



FREE Tax Prep Starts in January



LCCH is busy preparing our sites and volunteers for the 2024 income tax filing season. Through Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA), our IRS-certified tax preparers can prepare and e-file federal, state and school district income tax returns for income-eligible taxpayers.

Do you qualify? If you (together with your spouse if Married Filing Jointly) made less than \$64,000 in 2023, you are probably eligible for this great FREE service. VITA can file personal income tax returns only—no businesses, farms or rental income. We can report self-employment income/1099 payments with some restrictions (must show a profit, no employees, no inventory, no home office deduction and expenses less than \$25,000). We can also ensure that you collect all of the credits that you are entitled to (Earned Income Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit, Education Credits, etc.). VITA sites can prepare the current tax year, plus the three previous years. We can also amend prior year returns.

Appointments are required! Call 740-345-1970 ext 200. Scheduling starts January 16, but please don't call until you have all of your W-2s and tax documents.

Volunteer opportunities with VITA are still available. Contact Kathy Scott (740-345-1970 ext. 229 or kscott@lcchousing.org) ASAP to make sure that you can get certified before the filing season starts. All materials and software are provided by the IRS. All sites are managed by LCCH staff.

A weekly commitment is required, but a flexible schedule of times and locations is available. CEUs are available for attorneys and accountants. If you have a basic understanding of taxes and computers and want to help people, this may be a great opportunity for you.

Tax Prep Schedule

The **preliminary** schedule for the 2024 tax filing season is:

Mondays Jan 22–Apr 8
Licking County Library
10:30 AM–5:15 PM
(In-person)

Wednesdays Jan 24–Apr 10
Ohio Means Jobs
9:30 AM–3:15 PM
(In-person)

Thursdays Jan 25–Apr 11
LCCH Office
4:30 PM–7:30 PM
(Drop-off)

Saturdays Jan 27–Apr 13
LCCH Office
9:00 AM–Noon
(In-person)

This schedule may change based on site conditions and volunteer availability.

Our Mission

Through partnership, guiding those in need to sustainable housing.

Our Vision

A community where everyone enjoys a safe, stable and sustainable home.

Find Us on Social Media



LCCHousing

Contact Us

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Web

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Home Pages by Email?

If you would rather receive this newsletter electronically, send us a quick email at info@lcchousing.org and we will add you to our email address list and remove you from our snail mail address list.

2023 LCCH Board of Directors

Tyler Crall, President
TrueCore Federal Credit Union

Darcy Grossett, Vice President
Park National Bank

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Licking Memorial Hospital

Executive Director's Corner



Photos Courtesy of Benjamin Stamper

Greetings!

With 2023 coming to a close, I want to wish you and yours all the best as we welcome the new challenges – and the new start – that afford us as a community the opportunity to do our best for those in need in 2024.

First on the list is getting the two new HUD-funded projects underway – a new housing program for survivors of domestic violence and a permanent supportive housing program for chronically homeless adults and families. We're busy looking for just the right staff members to implement these new efforts – and I trust we'll introduce them, and other new staff – in our March 2024 edition.

Secondly, with the announcement on September 20 of a \$5.2 million award by HUD for a **Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP)**, we're in the throws of organizing to develop a **Coordinated Community Plan** to create programs that will effectively address the needs of homeless youth and young adults under 25 years of age. (Note: The photos on this page are from the nationwide announcement event at the OSU-COTC Campus in Newark. Many thanks to Drs. Bill MacDonald and John Berry for hosting!).

The YHDP Round 7 funding will be used first for developing the Plan, due to HUD in March 2024. The Plan will include an assessment of the needs of homeless youth and young adults in 32 of Ohio's rural and suburban counties, including Licking County. The Plan will also include recommended strategies and programs – designed with input from youth with

“lived experience,” i.e. they currently are or have been homeless – to ensure the new programs will be tailored to the real needs identified.

The key idea is to create programs that will prevent and end homelessness for youth and young adults. In doing so, it is critical to expand our capacity to house and provide services, and to better coordinate those services across educational, workforce training, health, legal and other key systems. Another key idea is to involve youth in the ongoing design, implementation and evaluation of this part of the “homeless system.” Youth Advisory Boards at both the state and local are one way to do so.

Assuming the Plan is approved, communities within the 32-county award will then further develop actual project proposals and costs that will be selected, with input from the state-level Youth Advisory Board. And the total amount of funding available annually going forward for all the selected projects will be roughly \$2.6 million.

