

*A publication of the Clearfield County Area Agency on Aging, Inc. and the Mature Resources Foundation*



## From the CEO...



On July 23, 2021, a virtual town hall meeting was held with over 300 people attending. This meeting was held in response to a recent decision by the Pennsylvania

Department of Human Services to enter into contract negotiations with Maximus, a Virginia based national for-profit company to complete the Medicaid-funded functional eligibility determinations for individuals who are in need of long-term services and supports. Area Agencies on Aging in all 67 counties across the Commonwealth have completed this assessment function for more than 30 years for frail elderly individuals to determine their ability to perform normal activities of daily living prior to being referred for necessary services in order to ensure those in need of support receive services that enable them to remain in their homes and communities. The AAA's have a performance rating of 99.7% in completing these assessments. In addition, since the professionals completing these assessments are AAA staff, they are able to immediately refer individuals to the appropriate entity, to receive services. In addition, for individuals who do not clinically qualify for Medicaid-funded services, the assessors are able to complete the necessary assessment for AAA-funded services immediately to get those in home supports started.

While acting as the enrollment broker for senior services, Maximus has consistently increased costs while AAAs have been flat funded; and have never come close to the 99.7% performance rating. The AAA professionals are local people serving local people.

Enrollment and assessments are paid with Medicaid funds. Under the AAA system, any retained earnings from these funds supplement Lottery funds and are used to support other

services provided to needy elders. Under Maximus, any retained earnings will go into the companies' profits.

Assessment and enrollment are complex services. If the assessment function is taken from the AAAs, we will no longer be able to intervene and advocate on behalf of vulnerable seniors and individuals with disabilities with County Assistance offices, hospitals, nursing facilities or families in crisis. Hospitalized seniors in need of assessment in order to secure facility placement will experience significantly increased wait times for those assessments to be completed; ultimately extending those expensive hospital stays. Likewise, facilities who are working with individuals to secure Medicaid payment will also experience increased wait times for the clinical assessment to be completed; based on the past performance of Maximus in completing the enrollment process.

The AAAs have received legislative support from both sides of the Senate and House of Representatives, with 70% of the Senate signing off in support and 66% of the House.

We need support on this issue from our communities, consumers, families and supporters to urge the Governor to have the Department of Human Services withdraw from negotiations with Maximus and to cancel the proposal to strip the assessment function from your Area Agency on Aging. If this function is lost from the AAAs; many individuals will not receive the supports and services necessary to live with dignity and quality, as we will have no way of knowing who or where those individuals are without the assessment function. To express your support, the Governor's office can be reached at 717-787-2500.

Stay Well,  
Kathy

*A partner in your journey to wellness.*



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# BLIZZARDBOX Project 39 Years of Blizzard Boxes in Clearfield County



*There's a blizzard outside and the Meals on Wheels vehicles cannot get through to deliver the daily hot meals to hundreds of consumers who depend on them. What can we do?*

Each year, across Pennsylvania and other states in the USA, Blizzard Boxes are packed and delivered to homebound Meals on Wheels recipients. Typically, a combination of non-perishable foods, they are packaged and delivered at the onset of winter. Consumers are encouraged to store the meals in a safe place to use as a backup for stormy winter days when the Meals on Wheels staff may be unable to deliver a hot meal. On these days, consumers are called and reminded to use some of the food from their Blizzard Box. Boxes are replenished as they are used, depending on available supply.

On any given day, about 600 senior citizens in Clearfield County are served through the CCAAA's Meals on Wheels & More program. Over the course of the winter, over 1000 different people will have been served Meals on Wheels & More. Each year, Blizzard Boxes are provided to every one of these meal recipients.

Since 2011, every Blizzard Box has the equivalent of three (3) shelf stable meals. Typically, they contain products like canned soup, Hormel Complete meals, crackers, cookies, shelf-stable liquid milk, juices, tuna, and peanut butter. Products are currently being analyzed, and we look forward to providing another round of quality, nutritious Blizzard Boxes to all Meals on Wheels & More consumers before our first snowfall.

Food items are purchased in bulk in order to obtain the best possible price, and the cost to sponsor each three-meal box is \$10.

