

GINNA LEVANDOSKI ENJOYS VOLUNTEERING WITH HER CHILDREN PEARL AND JOSEPH.



The Vine

VOLUNTEERS ARE A TREASURE

Each April, MHCO hosts an appreciation meal for its volunteers. In 2018 more than 325 individuals and groups (church and community organizations) served more than 8,600 hours, assisting elders and staff at Mennonite Memorial Home, Willow Ridge, Hilty Home, Hilty Preschool & Childcare and Maple Crest. Independent Sector has estimated the national value of each volunteer hour at \$24.69. For MHCO that is a value of more than \$212,334 in 2018. We know putting numbers to volunteer hours will never do justice to the care and commitment they provide. It is, however, one way for us to show our larger community how much we appreciate their support. THANK YOU!

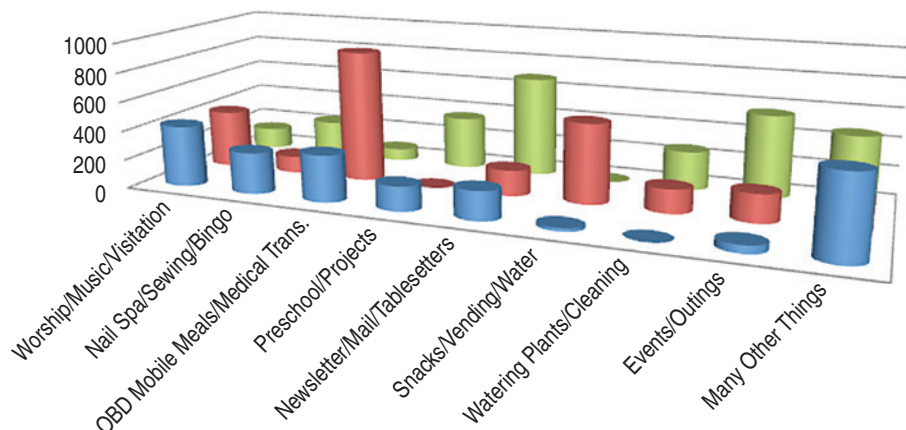
Since our founding in 1955 volunteers have played an essential role in providing support and activities

for MHCO elders. Initially this included cooking, bringing in food items, visiting with elders and even clearing the land for construction. Funny how some things change and others stay the same! The graphic below identifies current activities at our campuses with more than 100 volunteer hours. As you can see, each campus is unique with different opportunities for volunteers with elders and programming.

We realize that some people like to volunteer as individuals, others as a family and still others as part of a group. Jessica Strahm, our volunteer coordinator, and Debbie Mohr, Dee Steffen and Barb Gossard (activity coordinators at each campus) are happy to work with you and steer you toward a meaningful way to learn and also interact with people at one of our campuses. Many of our volunteers at Maple Crest, MMH and Hilty Home are residents there as well.

In this edition of the Vine we are pleased to highlight the names of our many volunteers and some stories of volunteers serving as part of a group effort, a family or as an individual. Know that you are appreciated for the many ways you engage with the people living and working at MHCO. Thanks to the many volunteers of MHCO. You are a treasure! ■

Volunteer Activities: Hours per Campus



■ Hilty Home ■ MMH and Willow Ridge ■ Maple Crest





SPRINGTIME . . . RENEWAL AND REAFFIRMATION

I have always been inspired by turning the page to a new season. In the spring, the future seems to hold endless opportunities, and so it is at MHCO!

With so many priorities, it's easy for society to overlook the vital services provided to senior adults at a critical point in their life journey, as well as services to young children in need of teaching and loving care. Mennonite Home Communities of Ohio (MHCO) is blessed to have teams of highly competent people working to make life both enjoyable and meaningful for our elders and children.

I'd like to share some recent accomplishments:

- In October, Maple Crest received another "zero deficiency" survey from the Ohio Department of Health. It's the sixth year in a row for such a good score.
- U.S. News & World Report's 2018-19 "Best Nursing Homes" list includes Mennonite Memorial Home as a high performing facility, and both Willow Ridge and Hilty Home as above average. This recognition reflects our staff commitment to excellence in elder care.
- All MHCO licensed nursing homes (Willow Ridge, Mennonite Memorial Home and Hilty Home) have been ranked by Centers for Medicaid and Medicare as 4 and 5 Star Facilities, a testament to our quality health care and outstanding staffing ratios.
- Donors designated an increased number of charitable contributions in 2018 to support MHCO benevolent care. This provides assistance for elders who can no longer pay privately and it helps cover the shortfall created by inadequate Medicaid funding.
- Mennonite Home Health and Senior Services has entered into a partnership with Senior Options, LLC, a non-profit company that offers advisory and back-office support services. MHCO will continue to own and operate our home health agency while Senior Options' provides efficiencies and expertise, allowing us to grow while incorporating strong quality management.

