Director’s Corner

Dear Members and Friends,

The holidays are an appropriate time to consider what is important in our lives. Our gift of longevity helps us to understand that the gifts of love, family, and friendship are more important than new slippers or small appliances. USS enjoys celebrating the holidays with our members every December. This year feels extra special as we once again host Member Appreciation Week December 13th-17th. Cookies and coffee will be available at our downtown center that week as our way of thanking you for your membership, and friendship, this year. We have a reputation as a welcoming, friendly place and that is because our great members set the tone. Member Appreciation Week culminates on Sunday, December 19th, at 3:00pm with a matinee performance of Todd Stoll’s Red Hot Holiday Stomp, a holiday jazz concert that promises to deliver plenty of Christmas spirit! If you are a current member, please renew before the end of the year so you do not miss the next fun opportunity available at your center.

USS recently completed a study of the 2020 Clark County Census data and current industry research to guide our long range planning for services and recreation. Clark County older adults now account for 33% of the total population in our community. This report, and future research, is helping us to understand this growth better and USS’s role in supporting people to enjoy their gift of longevity.

For example, we learned that the highest concentrations of older people are living within the Springfield city limits, New Carlisle, and Northridge, followed by Enon and South Charleston. What does this mean at USS and for those we serve? Knowing where you are, what you need and what you want helps us to better reach you with services and recreation that enhance your quality of life at every age.

Feedback from you is important to my work and USS planning. If you have ideas for new programs, or ways we can support your gift of longevity, I would love to hear from you. Put your idea in the Suggestion Box at the Matthies Welcome Center, or email me directly at mfagans@unitedseniorservices.org.

As the New Year approaches, I am appreciative of so many important things, especially our shared journey together at USS and the gifts of love, family and friends.

Stay safe! Thank you for the opportunity and Happy Holidays,

Maureen Fagans, CEO
**What’s NEW**

### Lunch & Learn

**Aware in Care Kits**

Breck Jordan, Parkinson’s Foundation

**Thursday, December 16th at 12:00pm**

Breck is a volunteer with the Parkinson’s Foundation and she will be discussing Aware in Care kits. If you are living with Parkinson’s disease, you know that preparation is essential to making the most of each day. Aware in Care kits will give you the tools you need to protect you when you travel, in case of an emergency, or a hospital stay. Please RSVP no later than Monday, December 13th. Lunch will be provided for the first 50 members. Call the Matthies Welcome Center at 937-323-4948 to secure your spot. This program is sponsored by Cherish-Hospice LLC of Springfield.

### Prevention Program Overview

The USS Prevention program has designed group activities for older adults who are feeling isolated and want opportunities to spend time with peers. Education, creative arts, fitness, and plenty of social activities are offered at the downtown center and throughout the community on a regular schedule. Transportation is provided and proof of vaccination is required. Want more information about the Prevention program? Call Tracy Wickham at 937-521-3010.

#### Prevention December Schedule

- **December 2nd**
  - Lunch at Mel-O-Dee - New Carlisle group

- **December 3rd**
  - Lunch at Cracker Barrel - Central group

- **December 6th at 10:30am**
  - Christmas Trivia. **Reservations are required**, call 937-521-3010.

- **December 10th**
  - Lunch at Teaberry’s - East group

- **December 13th at 10:30am**
  - ‘Let’s Get Moving’ - Chair exercise at USS. **Reservations are required**, call 937-521-3010.

- **December 14th**
  - Christmas Dice Games. **Reservations are required**, call 937-521-3010.

- **December 15th at 10:30am**
  - Stay at Home Bingo, play over your phone. **Reservations are required**, call 937-521-3010.

- **December 16th at 12:00pm**
  - Lunch at Mel-O-Dee - New Carlisle group

- **December 20th at 10:30am**
  - ‘Let’s Get Moving’ - Chair exercise at USS. **Reservations are required**, call 937-521-3010.

- **December 21st at 3:00pm**
  - Warm Water Pool at USS. **Reservations are required**, call 937-521-3010.