While small variations of the concept may have existed in various areas of the country for years, the formal program actually began in Clearfield County in 1983 with the Clearfield Rotary Club and the CCAAA. This year funding from sponsors such as the Stoltz Family Dealerships of DuBois, Appalachian Wood, and the Clearfield United Way was donated toward this Program. We proudly display a logo for each of our sponsors on each box and thank them again for their continued support of this vital program.

In the last decade, support has also poured in from family members, individuals, business partners, organizations, church groups, and service clubs of all kinds, making it possible to remain entirely a local effort without the use of federal or state funds for the 39th consecutive year.

In 1990, the Clearfield County Area Agency on Aging, and its partners at that time, the Clearfield Rotary Club, and the Clearfield & DuBois Dairy Queen owners, received a national Community Achievement Award from the US Administration on Aging naming the Clearfield Blizzard Box Program, "an outstanding public-private partnership." It is now replicated by Area Agencies on Aging and service groups and organizations all across the United States.

The fundraising campaign for Blizzard Boxes officially kicks off August 2, 2021, but donations can be sent at any time or made online at [www.ccaaa.net](http://www.ccaaa.net).



Clearfield County Area Agency on Aging, Inc.

**2021 Blizzard Box Project**



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Name as you wish it to appear on Blizzard Box label: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of boxes you wish to purchase: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10/each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please help by sending your check along with this form to:

Clearfield County Area Agency on Aging, Inc., 600 Cooper Rd, Curwensville, PA 16833

(Please note on memo line "Blizzard Box")

The Clearfield County Area Agency on Aging, Inc. and Mature Resources Foundation are registered as charitable organizations with the Pennsylvania Department of State. A copy of the original registration and financial information may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free within Pennsylvania (800) 732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.



*“National Kinship Care Month provides an opportunity to urge people, in every state, to join in recognizing and celebrating kinship caregiving families and the tradition of families in the U.S. to help raise children.”*

– H.R. 867

Established by House Resolution 867, September is designated as National Kinship Care Month, to honor kinship families across the United States.

Today in the U.S., nearly 2.7 million children are in kinship care. Kinship care is when relatives step up to raise children when their parents can’t care for them. Statistically, for every one child placed in a formal, licensed foster care setting, at least 10 or more are placed with informal kinship caregivers. Furthermore, it is estimated that 1 in every 11 children lives in kinship care at some point before turning 18. In Pennsylvania, 259,405+ children are living in homes where a relative is the head of household. 68,000 are being raised by kin with no parent present, and only 6,242 children are in formal, licensed kinship care settings (Grandfacts Fact Sheet – PA).

CCAAA is proud to provide support services for such kinship caregivers, often referred to as “Grandparents raising grandchildren”, raising children age 17 and under, through the Pennsylvania Caregiver Support Program (CSP). While this program supports other types of caregivers as

well, it specifically covers caregivers age 55 or older who are caring for a dependent child under the age of 18. This program carries no financial eligibility requirements, but operates on the premise of expense reimbursement. The amount reimbursed to a caregiver for child rearing, approved expenses, is based on the income and household size of the care receiver, using a sliding scale base on Federal Poverty Level guidelines.

Today, the Agency is servicing 25 kinship caregivers providing care to 39 grandchildren. These caregivers range in age from 56 to 80 years old, with the average age currently at 65. The children being cared for range from age 3 through 17. Sue McGonigal, Case Manager for CSP, shares “[m]ost of the grandparents are on a very limited income and the reimbursement helps with the financial burden of caring for the grandchildren.”

CCAAA is honored to promote the importance of kinship care and dedicated to meeting the needs of these families.

A promotional poster for the "Halloween Howl" event. The background is a dark, atmospheric street scene at night with a full moon and streetlights. The poster features purple spiderweb decorations at the top and a black cat silhouette on the right. On the left, there are illustrations of a spider and a skeleton holding a jack-o'-lantern. The central text on a yellow background reads: "Halloween Howl", "On the Streets of Clearfield Wine &amp; Beer Walk", "Friday, October 29, 2021", "The Drinking Hours: 5-9pm", "Registration at Chamber", "Costumes are Encouraged!", and "\$20 per ticket". A logo for "CLEARFIELD" is at the bottom left. A black banner at the bottom contains the text: "Join CAAA as we provide a 'Spooktacular' Stop on the Walk at our 116 2nd Street Location!".

