

Porter County Aging & Community Services Inc.
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Summer issue

NEWSLETTER

Day of Caring projects connect community teams, area agencies

Some stripes and paint here, no weeds and dirt there: this year's Day of Caring projects will help spruce up PCACS' building, offices and parking lot.

PCACS is seeking volunteers to join the community during the United Way's Day of Caring event on Friday, Aug. 26 and help spruce up its building and yard.



Kathy Wojkovich, director of the United Way Regional Volunteer Center, said the event is important because it exposes participants to area not-for-profits.

"It's an opportunity for teams that are from local businesses, civic groups or churches to 'come through the doors' and learn about the many programs participating agencies run that make our community a better place to live and work," Kathy said.

"Any volunteer has the potential to become an ongoing volunteer or even a donor if their experience is a great one!"

Last year, Sheriff David Lain and members of his department painted and helped put new plywood up on the canopy at the back of the building, trimmed bushes and moved bumpers in the parking lot.

"Their efforts made a very positive effect on our organization by beautifying our property and fixing things that were in need of repair," said PCACS Executive Director Bruce Lindner.

"The not-for-profits are here to serve residents, so this is a great opportunity for community members to help agencies with projects that they can't do or don't have the funds to do. It is a win-win for everyone."

The day begins with a breakfast provided by Strongbow Inn. Those wanting to participate should visit: www.nwivolunteer.org.

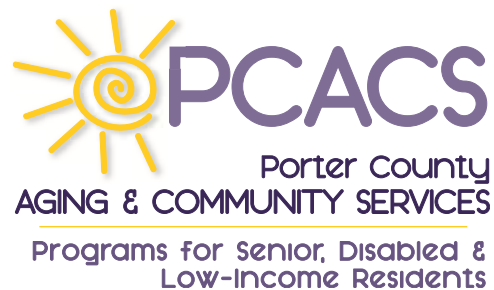


GOLF CLASSIC WINNERS: PCACS team members took home the trophy at the United Way's 1st Golf Outing at Sand Creek Country Club May 25. Board Vice President Bob Macmahon, from left, friends Jon Wolf and Jeff Albertson join United Way President Sharon A. Kish after shooting a 60 on the scramble. Presented by Porter Health System, the Golf Classic raised \$34,000, which will boost United Way's Community Fund. The trophy will don the winners' names and be showcased at the United Way office.

THANK YOU!

We would like to thank Desiree Burns (PCACS) and June Shuttleworth (RSVP) for their service and we wish them the best in the future.

We would like to thank 4-H club members for their help in planting geraniums and other plants to add beauty to our front door.



For more information on the services provided by PCACS, contact:

Bruce Lindner, executive director,
via phone at 464-9736 or
via e-mail at bhlindner@frontier.com.



PCACS is proud to be a member agency of the United Way of Porter County.

Project Breakdown

PCACS is seeking volunteers for the following four projects:

Mini makeover: Full day. Touch-up paint and spackling around the building, some hole filling and wash-and-wax the entry way floor. All cleaning supplies and paint will be provided.

In need of stripes: Half day. Machine will be provided for the team to help stripe the parking lot.

Weed reduction: Full day. Bring tools to take down weeds and tall unwanted plants around the grounds.

Beautify building: Half day. Power-wash peeling paint off the building. Home-owned power washer will be available.

NAP credits to help with rising fuel costs

PCACS is once again participating in the Neighborhood Assistance Program.

There are \$9,000 in tax credits available to individuals seeking to assist PCACS further its mission.

Executive Director Bruce Lindner said the tax credits are essentially a way for participants to double their donations to PCACS because the state gives them 50 percent back when they pay their state taxes.

The agency is looking for donations to help with rising fuel bills as transportation costs continue to soar. Last year, PCACS provided 26,000 rides to area seniors and disabled residents.

Lindner said the agency faces ever-increasing demands for its transportation services.

Those interested in donating and participating in the program should contact Lindner at 465-7144 to request a form or download one at www.portercountyacs.org.

According to the state, NAP offers \$2.5 million in tax credits annually for distribution by non-profits.

Emergency Assistance

The United Way of Porter County has allocated \$50,000 to PCACS to help Porter County residents facing emergency situations.