- **December 27th**
  - Lunch at Carriage Inn - West group

- **December 28th**
  - Lunch at Der Dutchman - Northridge group

- **December 30th**
  - Lunch at Der Dutchman - Northridge group

### Stay at Home Bingo

Join USS for Stay at Home Bingo on **Wednesday, December 15th, at 1:00pm**. Reservations and membership are required. Call Tracy Wickham at 937-521-3010 or email her at twickham@unitedseniorservices.org to reserve your spot. You will be provided with a number to call and a pin number to get connected for the game. Land lines and cell phones will work. Bingo cards can be picked up at USS downtown starting Monday, December 13th, 8:30am - 4:30pm. Bingo cards can also be mailed to those unable to make it downtown. Winners of the game will receive a $10 gift card provided by Mercy Health Oakwood Village. Gift cards are for Kroger, Subway, and Chick-fil-A. There is no charge for this event.

### Caregiver Support Group

The Caregiver Support Group will meet in December and the format is changing. The group will meet in person on **Wednesday, December 15th at 10:00am** at USS. The group will not meet via Zoom. If you are a caregiver and would like to be a part of this group, please contact Jane Eckels at jeckels@unitedseniorservices.org or call 937-521-3016.

### Parkinson’s Disease Support Group

The Parkinson’s Disease Support Group will have their annual **Holiday Gathering** at USS on Thursday, December 9th, 12:00pm - 2:00pm for a festive get-together. Music, sharing, and surprises will be a part of this holiday event. For more information, please contact Jane Eckels at jeckels@unitedseniorservices.org or 937-521-3016.

### AARP Tax Prep

USS will be partnering with AARP to provide tax preparation appointments for USS members and clients. Individuals or couples looking to schedule an appointment can call the Matthies Welcome Center at 937-323-4948 starting Monday, January 10th at 8:30am. Appointments are only available Monday - Thursday; 11:00am - 3:00pm.

---

USS - The Center Page 5
What’s NEW

New Activities Scheduled in December & January!

- Chair Yoga
- Holiday Glass Painting
- Pickleball Round-Robin Tournament
- Aquatics Center Hours
- WWP Volleyball

Holiday Glass Painting

Feeling crafty? Join USS to create a unique gift for your family and friends this year. Pick either Thursday, December 16th at 10:00am or Friday, December 17th at 1:00pm. Using acrylic paint, individuals will be given 2 glasses to paint with their favorite holiday theme. There will be a $10 fee to cover the cost of materials due at the time of the activity. To RSVP, please call the Matthies Welcome Center at 937-323-4948 by the end of the day on Tuesday, December 14th.

USS Jammers

The Jammers are back! This informal music group meets twice a week and is open to everyone. All instrumentalists and singers, regardless of skill level or instrument, are invited to join the group. From country western to rock, old favorites to folk, some of your favorites are bound to be mixed in. Not a musician? That's okay. The Jammers love an audience, so feel free to listen while they play.

* Masks and proof of COVID-19 vaccination are required to participate in this activity.*

Additional Aquatics Center Hours

USS has added a dedicated time to play volleyball in the Warm Water Pool. As staffing allows, more additions and adjustments will be coming in January 2022. Check the activity calendar on pages 8-9 for the most up-to-date additions to the Aquatics Center. If you want to receive information about aquatics programming as soon as it is available, please contact Kyle Farnbauch at 937-323-4948 ext.141 or kfarnbauch@unitedseniorservices.org.

Bingo Volunteers

BINGO! Are you missing this favorite member activity? We are too! This popular activity at USS is 100% volunteer run and cannot return without the generous help of our volunteers. Are you able to help? Please contact Mindy Allender at 937-324-5705 by Friday, December 17th to let her know you are interested in volunteering. Once volunteers are assigned to specific roles, we look forward to adding Bingo back to the USS schedule.