# Memorial & Honorarium Fund

September Lifespan Edition (June 2021)

IN MEMORY OF:	FROM:	BENEFITS:
Larry Amon	Philip Amon	Senior Services
Carol Bumbarger	Dr. & Mrs. Baltazar L Corcino	Senior Services
Jack Hainsey	Donald & Robin Lumadue	Senior Services
Jack Hainsey	Trudy McIlvaine	Senior Services
Melva Hummel	William Hummell	Senior Services
Doug Shimmel	Annie Livergood	Village of Hope



## Identity Theft Prevention – From Your Friends at CNB Bank.

**Identity Theft Prevention** – From Your Friends at CNB Bank. You may have heard of Identity Theft – it simply means that someone uses your personal or financial information without your permission. Scammers continue to seek ways to trick you into giving them money or your personal information. They often appear to be a helpful stranger or employee, and sometimes resort to scare tactics to comply with their request.

Although not every scam will be easy to identify, here are some common scams and tips you can use to prevent falling victim.

**Tech Scams:** “Your computer or account has been compromised!” or “Your subscription is about to expire” (Ex: Amazon or Microsoft). Businesses will not call and ask to remote into your computer, to install an app, or run a security scan. Scammers try to gain access to your information through your computer.

**Phone Scams:** “Congratulations! You’ve won a prize!” If the caller asks for personal information or payment to receive your prize, there is no prize! Remember – if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

**Legal Scams:** “This is the police department or the IRS.” Law enforcement or government agencies will not call you and threaten arrest or fines if you do not pay them. Government agencies do not unexpectedly call to verify your personal information, like your social security number, even if they say they are the Social Security Administration. (The Government will send you a letter in the mail.)

**Grandparent Scams:** “Your family member or loved one is ill or stuck in another state/country, send money to help them!” This tactic is to create a sense of urgency and panic. Hang up, call your family member or loved one directly.

**Medical Scams:** “We are missing important personal information to process your medical claim” or “You have an outstanding medical bill that must be paid today.” Scammers want to scare you into giving personal information so they can commit fraud. Don’t ever give social security numbers, credit card numbers or bank account information to a caller, unless you called them on purpose.

**Remember:** If you have any concerns about the legitimacy of a phone call or email – hang up, delete the email, and don’t click links from people you don’t know. Contact your bank, local agencies, or the Federal Trade Commission for more information and assistance.

At CNB, we are committed to making a difference within the communities we serve. After all, we are neighbors helping neighbors.



## Cash & Prize Extravaganza

**\$10 Donation per ticket**

\$500 Cash

36" Blackstone Griddle Cooking Station

\$250 Cash

Cricut Cutting Machine

\$100 Kwik Fill Gift Card

Craftsman 63 pc. Mechanics Tool Set

Wireless Headphone, Power Bank & Cell Phone

Mount & Charger

\$50 Moena Gift Card

\$50 Worth of Lottery Tickets

\$50 Santinoceto's Gift Card

SGC06516



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ tickets @ \$10 each = \_\_\_\_\_

Ten (10) winners will be drawn on October 21, 2021 at the Anne S. Thacik Charity Auction

Raffle participants must be 18 years of age or older at the time of entry. 1,000 tickets being sold ~ All proceeds benefit Sr Services & Programs.

**Sponsors: CNB Bank, Walmart Distribution Center, United Refining, Lezzer Lumber, Staples, wOKw 102.9, Moena, Santinoceto's Italian Market, Lowes & REST**

# PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: SHARED HOUSING

(As told to Joan Bracco)



I have always had an intense interest in our Housing Program here at the Clearfield County Area Agency on Aging. The first home I saw several years ago was the “Curwensville House” as we affectionately refer to it at the Agency. I was invited to visit the house with our CEO, Kathleen Gillespie. Kathleen had seen the house several times in the course of leasing made possible with the Curwensville Presbyterian Church and Mature Recourses Foundation in conjunction with the CCAAA. As soon as we parked in front of the house, I fell in love with it. It is a lovely one-story brick home with a landscaped lawn and a portalled front porch. It also has a roofed deck on the left side of the house. The home is unique and found in an actual neighborhood and only two blocks from downtown Curwensville. It is a three-person shared house, which is an alternative, long term living arrangement where individuals live together for their mutual benefit. Each person benefits from security, companionship, independence, help in emergencies, cost savings and living sustainability. Also, episodes of loneliness, helplessness, social isolation and symptoms of depression can potentially be alleviated. Each person has their own private bedroom. Shared common areas include the kitchen, dining room, living room and outdoor spaces.