So, the question isn't really “how much YHDP money is coming to Licking County.” The question is whether those of us in Licking County working on this initiative can create a project worthy of consideration.

I look forward to all the good work, creative thinking – and effective results – to come!

Best wishes for a restful holiday,



(L to R) Deb Tegtmeyer, LCCH; Amy Eldridge, LFCOA; Tiffany Davis, LCCH; Randall Hunt, LFCOA; Brandon Francis, ZMHD; Trina Woods, LCCH; Brooke Lowe, LFCOA.

Denison Service Orientation



On August 23, eight First Year students from Denison University and their advisor spent the morning with LCCH as part of the Denison Service Orientation. For the third consecutive year, Denison students have started their college experience with service activities at various non-profits in Licking County—their new home away from home. Their work with us included some serious heavy lifting! They cleaned and emptied the garage at one

of our Developmental Disabilities homes, organized our storage unit and moved a LOT of furniture from one building to the other in the process. They made a huge difference, and it was a pleasure to work with such an energetic bunch of young adults. We appreciate their efforts and hope they carry their love of community service out into the world when they leave Denison.

LCCH Attends PRIDE Festival

On October 7, 2023, LCCH participated in the Newark Pride Festival, held from 12:00 noon until 6:00 PM at the Canal Market District. It was a beautiful fall day, and both the Canal Market and the LCCH booth were busy with folks who came out to show support for the LGBTQ+ community. LCCH had lots of prizes and giveaways*, but most importantly we were there to spread the word about the housing services we offer. LCCH provides services, without discrimination, to all who meet the eligibility guidelines of the program/funding source.

According to the National Network for Youth, those who identify as LGBTQ+ have a 120% higher risk of experiencing “some form of homelessness”. They are also more likely to experience assault, trauma, depression and suicide when compared to non-LGBTQ+ populations while also being homeless,” the Network stated.

*Thanks to Mike Baker, our DD Maintenance Director, for making our awesome prize wheel. You will definitely be seeing that at future events!



The always-energetic Stanley Frankart meets with visitors at the LCCH booth.



Crocheted stuffed animals—made and modeled by LCCHs Alejandra Leon—were just one of the prizes on our big prize wheel.

LCCH Staff

Deb Tegtmeyer, Executive Director

Mike Baker, DD Maintenance Director

Zachary Baker, Rapid Re-Housing Ohio Coordinator

Misty Berkley, Fiscal Assistant

Tim Binckley, SSVF Case Manager

Sue Chen, Administrative Assistant

Tiffany Davis, Housing Programs Supervisor

Rachael Duck, Housing Programs Supervisor

Stanley Frankhart, Housing Programs Supervisor

Karen Holloway, MSW
SSVF Healthcare Navigator/SOAR Specialist

Laura Kennedy, CTP/RHO Case Manager

Alejandra Leon, Housing Services Coordinator

Mark Loudon, Housing Services Coordinator

Cheryl Matthews, Housing Services Coordinator

Tanaya McMannis, SSVF Case Manager

Jillian McNeal, Rapid Re-Housing Case Manager

Kasie Moenter, LSW Housing Services Coordinator

Doug Price, Landlord Navigator

Kristi Ramsey, Coordinated Entry Specialist

Ryan Reed, TH Maintenance

Brian Scott, DD Maintenance

Kathy Scott, Resource Development/
VITA Coordinator

Cathy Terry, LSW GPD Case Manager/
Coordinated Entry Specialist

Mandy Weaver, Housing Services Coordinator

Trina Woods, MBA Managing Director

The LCCH Annual Report



The year 2023 has been one of tremendous activity and growth for LCCH and for the literally thousands of men, women, children and Veterans we served in Licking County and surrounding areas. As of October 1, we took over the administration of the VA Homeless Veteran Grant and Per Diem (GPD) program from Licking/Knox Goodwill Industries, after partnering for 24+ years. We have expanded existing programs, and added three new ones in the latter part of the year.

Please review this summary and know that, with your help and support, we will continue working to achieve our vision of “a community where everyone enjoys a safe, stable and sustainable home.”

Statistics included below are for last fiscal year-July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.

Transitional Housing (TH)

Beginning with four 1-bedroom apartments for homeless families in 1993, our TH program currently maintains 23 units for individuals and families.

- Last year, Transitional Housing served 101 people. 33 of those were children (33%).
- 65% of those exiting the program went into permanent, stable housing.
- The average length of stay was 172 days, or approximately 6 months.
- Each household is assigned a case manager and receives intensive case management with permanent housing as the final goal.