* Masks and proof of COVID-19 vaccination will be required to participate in this activity.*

Pickleball Round-Robin Tournament

If you are ready to test your Pickleball skills against other players, Friday, January 21st, 2022 is your chance! This round-robin tournament is open to players at intermediate or advanced skill levels. A novice tournament will be held in the new year. Individuals and pairs are welcome to sign up, with a maximum 20 players. Registration opens Monday, December 13th and closes when the roster is full or by Friday, January 14th, 2022. Stop by the Matthies Welcome Center to sign up. There is a $5 cost per person to participate due at the time of registration.
### Activity Calendar: December 2021

**Monday, December 6th**

- **Billiards** 7:00a - 7:00p...D-NC
- **Fitness Center** 7:00a - 7:00p...D-NC
- **Advanced Pickleball** 8:00a-10:00a...D-NC
- **Medicare Open Enrollment** 9:00a - 3:00p...A-NC *Ends December 7th*
- **WWP Open Swim** 9:00a - 11:00a...D-NC
- **Blocks to Blankets** 10:00a - 12:00p...D-NC

**Monday, December 13th**

- **Bridge** 10:00a - 1:00p...A-NC *Ends December 14th*
- **Lap Pool Open Swim** 3:30p - 6:30p...D-NC

**Monday, December 20th**

- **Pickleball for Novice** 11:30a - 2:30p...D-NC
- **Alz. Assoc. Office Hours** 10:00a - 1:00p...D-NC
- **Caregiver Support** 8:00a - 10:00a...D-NC

**Monday, December 27th**

- **Lap Pool Open Swim** 3:30p - 6:30p...D-NC
- **Advanced Pickleball** 5:00p - 7:00p...D-NC

*WWP=Warm Water Pool*

*Additional information available at the Matthies Welcome Center*

---

**Tuesday, December 7th**

- **Billiards** 7:00a - 7:00p...D-NC
- **Fitness Center** 7:00a - 7:00p...D-NC
- **Yoga** 8:30a - 9:30a...R-$ *December 7th, 14th & 21st*
- **Focus on Fitness** 9:00a - 10:15a...R-$
- **Medicare Open Enrollment** 9:00a - 3:00p...A-NC *Ends December 7th*
- **Alz. Assoc. Office Hours** 10:00a - 1:00p...D-NC
- **Moving with Music** 10:30a - 11:30a...D-NC
- **Congregate/To-Go Meals** 11:00a - 1:00p...D-NC
- **Tai Chi** 2:00p - 4:00p...D-NC
- **WWP Open Swim** 2:30p - 4:30p...D-NC
- **Intermediate Pickleball** 3:00p - 5:00p...D-NC
- **WWP Aquatics** 1:00p - 1:45p...D-NC
- **Chair Volleyball** 2:00p - 4:00p...D-NC

**Tuesday, December 14th**

- **Poker** 9:00a - 3:00p...D-NC

**Tuesday, December 21st**

- **Blaed Quilting** 1:00p - 6:00p...A-$
- **Lap Pool Open Swim** 3:30p - 6:30p...D-NC
- **Chair Volleyball** 2:00p - 4:00p...D-NC

**Tuesday, December 28th**

- **Lap Pool Open Swim** 3:30p - 6:30p...D-NC

*Additional information available at the Matthies Welcome Center*

---

**Wednesday, December 8th**

- **Billiards** 7:00a - 7:00p...D-NC
- **Fitness Center** 7:00a - 7:00p...D-NC
- **Advanced Pickleball** 8:00a-10:00a...D-NC
- **Long Arm Quilt** 9:00a - 1:00p...A-$
- **Medicare Open Enrollment** 9:00a - 3:00p...A-NC *Ends December 7th*
- **Alz. Assoc. Office Hours** 10:00a - 1:00p...D-NC
- **Long Arm Quilting** 1:00p - 4:00p...D-NC
- **Intermediate Pickleball** 1:00p - 2:00p...R-$ *December 15th*
- **Poker** 9:00a - 3:00p...D-NC
- **Pickleball Lessons & Novice** 1:00p - 4:00p...D-NC
- **Lap Pool Open Swim** 9:00a - 11:00a...D-NC