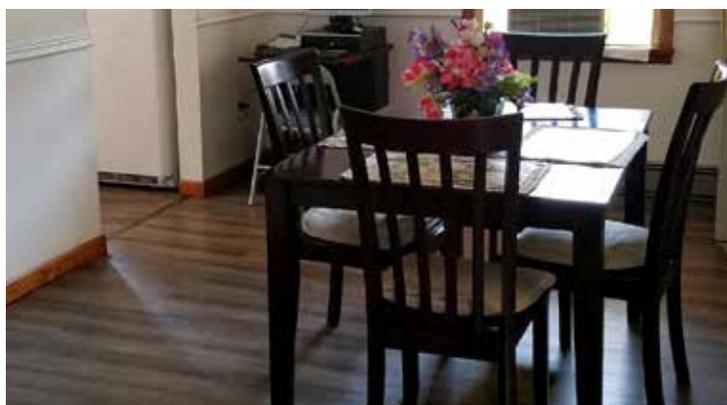
Currently we have three gentleman who live in the shared house in Curwensville. I interviewed Ken Hile, one of the three men who live here to get his thoughts on shared housing. When I asked how long he has lived here, he replied, “August 10, 2020, I moved in. I really like it here. The house is on one floor and so nice. I like the neighborhood, people are nice and friendly. I like the town of Curwensville.” Next, I interviewed Charlie Cummings, who has lived here since March 2021. “I like the house and the guys who live here.” Last, but not least, I talked to Mr. Ron Helsel. “I like it here pretty well. I get along pretty good with the other guys. I have been here since two weeks ago. It’s quiet. I like the fact that we all have our own private bedrooms. We do share the kitchen, dining room and living room.”

Home sharing can be an alternative to institutional placement. This option is wonderful for folks who need some hands-on support or who would benefit from living with two other people rather than living with fifty other people.

Helping older people live independently is a major focus for the CCAAA as we know it is for you.



Pictured from left: Ron Helsel, Ken Hile, Charlie Cummings





# HOW TO GET READY FOR MEDICARE'S OPEN ENROLLMENT

October 15 – December 7th

PA MEDI Local Coordinator, Alice Pollock

Medicare Open Enrollment- also known as Medicare's annual election period, is the window when Medicare enrollees can re-evaluate their coverage and make changes or purchase new policies if they wish to do so. It is also the time consumers become puzzled and unsure of what they should do and worry about losing coverage. Pennsylvania Medicare and Decision Insight /PA MEDI has some tips to help you get ready.

1. In early fall **Check your mail.** Social Security or Medicare may send you important notices. If you're in a Medicare plan, you will get an Annual Notice of Change (ANOC). Note any 2022 changes to your health coverage or any Extra Help you may get to pay for prescription drugs. If you are on PACE, you will most likely get a letter from them about your plan. You will also get health plan marketing materials and brochures from insurance companies that offer Medicare health and prescription plans. Remember-plans aren't allowed to call your home without an invitation from you.
2. In October **Review your 2022 "Medicare & You" handbook.** It has information about Medicare coverage and the plans in your county.
3. **Write down changes you would like in your Medicare coverage for 2022.** Carefully review information from your present coverage and note any changes they made for this year, like cost of benefits. Decide if your current coverage will meet your needs. If your current plan is still available and is what you need, you don't need to take action.
4. **Medicare.Gov makes it easy to preview your prescription drug plan.** If you have a Medicare number, you can log in and create an account, list your drugs, compare your current plan and others, and see prices based on any help you get with drug cost.
5. **Get free personalized information and consider making an appointment by calling PA MEDI at the Clearfield County Area Agency on Aging Inc. at 814-765-2696 or 1-800-225-8571.**  
PA MEDI Counselors do not sell Medicare

## The 2022 Lottery Calendars are here!



Call us to purchase your calendar today. Get 365 chances to win for only \$26.00!  
**These calendars make great Christmas gifts!**  
They sold out in early December last year, so don't wait, buy today!

For more information, call the Clearfield County Area Agency on Aging, Inc. at (814) 765-2696 or (800) 225-8571. You may also visit our website at [www.ccaaa.net](http://www.ccaaa.net) to print a form and mail in. Or scan the QR Code to buy online.



