

Helping people  
and changing  
lives **SINCE**  
**1964**

North Oakland OLHSA, circa 1920s



# OLHSA

A Community Action Agency

**OUTLOOK**  
**Fall 2016**

## CEO Message

*A fond farewell: musings by Ron Borngesser*

Forty-two years ago, when my time serving in the United States Navy came to an end, I knew I wanted to continue to serve people. In a way different than being part of the armed forces, I wanted to care for others, build systems that would give people a better life, and continue to do my part to ensure America remained a place of opportunity.

I found my way to community action. Back then, OLHSA was less than 10 years old, I was in my twenties, and I sought to settle down and make a difference where I was raised, in Oakland County.

My journey with OLHSA began in the human resources department, and I was quickly hooked. Yes, I was hiring people and managing benefits for employees who worked on a very different 'front line,' but I was also falling in love with the real change that happened for people after OLHSA became a part of their life.

Fast forward to today. I've been CEO of OLHSA for 18 years. The team I've assembled to lead by my side has been integral in the growth this agency has seen, and the progress it has made. We've helped hundreds of thousands of people feel less of a strain because of the balance of their bank accounts. We've fought for and earned millions in new funding, allowing us the space to create programs. We've grown with the times and evolved from seeking grants to administer services to seeking grants that allow for a continued revenue stream.

OLHSA's strength wouldn't have been as solid, our growth not as accelerated, without the partnerships we made with Oakland and Livingston Counties. From day one in each area, we've had unwavering support from each of these local governments. I want to thank the leadership in both counties personally for the partnership and the progress that stemmed from many years of working together.

And so, I head off to my next adventure, one of family, football and traveling. I leave knowing I've done meaningful work here, but only because of those around me and the passion they showed each and every day to help those around them.

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Ronald B. Borngesser  
Chief Executive Officer

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*"OLHSA recently received funding to expand the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (GRG) program to families in Macomb County."*

## OLHSA's Grandparents Raising Grandchildren program expands to Macomb County

OLHSA recently received funding to expand the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (GRG) program to families in Macomb County. The program already serves families in Oakland County.

OLHSA's Grandparents Raising Grandchildren program provides free services to grandparents aged 55 and older who are raising grandchildren. Services include support and resources, presentations on various topics, intergenerational field trips, and access to OLHSA's other programs, such as Head Start and weatherization.

According to the 2010 U.S. Census, 69,515 children in Michigan live in homes with grandparent householders where grandparents are responsible for them. OLHSA's GRG program served 157 children being raised by 79 grandparents in 2016.

Meetings will be held in Oakland County and Macomb County. Intergenerational events and other activities will also provide camaraderie and support to grandparents and their grandchildren in the group. GRG is sponsored by Area Agency on Aging 1-B. If you are interested in joining the group, please contact Lisa Grodsky at 248-209-2721 or email [LisaG@olhsa.org](mailto:LisaG@olhsa.org).

## OLHSA's 2017 Walk for Warmth events are coming up fast!

OLHSA is hosting its 27th annual Walk for Warmth events to raise funds for the Emergency Utility Assistance Program. The walk-a-thon events will take place on Feb. 4, 2017 at Great Lakes Crossing Outlets in Auburn Hills and February 18th, 2017 at the Hartland Educational Support Service Center in Howell, with premier sponsor Genisys Credit Union by our side. Both events will feature giveaways, entertainment and lots of family fun. As always, 100 percent of the proceeds from Walk for Warmth will go towards keeping the heat on in the homes of Oakland and Livingston County residents amidst the frigid temperatures Michigan winters bring. To get involved and for more information, visit [www.olhsa.org/walk4warmth](http://www.olhsa.org/walk4warmth).



## OLHSA offers housing assistance to homeless veterans

Are you or someone you may know a Veteran in need of housing or at-risk of losing permanent nighttime residence? OLHSA may be able to assist.

If any of the following apply, individuals may qualify for housing assistance: a DD-214 (OLHSA can assist with obtaining this), honorable or dishonorable discharge, service in the Reserves, homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Veteran families may include a single individual or multi-person household where the head of household or spouse has served our country.

For more information, please contact OLHSA at 517-546-8500.

*"From June to August of this year, OLHSA fought food insecurity by making nutritious meals easily accessible to program participants."*

## OLHSA receives Little Free Library through First United Methodist Church of Birmingham donation

OLHSA recently received a donated Little Free Library from the First United Methodist Church of Birmingham. The Church and Society Committee also donated books to stock the library which range from preschool to adult reading levels. OLHSA and Pontiac Academy for Excellence families are invited to borrow the books and contribute books of their own to share with others.

OLHSA is excited about this bright, new addition to our campus which will offer another educational, and fun, resource to the families we serve.

Barbara Saul, member of the Church and Society Committee of the First United Methodist Church of Birmingham, said the library boxes promote a better sense of community along with the importance of literacy and those are two important reasons we became involved in the initiative.

First United Methodist Church of Birmingham has been placing the Little Free Library boxes and stocking them at various locations including churches, nonprofits, small businesses and schools in the greater Detroit area. This is one of two libraries the church has placed in Pontiac and they plan to spread more throughout the city. To date they have placed 9 boxes.

## OLHSA fights food insecurity with thirty thousand meals served this summer

This summer OLHSA collaborated with United Way of Southeastern Michigan to provide free meals and promote healthy living among children and individuals with disabilities in Pontiac through Meet Up and Eat Up, a program funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Michigan Department of Education.

From June to August of this year, OLHSA fought food insecurity by making nutritious meals easily accessible to program participants. A total of 32,821 meals were served, 15,559 at the eight stationary locations and 17,262 across the 22 mobile sites.



## New van allows more convenient food program service to those in need

OLHSA's Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), which provides food assistance to eligible residents of Oakland County who are age 60 and older, recently purchased a transit van in order to better serve clients and offer more convenience.

Homebound clients in Pontiac, Holly, Lake Orion, Southfield or Commerce can now put in a request for CSFP food packages to be delivered right to their doors. OLHSA is excited about the new addition and the improved ability to serve clients.

For more information or to see if you qualify, please call 248-209-2659.



# A Community Action Agency

196 Cesar E. Chavez Avenue  
P.O. Box 430598  
Pontiac, MI 48343-0598  
www.olhsa.org

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## OUTLOOK Fall 2016

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Community Action Since 1964 

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Equal Opportunity Employer & Program. Reasonable accommodations will be provided upon notification or request. For more information, contact Ashley Yocum, editor, 248.209.2623 or [AshleyY@olhsa.org](mailto:AshleyY@olhsa.org).

### Locations

#### Central Office

196 Cesar E. Chavez Avenue T 248.209.2600  
P.O. Box 430598 F 248.209.2645  
Pontiac, MI 48343-0598 E [info@olhsa.org](mailto:info@olhsa.org)

#### South Office

1956 Hilton Road T 248.542.5860  
Ferndale, MI 48220-1719 F 248.542.5897  
E [info@olhsa.org](mailto:info@olhsa.org)

#### Livingston Office

2300 E. Grand River T 517.546.8500  
Suite 107 F 517.546.3057  
Howell, MI 48843-7574 E [livingston@olhsa.org](mailto:livingston@olhsa.org)

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