In 2019, MHCO will complete a strategic planning process that lays a strong foundation for our future. The process has involved a market study of our primary areas of service along with a comprehensive review of industry trends. Sixty years ago, we were founded by area churches in response to a clear need. Today, healthcare is changing. Tomorrow's older adults will want innovative care with a range of amenities. Through strategic planning, we will be ready when your children and grandchildren want to retire!

I am always eager to hear from you. My office is located at the Mennonite Memorial Home building, 410 W. Elm St., Bluffton. ■

Laura Voth CEO

MHCO Board Members

Elizabeth Kelly, *Chair*
Ed Basinger
Brice Brenneman
Vickie Cartwright
Jim Dray
Cliff Harmon
Ross Kauffman
Jared Lehman
Myrna McCurdy
Iris Neufeld
Kevin Nickel
Lorrinda Smith
Bob Stahl

MHCO Fund Board Members

Brice Brenneman
Stan Clemens
Jim Dray
Ross Kauffman
Iris Neufeld
Pete Suter
Nancy Yeager

Volunteer Coordinators

Jessica Strahm, *All of MHCO*
Debbie Mohr, *Maple Crest*
Dee Steffen, *Hilty Home*
Barb Gossard, *MMH
& Willow Ridge*

Marketing Director

Barb Lockard

Director of Resource Development and Church Relations

Chris Moser

Contact Information

MHCO, Bluffton
419-358-1015
410 West Elm Street
Bluffton, OH 45817

Hilty Home, Pandora
419-384-3218
304 Hilty Drive,
P.O. Box 359
Pandora, OH 45877

[facebook.com/MHCOOhio](https://www.facebook.com/MHCOOhio)

2019 MHCO WELCOMES VOLUNTEERS BY THE NUMBERS!

Volunteering doesn't have to be a solitary endeavor. At MHCO, we're blessed with organizations, families and school groups that give their time and talents.

(They'll even admit that their volunteer activity often becomes a social event)!

Some memorable services performed by groups of helpers during the past year include:

Hilty Home

Pavers installed in the child care area, eliminating the muddy footing in a favorite play space. To accomplish this, and also to restore Hilty's gazebo, Owen Thomas managed a group of 40 friends and church members as his Eagle Scout project. Congratulations to Owen on achieving this scouting rank and special thanks from the kids and elders at Hilty Home!

Pandora-Gilboa Design and Engineering Club "unboxed" and built a shed that had been in storage at Hilty for 8 years! Instructor Jessica Klass lead the team as they built the shed during September-November 2018. Thanks to the PG Design Club, Hilty Pre-School & Child Care now has a great, new storage shed.

Four enterprising PG students from Mrs. Schroeder's class have adopted Channel 2, Hilty's closed-circuit TV channel. The residents can now view updated weather and Hilty news on their own television station.



Members of the MHCO Service Group assist staff with seasonal landscaping projects.

Columbus Grove's Leo Club now fills water cups at Hilty Home on Tuesdays and Thursday's. More than 130 students have also assisted with lunches, Thanksgiving Dinner and the Easter Egg Hunt.

Mennonite Memorial Home, Willow Ridge and Maple Crest

The Bluffton University football, men's soccer and volleyball teams performed yard clean up and other chores during the year. University students also volunteered at September's Fall Festival.

Bluffton and Cory-Rawson High Schools have delighted elders at Mennonite Memorial Home with ever-changing art exhibits on the third floor. BHS students from Kristi's Music Studio assisted with Fall Festival activities and the Student Senate has just begun volunteering at MMH as well.

Elders at Mennonite Memorial Home look forward to snacks delivered every Thursday by members of the Shannon Service Group. The group helps elders get to and from worship services on the fourth Tuesday of each month. ■



Owen Thomas managed a group of 40 friends and church members as his Eagle Scout project. They installed pavers in the child care area and restored the gazebo at the Hilty Home.

