

RHA STRONG! 2019 Community Report

Founding Partner of Partners for Community Living



The year we won't forget

In 53 years of service, there was never a year like the one we experienced in 2019, the year Ohio discovered what we've always known – we walk and work among heroes! First came winter weather interruptions in January. February brought the Dayton water emergency that left us with water outages in some of our homes for days.

Those experiences proved to be little more than inconveniences when compared to what happened on Memorial Day. The tornadoes struck during the dark of night, leaving destruction and long-lasting scars in communities throughout our region. Our staff rose to the occasion with actions worthy of superheroes. Through that dark night and into the days and weeks that followed, our Direct Support Professionals and management team kept our residents safe as they made adjustments to continue providing the dedicated services they are known for, which extended to supporting residents who had to be relocated from their homes for more than a week, with one staff member sheltering residents in her own home.

We ended 2019 filled with gratitude that we at RHA did not lose our homes, as so many in our community did. We all survived, residents and staff, with no injuries. For that, we counted our many blessings as a challenging year ended, thankful to our heroic staff, our Board, families and many donors who stood beside us through it all.

The Resident Home Association

(RHA) has been providing quality residential services and supports to individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities since 1966, one of the first residential services providers in Ohio. A 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization, we provide safe, nurturing homes in neighborhoods throughout Montgomery County, with personalized living spaces that reflect individual interests. Our services also include Adult Day Services and nonmedical transportation services. Our services are lifelong, person-centered, and community-based.

RHA provided homes for 70 residents in 2019, with residents ranging in age from 22 - 81. Non-medical transportation services were provided for 53 individuals, with 33 participating in Adult Day Services.

Services were provided by a dedicated team of administrative/managerial staff and Direct Support Professionals (*DSPs*), including 73 full-time staff and 14 part-time staff. Of those, 24 staff have ten years or more of service.



As of 2019, Executive Director Pete Roll had 33 years of RHA service. He is pictured at our 2019 resident picnic with Donte Morrison. The picnic is hosted annually by the Pratt family and friends.

Kris Bergman, Home Manager at our Garber home, reached the milestone of 40 years of service in 2019. Others with significant service



anniversaries were: Vicki Servais (32 years); Rhonda Rich (31 years); Paul Cyphers (31 years); David Henkaline (31 years); Charnell Posey (31 years); Fayann Garlitz (30 years); Annalisa Meikle (28 years); Gwen Davis (26 years); Pam Taylor (25 years); Joyce Barnett (23 years); Archie Brown (22 years); Cheryl Drakes (22 years); Casey Marchal (22 years); Tina Ford (22 years); Kenneth Hilliard (20 years); Karen Gabbard (19 years); Debra Horseman (17 years); Sherrice Nolan (16 years); Judalon McKee (14 years); Venera Holmes (13 years); Nathan Stevens (12 years); Sue Meyer (10 years.)

Joanne Maloney had been a member of our RHA family for 40 years, a part of the spirit that fills our Springmill home. Our staff dedicated themselves to her care to keep her at home for as long as possible before she had to go to hospice for her final days. She had been supported not only by her staff and housemates but by so many friends whose donations made it possible to purchase a mobile lift that allowed her to be cared for at home for as long as possible. They made a difference in her life, as she made a difference in the lives of each person she knew. When we remember her, we remember with joy how she would wrap her small hands around a tiny coffee cup, doing one of the things that brought her so much pleasure enjoying her cup of coffee.



RHA is governed by a policy-making Board of Trustees that includes family, business and community representatives, all of whom serve as volunteers. For one of those volunteers, 2019 marked the end of era in service as Vivienne Himmell retired from the Board and from her service as a member of Partners Joint Development Committee.

The pursuit of her bachelor's degree at Wright State University several years ago led her to both a career and a personal commitment in service to people with disabilities. While earning her degree, she studied alongside Marlene Carne, Barbara Conner and Brenda Whitney, who would become not only her colleagues but lifelong friends. She served more than 25 years as a social worker/case manager for the Montgomery County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

Shortly after her retirement from the County, she agreed to serve on the RHA board, beginning in 2002. She was guided by her commitment to be a voice for families whose children were 'aging out' of the County's school programs and moving into adulthood. They would need a permanent place to live and services to support them as adults. In RHA, Vivienne found an organization she calls 'a lifesaver' for so many families. "Their dedication, expertise and compassion has been an ongoing inspiration for all of us who have served on the Board," she shares. "Each member of the Board has been and continues to be totally committed to the success and well-being of the residents and for support for their families."

In addition to serving on the RHA board, she was a vital supporter in the development and growth of Partners For Community Living, supporting their work in fundraising, advocacy and community awareness. "And now age and life have caught up with me," said Vivienne about her retirement. "It's time to move over and make room for others to continue this powerful, empower-

2019 Board of Trustees

Gary Newton, *President*Carl Eubank
Tom Gmeiner,
Vivienne Himmell
Michael Pratt
Steve Schulte

ing work that has made Resident Home such an outstanding leader in the field of developmental disabilities. Even after retirement, these residents, families, staff and Board members continue to be a major part of my life."

Our Funding

Medicaid provides 98% of funding, with additional state and local funding, as well as grants and donations through **Partners For**

Community Living, the fundraising and advocacy partnership between RHA and Choices In Community Living, founded in 2002.

Loretta Wallace *(r)* and Vicki Glynn showcased their new accessible bathroom at their Springmill home, with funding provided by The Physicians Charitable Trust of the Miami Valley, one of the grants received through the efforts of Partners For Community Living.



A grant was also received from The Brighter Tomorrow Foundation in support of our Venturing Crew (BSA.)

A difficult year ended on a happy note as CareSource Community Marketing Representative Lisa Taylor presented both this supersized copy of a check, along with the real one, to Executive Director Pete Roll. The check represented a grant from the CareSource Foundation to support the purchase and installation of a whole-house generator for our Piedmont home.

Whole-home generators for both RHA and our partner agency, Choices In Community Living, became the number one funding priority for 2019 and into 2020 following the May tornadoes. In addition to funding from grants, Partners For Community Living held our first Giving Tuesday social media fundraiser in December, with those funds, along with major gifts and other donations, designated for generators.