"These funds are for low-income individuals and families who have an immediate need such as a car repair, pharmacy issue or help paying their rent," Lindner said.

Individuals who feel they are in this type of situation should call 464-9736 to discuss the challenges they are facing and to see if the agency can provide assistance.

"Many people are having emergency situations because of the economic conditions that we are experiencing," Lindner said. "Hopefully, once they have been helped their lives can get back to normal."

Office remodeling

The PCACS transportation office recently received a makeover. The transportation dispatch office has moved to the front of the building to better serve clients. New lights and carpet were installed in the reception room and plants now greet visitors in the entry way.



ElderStyle leaders look toward goal development

Under the guidance of Fred Seamon with MGT of America, the ElderStyle initiative continues to progress toward a strategic plan.

Task force members recently met to refine core principles that will define how the plan develops, including identifying and developing resources and clarifying key terms that encompass the ElderStyle concept.

Seamon said that focusing on strategic issues and priorities is part of the strategic planning process. He emphasized how the group must clear any obstacles that may hinder goal development. By prioritizing these issues, the group is laying the groundwork for the creation of the strategic plan.

The group also continues to review and discuss the initiative's mission and vision statements, which are

important avenues to guide the plan's direction and help steer where the initiative is heading.

A continued challenge is working to incorporate seniors at all levels of life.

"We need to recognize the different assets seniors bring to the community at different stages in their lives," said PCACS Executive Director Bruce Lindner. "We don't want to narrow the focus of the group. If we approach ElderStyle in an open way, there will be inclusiveness in the process."

The task force is on track to reveal a plan to the community at a press conference in the fall.

Launched to bring awareness of services available to seniors in Valparaiso, the ElderStyle Initiative looks to put strategies into place that will enrich and enhance the lives of Valparaiso seniors now and in the future.

Gottschling serves community as PCACS board member

For more than 20 years, Ed Gottschling's mission has been to further the vision of Porter County Aging and Community Services through his time on the board, including stints as president in '02, '03, '07 and '08.

"I continue to participate because I have the knowledge and experience to make a difference and I am only interested in serving the community," he said.

The board works to establish policies for administering the programs and services that PCACS provides to the community as well as consider fund-raising opportunities.

"I am expected to not only attend the meetings, but be well informed and let my voice be heard based on my life experience," he said. "I also consider my duties as a board member to be to weigh everyone's point of view, make constructive suggestions and work with the group to reach a consensus."

Ed believes his role as a PCACS board member also extends to truly knowing the needs of the communities that the agency serves and how the programs and policies are assisting those individuals.

"We provide key services from transportation to nutrition programs, ramps for the disabled to state emergency assistance."

Looking back, Ed feels his assistance in negotiating a settlement for owed funds from an area agency marks a key accomplishment for him as a board member. Looking forward, he sees the importance of PCACS to the community.

"My goal is to continue to provide our services in the future, even in the face of funding concerns and cuts at all levels of government," he said. "PCACS is important to Porter County because there is no other organization that is able to provide these key services to this population, which will only increase with the addition of the Boomers."

Ed brings a wealth of life experience to his PCACS role. He retired from Illinois Bell in 1985 after working 33 years as a manager and served on the Portage City Council for sixteen years, serving as president for ten. He served in the Coast Guard/Naval during World War II.

He has two children, Dr. Daniel E. Gottschling and



Dr. Laura Buthod, and two grandsons. His wife, Nina, is deceased. Laura is a pediatrician in Crystal Lake, Ill., and Dan is a cell biologist at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle. Dan received the National Academy of Science Award in Molecular Biology in 1995 and in 2010, was elected into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He has been elected to membership in the National Academy of Sciences and will be inducted into the academy in April 2012.

"It is considered one of the highest honors that can be accorded a U.S. scientist or engineer," Ed said.

Beyond his duties on the board, Ed is a member of the Gary Sportsman Club, Bonner Senior Center and American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association; life member of the VFW, American Legion, Saxon Lodge, Purdue Alumni Club and Portage Historical Society; and a member of the Portage Exchange Club board.

He is past president of the Portage chapter of AARP, an elder at St. Peter Lutheran Church and one of 16 commission members on the Governor's Commission on Aging.