2019 MHCO VOLUNTEERS

Hilty Home • Mennonite Memorial Home • Maple Crest • Willow Ridge

Ada First United Methodist Church

*John Allison
Pat Althaus
Amber Amstutz
Chuck and Janice Amstutz
Martha Amstutz
Seth Amstutz
Lois Jean Andreas
Larry Armstrong
Ryan Auchmuty
Trudy Baber
Joyce Badertscher
*Ruth Badertscher
Joyce Barga
Carolyn Barnes
Mary Barnett
Ed and Diane Basinger
Harlan and Pat Basinger
Janice Basinger
Richard Basinger
Winford and Elaine Bauman
Dwight Baumgartner
Ellen Beach
Sandra Benner
Benji, Sarah, Ellie, and Josiah Bergstrand
Lynda Best
Gary and Marilyn Bishop
Ruth Anna Bixel
Phyllis Bixler
Bluffton Cattle Club
Bluffton High School
Bluffton Presbyterian Church
Bluffton University Football Team
Bluffton University Students
Duane Bollenbacher
Andy Borgelt
Bob Bowersox
Roger Brodman
Hannah Brown
Vivian Brown
Inara Brubaker
Richard and Gloria Bucher
Deborah Buck
Jerry and Betty Burkholder
Kay Burkholder

Rennie Burrus
Barb Burtchin
Marian Busick
Tim and Brenda Byers
Claude Campbell
Caring Points United Methodist Churches
Renee Caskie
Dorothy Cassidy
Dorothy Cherry
Linda Cherry
Laura Coburn
Mary Coletta
Columbus Grove Christian Church
Columbus Grove Leo Club
Greg and Edna Conkling
Jean Cook
Becky Cox
Treva Crawford
Bill and Jo Croft
Joyce Daniels
Theresa and John Davis
Kyla Dawson
Pastor Thomas Dearth
Gary Dipnarine
Butch Donaldson
Rosalie Dosh
James Doty
Mike Downey
Marilyn Duffy
Ida Dunlap
Jane Dunlap
Esther Duprey
Anne Marie Duval
Ebenezer Mennonite Church
Helen Edinger
Scott Edwards
Valerie Eikenbary
Don Ellerbrock
Madeleine Howell
Karen Emans
Emmanuel United Church Of Christ
English Lutheran Church
Ron Epp

Jim and Barb Erford
Fred Evans
Judy Evans
Thais Ferreira
Bob, and Sue Fett
Denise Fett
Mary Fett
First Baptist Church
First Mennonite Church
First United Methodist Church
First United Methodist Youth Group
Jeffrey and Jennifer Fish
Sharon Fleming
Don and Cathy Flory
Doug and Becky Fowler
Jackie Frey
Judy Frey
Nancy Frick
Sharon Garmatter
Mahlon and Anne Geiger
Ralph and Melba Gerber
Harold Gerten
Amanda and Lucus Gesler
Paul Gesler
Jessie Gibson
Gilboa United Methodist Church
Good Hope Lutheran Church
Grace Gospel Church
Grace Mennonite Church
Delbert Gratz
George and Rosa Greenway
Arman and Sue Habegger
Lauren Hamman
Debbie Hankish
Sue Hardwick
Elaine Harris
Joanna Harris
Jeannine Hartman
Rhody Hartman
Ruth Hefner
Tom Heimann
Glennys Henry
Paig Hermiller
Gary and Dena Herr
Gloria Herr
JoAnn Hilty
Marjorie Hilty
Brigitte Hoff
Kelly Honse
Diane Huber
Thomas Humphreys
Larry and Jerry Hurley
Jane Inniger and Hannah Davis
Sue Jenkins
Nails by Joan
Rich Johnson
Joan Jones
Betty Kantner
Ravonn Kauffman
Randy and Karen Keeler
Neil Kehler
Carole Kelley
Elizabeth Kelly
Liz Kingsley
Mark and Jane Kinsinger
Treva Kinsinger
Keith and Eileen Klingler



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*Paula McKibben (left)
and Karen Emans
kept the food lines
moving at Fall Festival.*

John and Sue Koontz
Kelly Koronich
Krysti's Music Studio
Ella and Daisy Lehman
Gwendolyn Lemmon
Ginna, Joseph, and Peral Lewandowski
Ron and Alice Lora