Grant and Per Diem (GPD)

An additional 5 units of TH are funded by the VA's Homeless Veteran Grant and Per Diem (GPD), which is specifically for Veterans in need of Transitional Housing.

- Last year, GPD served 18 people-15 adults and 3 children.
- 6 of the 18 left for permanent housing and gainful employment.
- 6 of the 18 were excluded due to disability.
- The average length of stay was 151 days, or approximately 5 months.

Homeless Crisis Response Program (HCRP)

- 27 Households received Rapid Re-Housing services through HCRP.
- 21 Households received Homelessness Prevention via rental assistance through HCRP.
- \$90,763.43 was spent in direct assistance for Deposit and Rental payments.

Rapid Re-Housing Ohio (RRHO)

LCCH took over administration of this project, which serves multiple counties in Ohio, on September 1, 2017. RRHO serves homeless households with children.

- RRHO served 155 households which included 517 people, 261 of which were children.
- \$524,015.42 was spent in direct assistance for Deposit and Rental payments.

LCCH Rapid Re-Housing

This RRH program serves homeless households in Licking County.

- LCCH RRH served 18 people, 17 adults and 1 child.
- Provided \$49,999.56 in Deposit, and Rent payments, along with on-going case management throughout their stay in the program.
- 77% of the households entering the program were housed within 7 days of intake.
- The average length of stay is 159 days.

Region 9 Rapid Re-Housing

The Region 9 program assists homeless households, primarily in Licking County, but also in Fairfield, Knox, Coshocton, Muskingum and Holmes Counties.

- Region 9 RRH served 53 adults.
- Provided \$206,155.02 in Deposit, and Rent payments, along with on-going case management throughout their stay in the program.
- Average length of stay is 6249 days.
- 93.55% of the participants who left the program moved on to permanent housing.



Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF)

SSVF includes a wide range of services for veterans and their families, including Homelessness Prevention, Rapid Re-Housing, Shallow Subsidy, Healthcare Navigation, Income Support, Legal Services and Case Management.

- SSVF served 75 Veteran households, representing 99 people.
- 45 individuals (45%) were 55 and older.
- \$195,425.29 was spent in direct assistance for Deposit, Rent, Utilities, and General Housing Stability.
- 14 households were provided with an ongoing rental subsidy that will provide 50% of the household's rent for 2 years. \$62,207.50 was spent on these rental subsidies.



Housing Options for People with Aids (HOPWA)

HOPWA is the only Federal program dedicated to the housing needs of people living with HIV/AIDS. It provides short and long term rental assistance to ensure households have secure housing and are able to focus on their health. LCCH works with Columbus Public Health and the City of Columbus Housing Department to provide this program.

- 13 households receiving Permanent Supportive Housing through HOPWA.
- 18 households received rent assistance after showing a need and the ability to sustain their housing once assistance ended.
- \$93,001.88 was provided in direct assistance for Deposit, Rent, Mortgage and Utility



Re-entry Housing

LCCH began providing re-entry housing services through Returning Home Ohio (RHO) in 2015. Funded by the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) and the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, RHO is a program that is aimed at preventing homelessness and reducing recidivism for those who have been released from Ohio prisons with a severe and persistent mental health diagnosis.

- Our RHO program provided case management and financial assistance to 13 adults who have exited a state prison with severe and persistent mental illness.
- Provided case management and referral services to an additional 15 individuals.



RHO Expansion

Through a new initiative under the RHO program, we have expanded our capacity to serve people returning to their communities in Knox, Richland and Muskingum Counties - in addition to Licking County. The RHO expansion will test a model for "performance based" contracting and program benchmarks. We are working with CSH, the University of Notre Dame's Lab for Economic Opportunity, and the US Department of Justice under a five year contract.

LCCH serves nine counties through the Community Transitions Program (CTP), which is funded by the Corporation for Supportive Housing and provides Rapid ReHousing and Permanent Supportive Housing for people who have exited an Ohio prison and received substance use treatment while incarcerated.

- CTP provided direct financial assistance to 16 adults.
- Provided case management and referrals to an additional 63 adults in 10 Ohio counties.

Housing Assistance Programs Definitions

Below are a few key definitions for the types of housing assistance that we provide.

Homelessness Prevention (HP)

an intervention designed to prevent an individual or family who is at imminent risk of homelessness. Assistance for this program is limited, but can assist with Rent Assistance, Deposit Assistance, and Case Management.