**Wednesday, December 15th**

- **WWP Aquatics** 1:00p - 1:45p...D-NC
- **Chair Volleyball** 2:00p - 4:00p...D-NC
- **Parkinson’s Exercise** 2:00p - 3:00p...D-NC
- **Intermediate & Advanced Pickleball** 4:00p - 7:00p...D-NC

**Wednesday, December 22nd**

- **Billiards** 7:00a - 7:00p...D-NC
- **Fitness Center** 7:00a - 7:00p...D-NC
- **Focus on Fitness** 9:00a - 10:15a...R-$
- **Medicare Open Enrollment** 9:00a - 3:00p...A-NC *Ends December 7th*
- **Holiday Glass Painting** 10:00a - 12:00p...R-$ *December 16th* *See page 6*
- **Lap Pool Open Swim** 10:00a-1:00p...D-NC
- **Congregate/To-Go Meals** 11:00a - 1:00p...D-NC
- **Opryland Pre-Departure Meeting** 11:00a - 12:00p...R-$ *December 2nd*
- **Lunch & Learn** 12:00op - 1:00p...R-$ *December 16th*
- **Parkinson’s Holiday Gathering** 12:00p - 2:00p...D-NC *December 9th*
- **Poker** 9:00a - 3:00p...D-NC
- **Opryland Pre-Departure Meeting** 1:00p - 2:00p...R-$ *December 2nd*

**Wednesday, December 29th**

- **Billiards** 7:00a - 7:00p...D-NC
- **Fitness Center** 7:00a - 7:00p...D-NC
- **Focus on Fitness** 9:00a - 10:15a...R-$
- **Medicare Open Enrollment** 9:00a - 3:00p...A-NC *Ends December 7th*
- **Holiday Glass Painting** 10:00a - 12:00p...R-$ *December 16th* *See page 6*
- **Lap Pool Open Swim** 10:00a-1:00p...D-NC
- **Congregate/To-Go Meals** 11:00a - 1:00p...D-NC
- **Opryland Pre-Departure Meeting** 11:00a - 12:00p...R-$ *December 2nd*
- **Lunch & Learn** 12:00p - 1:00p...R-$ *December 16th*
- **Poker** 9:00a - 3:00p...D-NC
- **Opryland Pre-Departure Meeting** 1:00p - 2:00p...R-$ *December 2nd*

*Be sure to check in at the Matthies Welcome Center.
Activity times, dates, and rooms are subject to change.*
New Carlisle Satellite
Calendar: December 2021

Lunch starts at 11:00am
Programming starts at 12:30pm

Membership Appreciation

Calling all Members.... and Cookie Lovers....and Jazz Enthusiasts....

USS is proud to announce the return of Member Appreciation Week!
Since our limited reopening began in June, we have been working hard to bring back all your favorite activities and programs. This month, we want to show you how very much we appreciate the opportunity to serve you! So what better way for us to kick off Member Appreciation Week than through, you guessed it, sweet treats. Please join us at our downtown center, Monday, December 13th - Friday, December 17th for cookies provided by these community partners especially for you!

The sweetest treat of all to cap off an already sweet week is the return of Todd Stoll’s Red Hot Holiday Stomp!
That’s right, returning for a USS member-only event is local son, Todd Stoll, and his renowned jazz band. The concert will take place on Sunday, December 19th at 3:00pm right here in our downtown center.
The best part? USS is making these sweet sounds available for our members FREE OF CHARGE as the finale to our Member Appreciation week! In order to have our fun safely, only a limited number of tickets will be available on a first-come-first-served basis.
If you’d like to enjoy the show, please call our Matthies Welcome Center to reserve up to two tickets. Seating will be socially distanced. Masks will be required of all members of the audience at all times. We appreciate your understanding, and we sure hope you are as excited as we are for the 2021 Red Hot Holiday Stomp!