Proceeds from calendar sales benefit Clearfield County Centers for Active Living. Thank you for your support and best of luck in 2022!

## 26TH ANNUAL ANNE S THACIK CHARITY AUCTION

Thursday - October 21, 2021

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

at the Copper Cork Event Center

DOORS OPEN AT 5:30 PM

Live

YOU WILL NEED TO HAVE A SMART PHONE OR IPAD TO BID ON ITEMS.

ALL ITEMS WILL BE AUCTIONED OFF ELECTRONICALLY.

AND ONLINE

View items as we post them. We will start accepting bids on October 8th

Games will only be available the night of the auction at the Copper cork.

ADMISSION: \$10 PER PERSON - TICKETS FOR SALE ONLINE.

Register at: [ccaa21.givesmart.com](http://ccaa21.givesmart.com) (or) scan  
Come enjoy fun, food, wine & beer!



\*\*\*\*If COVID-19 restrictions would change, we may have to cancel the live auction.\*\*\*\*

### FOR FAMILIES AFFECTED BY A LOVED ONE'S SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER OR ADDICTION

## Be A Loving Mirror

### Family Recovery Program

Learn how to communicate more effectively with your loved one, heal relationships, find the peace you wish to see, and ultimately contribute toward your loved one's recovery -- not the addiction!

CLASSES RUN FOR 12 WEEKS  
PARTICIPANTS MUST FIRST REGISTER WITH CAAA BY CALLING BOBBIE JOHNSON @ 814-765-2696

Brought to you by:



# TREE OF STARS HOLIDAY APPEAL

The Clearfield County Area Agency on Aging's annual Tree of Stars Holiday Appeal is now underway. All of us know and appreciate older family members, friends and neighbors.

Tree of Stars is an opportunity for you to *honor or remember* these special elders through a monetary gift.

Funds raised through the Appeal provide support for AAA programs such as Meals on Wheels & More, in-home services, transition services, caregiver support, and much more. Your gift will go far in serving others with a meal or an hour of personal care.



For each donation given, a personalized star with the donor's name is hung on the holiday tree displayed at 116 South 2nd Street in Clearfield. A gold colored star will be hung on the tree for those donors who give \$50 or more. In addition, donors at the \$50+ level will receive a Wendell August hand-forged Christmas ornament.

## *Honor/Memorial*



WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR TREE OF STARS SPONSORS,  
ACTION GRAPHICS PRINTING & SIGN MAKING  
AND WOKW-FM, FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT!



## TREE OF STARS HOLIDAY APPEAL

I am/We are pleased to donate the following amount to the Holiday Appeal:

\$100 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_\_\_ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Circle One:** In Memory of / In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

**SEND RECEIPT TO ME AT:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State & Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**SEND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF MEMORIAL TO:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State & Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**We accept Cash, Check & Credit card.**

**Scan the QR Code to pay by credit card,**

**or go to [www.ccaaa.com](http://www.ccaaa.com) & click on DONATE, Tree of Stars.**

**MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: CCAAA, 600 COOPER RD, CLEARFIELD, PA 16833**



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**



**Clearfield County Area Agency on Aging Inc.**

PO Box 550

Clearfield, Pennsylvania 16830

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## LOOKING AHEAD

### **OBSERVED HOLIDAYS** (offices/centers closed)

September 6, 2021 – Labor Day

October 11, 2021 – Columbus Day

November 11, 2021 – Veteran’s Day

November 25 & 26 – Thanksgiving and the next day

### Check CAAA out on:

Facebook @ ClearfieldCountyAAA

Twitter @ CountyArea

LinkedIn

You Tube channel under Clearfield County Area Agency on Aging

### Check The Village of Hope out on:

Facebook @ ClearfieldCountyAAA

Twitter @ TheVillageofHo1

## CONTACT US

### Main Office (Clearfield)

814) 765-2696 or

(800) 225-8571

### Fax

(814) 765-2760

### Protective Services

(814) 765-1365 or (800) 233-0249

### Web Page

www.ccaaa.net

### Email

mail@ccaaa.net



www.ourvillageofhope.com

### Would you like to receive your Lifespan by email?

Simply email us at mail@ccaaa.net and let us know! Future issues of Lifespan (four per year) will automatically be sent to you.