



## Purpose

The purpose of this organization has always been:

- To assist, promote and encourage all groups, persons, and organizations concerned with the well-being of older adults (55 and above).
- To assist in providing volunteer services to accomplish such purpose.
- And to provide a Senior Center program developed and carried out for the benefit of older adults in Cleveland County.

# Annual Report

**7.1.2023 – 6.30.2024**



*“To maintain the Senior Center as a focal point, promoting aging as a natural process, by opening doors that improve the quality of life of older adults in Cleveland County.”*

## Board of Directors

**Kris Thompson**

President & Chairman of the Board

**Stephanie Costner**

First-Vice President

**Peggy Wuest**

Treasurer

**Freida Pauley**

Secretary

Don Costner

Ruth Huffstetler

Chad Chastain

Robin Costner

Becky Earley

Burel Harris

Johnny Hutchins

Shearra Miller

Tom Minowicz

Lucy Plyler

Jada Rees

Beth Thomas

Lisa Whisnant

Brandi Willis



*Council on Aging of Cleveland County*

**Neal Senior Center**

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100 T.R. Harris Drive – Shelby, NC 28150

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**(704) 482-3488**

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[www.NealSeniorCenter.org](http://www.NealSeniorCenter.org)



## Our Staff

### Administration

Paulette Putnam, Executive Director

Teresia Ladd, Finance Director

April Wheatley, Bookkeeper

Jane Wright, Secretary

### Senior Center

Daniel Dedmon, Program Director

Dolores Ashworth, Volunteer Coordinator

Stephanie Baxter, Maintenance/Custodian

### Housing

Betsy Lavender, Housing Director

, Site Manager

Tasha Watkins, Service Coordinator

Steve Davis, Maintenance

### Services

Heather Ledbetter, Nutrition Director

Ruby Gaffney, Nutrition – Kitchen

Shirley Bridges, Nutrition – West Warren

Janet Beani, Nutrition - Kings Mountain

Melinda Ann Whitworth, Title V - Services

Brenda McSwain, Title V – Front Desk

Linda Arrington, Title V – Gift Shop

Eric Watts, Title V - Maintenance

Malinda Moore, Title V - Kitchen



## Letter from the Director

As we end our fiscal year 2024, and begin anew for 2025, we are grateful for all the many blessings we have had. We are grateful for all the many new volunteers and participants who have come into our life here at the Senior Center. We are continually grateful for our many partners who work together with us to serve the Seniors of Cleveland County.

We are excited about the upcoming year with new classes, new technology (MySeniorCenter – our new database system), and new partners to better serve Cleveland County and its Seniors.

Please come be a part of this wonderful facility for:

- Monday Night Bingo with wonderful hotdogs and cash prizes!
- Arts & Crafts Classes
- Card Games, of all kinds
- Indoor & Outdoor Walking Trails
- Recreation Room
- Exercise Classes, a variety to choose from including: Chair Volleyball, a center favorite!
- And many more activities!!

Let's not forget to mention all our Services. Check us out.

Hope to see you soon,

*Paulette Putnam*

## Nutrition

The Nutrition Program provides for the nutritional needs of older adults in Cleveland County. We do this through our Meals on Wheels & Lunch Box Ministry Program, and our Congregate Sites. These programs provide a no cost hot meal to adults age 60 and over.

Our Meals on Wheels program serves **160** homebound older adults Monday – Thursday and this past year has delivered over **36,000 meals**.

Our Congregate Sites located at the Neal Senior Center, West Warren Manor, Lawndale, and at Patrick Senior Center in Kings Mountain have started growing since re-opening for dine-in meals. This year we have served over **12, 000 meals** and we are hoping to continue to expand.



## Services

The Service department provides a multitude of services to adults age 50 and over in Cleveland County. Some services we wanted to spotlight include:

<b>Tax Preparation</b>	Served 708 clients
<b>SHIP during OEP</b>	Served over 268 clients with cost savings of over \$198,348
<b>Operation Cool Off</b>	48 fans distributed
<b>Food Pantry (Families)</b>	548
<b>Incontinent Supplies</b>	402
<b>Boost</b>	337

## Housing

West Warren and Marion West HUD subsidized apartment properties offer **85** single story, affordable, independent living for persons who qualify, and are at least 62 years of age. Designated as elderly/disabled HUD contracted properties for very-low income residents, each **1 bedroom, 1 bath apartment** is 600 sqft, with a living room and kitchenette. The units come furnished with basic appliances, and each has a private patio or porch.

A coin-operated laundry room is conveniently located on-site, in the business office building, while housing staff, including maintenance, are available on-site.

Conveniently located near uptown Shelby, each property boasts a large, covered community gazebo, scheduled weekly activities for residents, cable and internet hook-ups, and a monthly newsletter full of information such as resident birthdays, upcoming programs, and details about recently held resident events.

A waitlist is available on a first come, first serve basis.

## Finance

The Council on Aging of Cleveland County, INC is a non-profit 501c3 corporation. The funding we receive comes from:

- 36% Home and Community Block Grant
- 26% Fundraising by Staff and Board Members
- 15% Cleveland County
- 12% Special Grants written by our staff
- 6% Donations from Individuals
- 5% United Way for Meals on Wheels

A copy of the 2022-2023 audit is available in the finance department.



## Programs & Activities

- PHONE CALLS: **4,824**
- SIGN-IN VISITS: **16,919**
- VOLUNTEER HOURS: **5,247.75**
- BINGO ATTENDANCE: **2,608**
- DANCE ATTENDANCE: **825**
- EMAILED NEWSLETTERS: **5,888**
- PRINTED NEWSLETTERS: **1,046**

### ANNUAL EVENTS:

The Neal Center continued to offer special annual events that the Cleveland County area has been faithfully attending.

- Golf Tournament
- Veteran's Day (Drive-In)
- Senior Games & Silver Arts
- Car Show
- Health Fair
- Income Tax Preparation
- Open House & Reverse Raffle

### SEMINARS:

The Neal Senior Center continues to offer seminars and special presentations to the patrons of the center, as well as to the general public.

- Preparing your estate and writing a will – McIntyre Law
- Ladies Support
- Veteran's Coffee & Conversation

### NEW ACTIVITIES:

- Bob Ross Oil Painting
- Holiday Wreath Making (classes for Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, Valentine's Day)
- Canasta for Beginners
- Healthy Eating Classes (Eating for Heart and Brain Health, Snacks for the Diabetic, and Mediterranean South Cooking)

### RETURNING ACTIVITY:

- Friday Fun Bingo (Sponsored Activity)

### ADVERTISING:

Most of the publicity for the Neal Senior Center is done through "The Shelby Shopper", C19's "Community Calendar", the "What's Up, Shopper?", and the center's website and Facebook page. Another source of publicity is the center's newsletter, "The Senior Informer". Available in both hard copy and email formats, the newsletter is designed to inform the older population in our area about the services and upcoming activities of the center.