**Mondays:**
- Mexican Train Dominoes 12:30p
  *December 6th & 27th*
- Crafts 12:30p
  *December 6th* **$5 material fee**
- Bingo 12:30p
  *December 13th*
- MOVIE DAY 12:30p
  *December 20th*
- Euchre 12:30p
  *December 27th*

**Tuesdays:**
- Mexican Train Dominoes 12:30p
- Yahtzee 12:30p
  *December 21st*
- Rock Painting 12:30p
  *December 28th*

**Wednesdays**
- “500” Card Game 12:30p

**Thursdays**
- Bridge 12:30p
  *CLOSED on Thursday, December 23rd at noon. No Activities on this day.*
  Happy Holidays!

**Fridays**
- Hand, Knee & Foot 12:30p
  *December 3rd & 17th*
- Christmas Potluck 12:30p
  *December 10th*
  *CLOSED on Friday, December 24th and Friday, December 31st.*
  Happy Holidays!

NEW CARLISLE
1216 W Lake Ave
New Carlisle, OH 45344
937-845-2080

NEW CARLISLE
1216 W Lake Ave
New Carlisle, OH 45344
937-845-2080

Lunch starts at 11:00am
Programming starts at 12:30pm
What’s NEW

Community Wellness

USS is committed to providing education and resources to older Clark County residents who have limited access to the COVID-19 Vaccine or Booster. Reliable health information about the vaccine, assistance with scheduling appointments, navigating website and internet applications, and transportation to vaccine appointments are all services USS can provide! If you or someone you know is in need of our assistance or would like questions answered about vaccine safety and efficiency, please contact Laura Fulton at 937-323-4948 ext. 227 or lfulton@unitedseniorservices.org.

HEAP Winter Crisis Program

The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) helps Ohioans at or below 175 percent of the federal poverty guidelines pay their heating bills. The HEAP Winter Crisis Program has begun and ends on March 31st, 2022. USS can provide assistance with filling out the application at our center or in the home for homebound seniors. To schedule your appointment or to ask questions, contact Joyce Robinson, Outreach Coordinator at USS at 937-521-3005. The regular HEAP Program is also ongoing at this time and ends on May 31st, 2022. This program provides assistance with home energy bills.

The Clark County Warmline

It's okay not to be okay today. The Clark County Warmline is a free, peer-to-peer call line for anyone of any age who needs mental health support. It is available 24/7 including weekends and holidays. The Warmline is intended to address mental health concerns before they escalate into a crisis. The function of the Warmline is to listen to callers and provide experience-based empathy and support. Peers, or people with lived experience, are trained to screen for indications that callers may benefit from a referral to a mental health provider.

The Warmline number is 937-662-9080. If you or someone you know is experiencing a crisis or emergency, call 911, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255, or text the Crisis Text Line by sending 4HOPE to 741-741.

Welcome, Cindy Lockwood

Cindy Lockwood joined the USS team in November as the new SAILL Coordinator. She is eager to begin developing and promoting curriculum that USS members enjoy, find interesting and engaging. Prior to joining the USS team, Cindy spent 15 years in the healthcare field as a Licensed Physical Therapist Assistant, primarily in home health settings. She also has 14 years of experience working as an administrative assistant and teaching assistant with the Champaign County Board of Developmental Disabilities. Cindy and her husband, Sam, live in Urbana and their son, Jake, lives in Toledo. Cindy is passionate about lifelong learning and she is always looking for ways to learn something new or to improve her health and fitness. In her spare time, Cindy enjoys many outdoor activities including kayaking, hiking and biking. She also enjoys practicing her artistic interests of guitar, watercolor, and drawing. Please join us in welcoming Cindy to the USS family! We are so glad she's here!