Rapid Re-Housing (RRH)

an intervention designed to help individuals and families that don't need intensive and ongoing support to quickly exit homelessness and return to permanent housing. A key element of Rapid Re-Housing (RR) is that the client maintains a lease in their own name.

Transitional Housing (TH)

a temporary program that is meant to bridge the gap from homelessness to permanent housing by providing housing and offering structure, supervision, support (for addictions and mental health, for instance), life skills, education and training.

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)

an intervention that combines affordable housing assistance with voluntary support services to address the needs of chronically homeless people. The services are designed to build independent living and tenancy skills and connect people with community-based healthcare, treatment and employment services.



Project Homeline (PH)

Project Homeline caseworkers return all calls from people inquiring about housing and housing assistance. Project Homeline receives its funding through the Granville Community Foundation, Licking County Foundation, Gummer Family, proceeds from the Great Granville Garage Sale and other generous donors.

- 1,108 calls were returned to people seeking housing options or in need of housing assistance.
- 9 Households were served through the City of Newark Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG).
- 49 individuals were provided with a total of \$30,992.59 in direct assistance for Deposit and Rent payments.



Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

VITA is an IRS initiative designed to support free tax preparation service for the underserved through various partner organizations. This service helps low- to moderate-income individuals, persons with disabilities and the elderly.

- Open four days a week at three locations in Licking County, with in-person and drop-off preparation.
- 26 IRS-certified Community Volunteers provided free services for 1492 clients.
- 902.75 volunteer hours were donated to the program.
- 1,459 Tax Returns were prepared.
- \$1,844,049 in Federal and State refunds were due to VITA clients, most of which was returned to the Licking County economy.



Disability Housing

Through a unique partnership with the Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities (LCBDD), LCCH owns homes and provides Property Management services for adults with developmental disabilities.

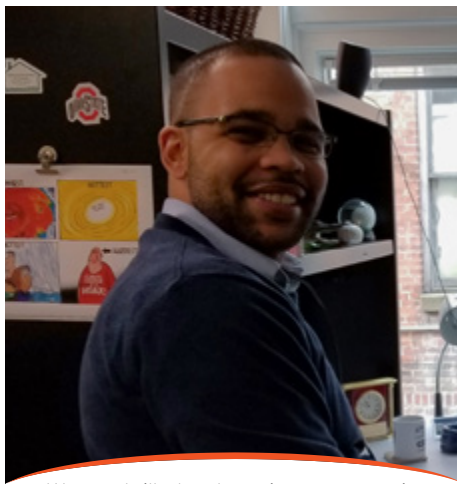
- 12 single-family homes in Newark and Heath.
- Over 38 LCBDD consumers are able to live in a supervised, independent setting.



Volunteerism

Volunteer Opportunities are available for groups or individuals. Our VITA program utilizes volunteers January through April, and other activities/ events occur during the spring, summer and fall.

- 2400.5 hours were contributed last year by our Board of Directors and other community volunteers. Their activities included monthly meetings, tax preparation, the Downtown Newark Food Truck Festival, donation drives, property maintenance and general office tasks.



We are thrilled at the unique opportunity Stanley Frankart has earned as a Fellow with the Bureau of Justice Assistance.

New Programs

Joint Transitional Housing - Rapid ReHousing for Domestic Violence Program

In partnership with The Center for New Beginnings Shelter and Services, a program of The Woodlands of Central Ohio, and Licking County Job and Family Services, LCCH will offer 6 units of transitional housing, 12 units of rapid rehousing and critical case management to those who are fleeing domestic violence in the six Homeless Planning Region 9 counties: Licking, Knox, Fairfield, Muskingum, Holmes and Coshocton. HUD awarded \$426,792 as of October 1, and program implementation is underway.

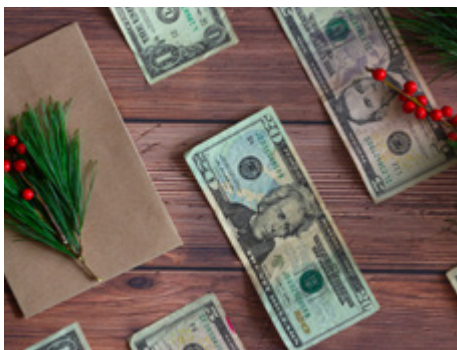
Permanent Supportive Housing

LCCH looks forward to partnering with Integrated Services for Behavioral Health (ISBH) to provide 15 units of Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) for 12 chronically homeless adults and 3 chronically homeless families in Licking County. LCCH will provide housing and coordinated services for the participants. ISBH will provide behavioral health services as needed. HUD awarded \$313,173 as of October 1, and program implementation is underway.

Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Visiting Fellows Program

Stanley Frankart, Housing Services Supervisor for the RHO and CTP programs was named to the FY23 Cohort of BJA Fellows, one of only 8 nationally. His 24-month Fellowship will include a "residency" period of 9 months working with BJA staff onsite in Washington, D.C. While Mr. Frankart will continue to oversee the RHO and CTP programs, he will have an opportunity to make critical policy and programmatic contributions to improving Corrections and Reintegration under the Second Chance Act. He will collaborate with BJA and Department of Justice (DOJ) staff members to provide outreach, data, research and subject matter expertise at the federal level which will, in turn, enhance and improve our work here in Ohio.

Give with Confidence



As we enter the final month of 2023, we know that you have many options for charitable giving. If you read this newsletter regularly, we hope you are aware of the good work that we are doing and the successes that our clients have achieved. But we know that we are not alone—there are many wonderful organizations out there doing good work. How do you know that LCCH is a smart place for your charitable gift?

The LCCH budget for the next fiscal year is approximately 4.5 million dollars. Ten years ago (FY 2012-2013) it was 1.9 million dollars. We are adding new programs each year and/or having our grants renewed with additional dollars because of the demonstrated success of our existing programs.

Each year we undergo a thorough fiscal audit with an independent accounting firm. They investigate all aspects of our agency, including our fiscal policies and procedures, expenditures, grant compliance and fundraising practices.

We receive grant funding from federal agencies (the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Veterans Administration, the Internal Revenue Service), and are subject to in-house monitoring from any of those agencies on a yearly basis. They send teams in to

examine our books and client files to verify that we are following proper procedures and that all expenses meet program eligibility.

We also receive funding from the State of Ohio (Ohio Department of Development, Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections) and local government (City of Newark, City of Columbus), as well as other agencies (Corporation for Supportive Housing, Ohio Mental Health & Addiction Services), charitable organizations and businesses. We are required by most of these agencies to provide grant reports and will do so for any donor who requests one.

As determined by our fiscal audit, 90 cents of each dollar we receive is spent on programs! If you would like more information about charitable giving, please contact us at info@lcchousing.org.

Do Your Research

In Ohio, the Ohio Attorney General (OAG) has statutory duties to oversee the activities of charitable organizations. Among other things, the OAG's office investigates complaints regarding misuse of charitable funds, fraudulent fundraising activities, nonprofit theft and embezzlement, and breaches of fiduciary duty by nonprofit leaders. Their Charitable Ohio website (charitable.ohioago.gov), which allows you to research charities, offers the following tips on How to Make Informed Decisions About Giving to Charities:

If you are asked to give money to an unfamiliar charity, take a moment to investigate before you contribute. Call the charity — a reputable organization will welcome inquiries — and carefully examine provided information and materials.

When a charity calls you seeking a donation, the caller must provide the name of the organization and the location of its principal place of business. Professional solicitors calling on behalf of a charity must also provide this basic information about the charity.

Here are some of the warning signs that a donation request might be fraudulent:

- The charity's name is similar to a well-known, nationally recognized charity
- High-pressure tactics are used to request immediate donations
- The caller is hesitant or unable to answer questions about the charity or how the donation will be used
- The individual or entity does not provide a real callback phone number
- The caller offers to pick up donations immediately instead of waiting to receive them in the mail
- Prizes, cash rewards or sweepstakes entries are offered in return for a donation
- The individual or entity requests checks to be made payable to a person instead of the charity
- The caller requests bank or credit card information and you didn't expect the call

Also, the Internal Revenue Service maintains an online database where you can check whether an organization is a registered charity and if your donation will be tax-deductible. (Yes, we are a registered 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization and your donation will be tax deductible as long as no goods or services were received.)



Scan or click QR code to view IRS database



LCCH wishes you Joy & Peace now and throughout 2024!

We hope this issue of Home Pages finds you well, that your holidays are happy and that your New Year is filled with peace and Joy! Check out the Annual Report on Page 4 to see what we have been up to in the last year.

Please consider making a year-end gift to LCCH, so that we may continue to provide housing services to those who need it most.

Online
lcchousing.org
(Donations processed through Network for Good)

Mail
PO Box 613, Newark, OH 43058-0613
Checks payable to LCCH

Questions?
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