

Porter County Aging & Community Services Inc.
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NEWSLETTER

PCACS spotlights another year of serving community at annual meeting

Porter County Aging and Community Services' staff, board members and seniors recently gathered to mark another year of service at the agency's annual meeting.

Through the door-to-door demand response transportation program, the agency served 259 new clients, had a total of 20,620 one-way trips, and accumulated 171,774 total passenger miles.

"We typically ran seven buses a day and we have been able to continuously offer these expanded hours of bus service because of the financial support we received from the Porter County Council and Porter County Commissioners," said Bruce Lindner, PCACS executive director. "We used 33,204 gallons of fuel costing \$62,627, which was a decrease from last year's total of \$84,934. The reduction was due to lower gas prices."

The income-based Energy Assistance Program helped 964 clients by paying out \$296,851 in energy assistance, from November 2015 to May 2016.

"Under the leadership of Deputy Director Judy Peracki, we continued to aid qualified individuals who needed help paying their energy bills," Lindner said. "We were very fortunate to also have several talented and committed volunteers who helped the program run smoothly as they have done for years."

The United Way's Emergency Assistance Grant program served 102 clients with \$43,046 going to such needs as medical, mortgage, or rent costs as well as housing and car repairs.

"The program provided money for community members facing an emergency situation who needed some financial help to get back on their feet," Lindner said.

The Federal Housing Voucher Program continued to serve even more clients than previous years under the guidance of program coordinator Valerie



PCACS Board President Ethan Lowe, left, and Executive Director Bruce Lindner lead the agency's recent annual meeting.

Martinez, Lindner said.

"We had the ability to assist 333 clients last year, which was up from 293 clients," he said. "Valerie continued to go out of her way to reach out into the community to assist these clients in a myriad of ways."

Under the sponsorship of PCACS, the State Health Insurance Program continued to guide seniors through their Medicare enrollment options. Volunteers Ginger Brockwehl, Deborah Brann and Tom Murphy, continue to manage the service.

There are also two new programs designed to help seniors under the Medicare savings umbrella. They are MSP (Medicare Savings Program) and LIS (Low Income Subsidy). For more information, contact Peracki at (219) 464-9736 Ext. 216 or via email at jperacki@portercountyacs.org.

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SPECIAL RECOGNITION



Josephine Purevich's life and work at PCACS are in the spotlight! Check out the August/September issue of Generations the Magazine to read her story. Thank you to Joe Ragonese,

publisher and editor, for his feature on Josephine.

Pick up a free copy, start a subscription or read it online at www.generationstm.com.

Join us on Facebook!

Like our page at www.facebook.com/PCACS!



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@portercountyacs.org.



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



Josephine Purevich's family members helped her celebrate her retirement at a recent party event. From left are son-in-law Fred Siminski, daughter Carol Baisden, son Al Purevich, granddaughter Ashley Purevich, son Joe Purevich and grandson Alex Purevich 4th.

To view more photos, visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/PCACS.

SERVICE TO SENIORS

Family, friends, PCACS staff members celebrate Hebron director's retirement

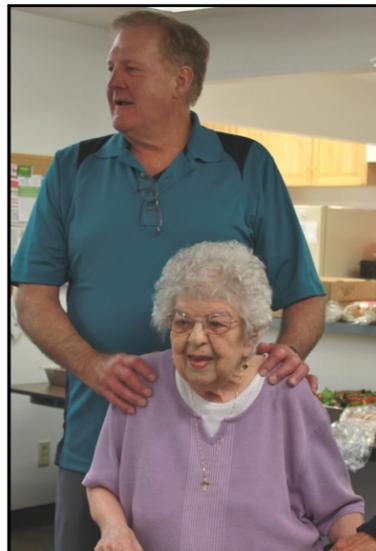
Porter County Aging and Community Services staff, family and friends recently recognized Josephine Purevich for her years of service to the community.

Purevich's 27-year career was celebrated at a retirement luncheon at the Hebron Senior Center, where she served as director for about 10 years. She also was named the

Hebron Fourth of July parade grand marshal, which was announced by her son-in-law and Hebron Clerk/Treasurer Fred Siminski.

"We are so appreciative of Josephine's years of dedication," said Bruce Lindner, PCACS executive director. "Through her various roles over the years, she really made an impact on so many seniors' lives."

"Even more than just the senior site, Josephine has contributed so much to our agency," added



Judy Peracki, PCACS deputy director.

Purevich began her full-time career at the age of 60 working with the agency through the Title V (Senior Community Service Employment) program, before becoming a PCACS employee.

"I started working full-time because my husband (Alex Jr.) was forced to retire after he had open-heart surgery. He



Left, PCACS Executive Director Bruce Lindner highlights Josephine's career. Above, Former PCACS Executive Director Marion McDougall hugs Josephine.

told me I would never be able to get a full-time job at 60 years old," she said. "I said that I bet I will ... I proved him wrong."

Throughout her 27-year career, she had worked with the energy assistance, senior nutrition and former Lifeline programs before settling in at Hebron.

"When Josephine came to my office for the Title V job, I said, 'You have to be 55 or older.' She was such a perky lady ... I said, 'You're not old enough,'" said former PCACS executive director Marion McDougall, who retired in 2005. "She was somebody who learned to do almost everything. She went from one thing to another."

While the Hebron Senior Center is no longer a meal site operated by PCACS, Hebron officials are continuing to open up the community center for seniors to meet and socialize.

PCACS Annual Meeting



Above, from left, Board President Ethan Lowe, Executive Director Bruce Lindner, board members Bob Macmahon, Cathy Ellis, George Iemmolo and Ed Gottschling review the agency's year at the annual meeting. Below, community members attend the annual meeting.

ANNUAL

Thanks to a partnership with the UAW/Ford Community Service Team, PCACS had the opportunity to construct nine ramps in 2016, a big increase from past years.

"The UAW volunteer members' skills and commitment to the ramp projects were amazing. They felt good about the projects they completed when they saw how grateful the recipients were to have the new freedom that the ramps provided," Lindner said. "We appreciate the support of our volunteers, board members, seniors and the community who helped support our programs and continued to make a difference to so many individuals."



THANK YOU!

We are so appreciative of all of our board members: Diane Bates, Cathy Ellis, Ed Gottschling, Sylvia Graham, George Iemmolo, Barb Kubiszak, Michael Lipp, Ethan Lowe, Bob Macmahon, Robert Malackowski, Cliff Malings, Rondi Wightman, and Kimberly Wiseman.