Thank You, Aquatics Staff

As you know, the staff at USS has been working hard to bring back all your favorite activities! The daily schedule is getting packed with all the oldies but goodies, and many new opportunities as well. One of the newest programs is happening in our Aquatics Center. Did you know that aquatics is one of the most popular activities at USS’s downtown location? That's right! Over 150 members check in each month to use the lap pool or the warm water pool. In October we added two new aquatics offerings. We added FREE drop-in times in our warm water pool and a brand new class, offered by our very own newly certified instructor, Marla Fagans. She is pictured, left, with fellow lifeguards, Jacob Brown and Jack Johnson. More aquatics programming and open swim times will be added in 2022. If you want to receive aquatics updates as soon as they become available, please contact Kyle Farnbauch at 937-323-4948 ext.141 or kfarnbauch@unitedseniorservices.org.
RSVP
Retired & Senior Volunteer Program

Open Hands Free Pantry is our newest AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP site. They are located at the Covenant United Methodist Church at 529 West Johnny Lytle Ave. Open Hands Free Store changed its name and location this June due to the food desert south of Downtown Springfield. According to the Springfield Foundation's website, 15% of Clark County’s population suffers from food insecurity. That means not knowing where your next meal will come from, lacking resources to obtain food, lack of access to healthy food, or tradeoff between food and other basic needs.

They are in need of volunteers for this rewarding experience to pack boxes of healthy food, fresh fruits and vegetables, and hygiene items for families. They are also in need of volunteers with computer skills that could help with check-in and a translator who speaks French and/or Haitian Creole. Hours needed will be Tuesdays 9:30am-12:00pm and/or Thursdays 1:30pm-4:00pm.

USS is in need of friendly volunteers who would like to greet members and assist them in checking in at the Matthies Welcome Center on Thursday and Friday afternoons, 12:30pm-4:30pm and substitutes for morning and afternoon shifts Monday-Friday.

We are also looking for a USS café hostess to check people in and collect meal client registration forms in the café during lunch, Monday-Friday 11:00am-1:00pm.

Because of the growing French and Haitian Creole community in Springfield, we are looking for an interpreter who can help at any of our RSVP sites and/or USS as needed.

If you're an RSVP volunteer and have been helping at the Clark County Combined Health District’s inoculation sites, your hours can be turned in! The Health Department has partnered with RSVP for years and we're thrilled to have our volunteers helping out. Please contact Barb Rossler or Mindy Allender in the RSVP department at 937-324-5705 for more information and to serve your neighbors through AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP Program.

For more than 53 years, USS has been the focal point for supporting the independent and active lifestyles of older adults in Clark County. As the holidays approach, remember that we are here for you, especially when you need us most. Please let us know how we can be of help!

1. Meals on Wheels
   If you would like to receive home-delivered meals or someone you know would benefit from this service, please call Rita Marshall at 937-323-9688.

2. Dining Room Meals
   Dining room meals are available in our downtown café Monday-Friday, 11am-1pm. You can take them to-go or sit and eat in the café. Please contact Sharon Torres at 937-323-9688 for additional information and clarification on this service.

3. In-Home Services
   USS offers In-Home Personal Care & Respite Care. Questions can be directed to Jenny Cunningham at 937-521-3012.

4. Transportation
   USS provides transportation to essential medical appointments. Please call Lisa McDonough at 937-521-3000 to schedule a ride.

5. Grocery Delivery
   Instead of trips to the grocery store, USS provides grocery delivery. Please call 937-323-4948 ext. 143 for more information.

6. Medicare Assistance
   Medicare assistance is available at USS. Please call Eric Demmings at 937-323-4948 ext. 114 to schedule an appointment.

7. Emergency Assistance
   USS provides emergency assistance to residents of Clark County who may need it. Please call Joyce Robinson at 937-521-3005 for more information.

All other questions regarding services can be directed to 937-323-4948.
Todd Stoll’s
Red Hot Holiday Stomp
Sunday, December 19th 2021 at 3:00pm
USS, 125 W Main St, Springfield, OH
Admission is FREE - Tickets are required
Seating is limited for this special event