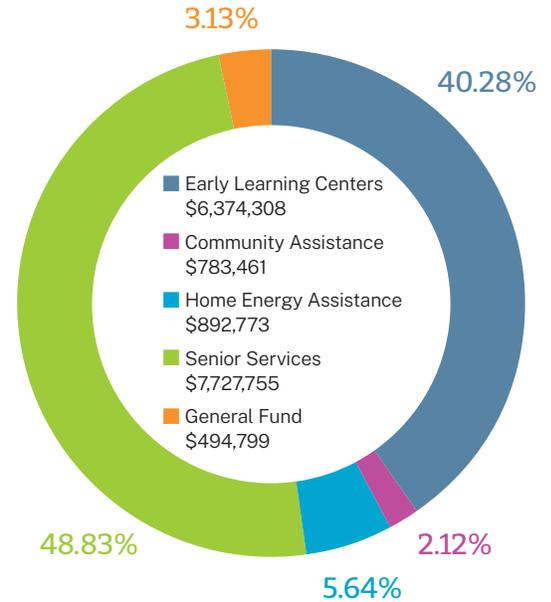
hours LITERACY CONNECTIONS TUTORS dedicated to students of the program to work on Adult Basic Education, GED, and English as a Second Language



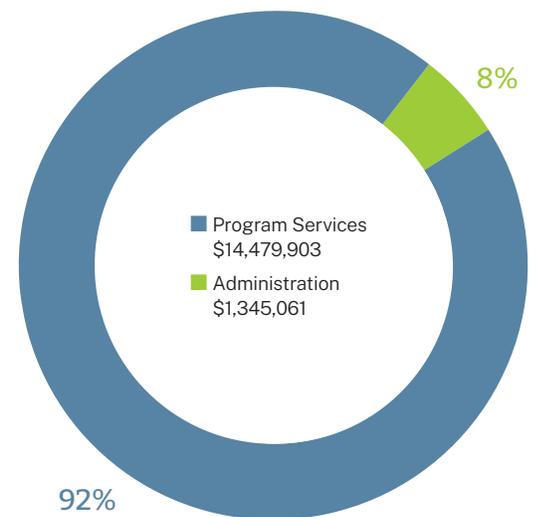
# OUR FUNDING

Summary of Agency Grants and Funding for the year ending December 31, 2024

AGENCY	AMOUNT	%
<b>EARLY LEARNING CENTERS</b>		
• Health and Human Services	\$5,202,436	32.87%
• Ohio Child Care Resource & Referral Association	\$148,184	0.94%
• Ohio Department of Education-CACFP	\$216,070	1.37%
• Ohio Department of Job & Family Services	\$215,166	1.36%
• State of Ohio	\$56,314	0.36%
• Local Funding and Donations	<u>\$536,138</u>	<u>3.39%</u>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$6,374,308</b>	<b>40.28%</b>
<b>COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE</b>		
• Ohio Department of Development	\$176,708	1.12%
• The Libraries of Warren County	\$47,700	0.3%
• Local Funding and Donations	<u>\$110,921</u>	<u>0.7%</u>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$783,461</b>	<b>2.12%</b>
<b>HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE</b>		
• Ohio Department of Development	\$872,747	5.52%
• Ohio Housing Finance	\$8,301	0.05%
• Duke Referral Revenues	<u>\$11,725</u>	<u>0.07%</u>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$892,773</b>	<b>5.64%</b>
<b>SENIOR SERVICES</b>		
• Council on Aging of Southwestern Ohio <sup>1</sup>	\$7,111,334	44.94%
• Housing and Urban Development	\$236,989	1.50%
• Ohio Department of Aging	\$113,588	0.72%
• Corporation for National Service	\$51,399	0.32%
• Local Funding and Donations	<u>\$214,445</u>	<u>1.36%</u>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$7,727,755</b>	<b>48.83%</b>
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>		
• Local Funding and Donations	<u>\$494,799</u>	<u>3.13%</u>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$494,799</b>	<b>3.13%</b>
<b>Agency Funding Total:</b>	<b>\$15,824,964</b>	<b>100.00%</b>



Agency Funding Total  
\$15,824,964



Notes:

<sup>1</sup>Includes funding from Warren County Elderly Services Program levy.

# OUR SUPPORTERS

**Thank you to our community  
for supporting WCCS!**

## Business Organizations and Government Supporters

- Bond Machine Company
- Clearcreakers Senior Club
- Dollar General Literacy Foundation
- Duke Energy Foundation
- First Financial Bank
- Franklin Public Library
- Heritage Miami Bluff Men's Club
- Kiwanis Club Mason
- Lebanon Public Library
- Macy's/Bloomingtondale's
- Mary L. Cook Public Library
- Mason Deerfield Rotary Club Foundation
- Mason Public Library
- Ohio State Eagles Charity Fund
- Salem Township Public Library
- Sycamore Presbyterian Church
- WCPO Channel 9

Your generous contributions are accelerating the positive impact of our work as we continue to focus on services that help others succeed.



## Community Supporters

- Linda Allen
- Jane Allemang
- Jean Benning
- Erin Bidwell
- Linda Burke
- Janice Busald
- David Charpentier
- Mary Anne Christie
- Donald Coyne
- Angela Dahdah
- Chris Flannery
- Graves Family Trust
- Carla Hale
- Kim Hensley
- Greg & Mindy Hoffbauer
- Chris Hubbard
- Janet Kean
- Laura & Sam Lobar
- Casey Moran
- Matt Nolan
- William Osborne
- Janice Peters
- Shelly Powers
- Krishna Prashant
- Mary Reece
- Paul Revelson
- Chris Robinson
- Gina Sanders
- Theresa Schneider
- Eileen Sharkey
- Ronda Smith
- Soroya Smith
- Mark Sousa
- Alena Speed
- Jessie Stein
- Dionne Swift
- Marissa Walters
- Elizabeth Williams
- Terry Yaeger



A sincere thank you to our Board Members for their dedicated hard work and commitment to our success!

# OUR MISSION

WCCS' mission is to strengthen the fabric of our community by providing services and connecting people to resources necessary for realizing their full potential for a quality life.



## 2024 WCCS Board of Trustees

- Linda Burke**, South Lebanon  
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- Kim Hensley**, Middletown  
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- Chris Hubbard**, Mason
- Mary Reece**, Maineville
- Chris Robinson**, Lebanon
- Theresa Schneider**, Springboro
- Soroya Smith**, Mason
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Chief Financial Officer
- Holly Roush**  
Chief Operations Officer
- Alena Speed**  
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Director, Community Assistance

## 2024 WCCS Leadership Team