Alexis Lugibihl
Oliver and Pat Lugibihl
Donita Luginbill
Doug Luginbill
Joyce Lutz
Eliana Manfre
Glenna Marquart
Becky Marshall
Paula Massillo
Larry Mathewson
Jennifer Matteson
David and Barb McClurg
Lois McCullough
Robert and Myrna McCurdy
Rod and Carolyn McDaniel
Max and Kathleen McKanna
Faye McKibben
Paula Mckibben
Marie Meffley
Betty Metzger
Kathleen Mikkelsen
Dave Miller
Lynn and Linda Miller
Pat Miller
Amelia Mitchell
Dianne Moore
Pam Moore
Karen Morris
Dorothy Moser
Larry and Ginny Moser
Harriett Moyer
Mt. Cory United Methodist Church
Jack and Deb Myers
Ruth Naylor
Rachel Neff
Linda Nelson
Chuck Niswander
Joanne Niswander
Carl Nuveman
James and Debra Oberhaus
Ohio Northern University
Haylee Okuley
Ottawa Boy Scouts Troop #224
Pandora-Gilboa Local Schools
Fairy Parkins
Mike Pickelsimer
Pleasant View United Methodist Church
Alida Pletcher
Ernie Porzelius
Charles Powell
Cindy Powell
Gregg and Peggy Powell
Greg and Laura Probst
James Raabe
Sally Reeder
Diane Reichenbach
Steve Reichenbach
Joyce Reigle
Leannah Reigle
Marilyn Reigle

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*Ice cream served by our volunteers
was the highlight of August's
Concert on the Lawn.*

Ben Reineke
Sam and Janette Reineke
Rev. Don Clinger
Rev. John and Regena Mummert
Rev. Tig Intagliata Bluffton University
John Rich
Kelly Ridge
Riley Creek Baptist Church
Rebecca Rizor
Charles Rodabaugh
Hazel Rodabaugh
Judy Rodabaugh
Teresa Romick
Joanne Ruen
Jill Rumer
Marc Sabo
Teri Sato
Terry and Beth Schey
Canda Schmutz
Ann Schroeder
Sandy and Jeff Schroll
Nancy Schweingruber
Phyllis Scott
Jane Seibert
Earlene Sellers
Chris Setzer
Dixie Shaffer
Diane Sharrock
Pat Sheidler
Betty Shelly
Marilyn Shelly
Daryl Shields
Jan Shields
Hunter Sidle
Gladys Simmons
Doug Smith
Jim Smith
Susie Smith
Linda Sommer
Southside Christian Church
Kay Spallinger
Olivia Spallinger
Spectrum Salon
Jim Sprunger
St Johns United Church Of Church
St. Anthony's Catholic Church
St. John's Mennonite Youth Group
St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
Margaret Stechschulte
*Sharon Stechschulte
Betsy Steiner
Joan Steiner
Pat Stelzer
Mel and Barb Stettler
Cynthia Stevens
Allison Stoepfel
Donnas Stone
Linda Strahm
Noah Strahm
Kiera Suffel



Bill Suter
Russel Suter
Jean Szabo
Shirley Taylor
The Beaverdam Bunch
Nancy Thomas
Nancy Thornton
Robert Town
Jennifer Tschuor
Union Chapel Missionary Church
Oscar Valesquez
Ralph and Nancy VanMeter
Kim Vorhes
Gerald Wehri
Annette Werling
Gary and Lois Wetherill
Nancy Williamson
Pearl Williamson
Charles Wood
Kerris Wright
Ed and Nancy Yeager
Elnore Yost
Jennifer Yost
Yelena Zagorodny
Joyce Zimmerly

**Deceased*

Thanks to all our volunteers!

We endeavor to provide accurate names that include all volunteers. We also appreciate additional individuals volunteering on behalf of their churches and community groups who may not be included in this list. Please contact Chris Moser at 419-358-1015 ext. 263 for any corrections, oversights, or if you prefer not to have your name listed in the future.

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Maple Crest residents visited MMH for Concert on the Lawn, featuring "Pantasia."



BENEVOLENT CARE AND ENDOWMENT ARE GIVING PRIORITIES FOR 2019

Thank you for your support of MHCO!

Please accept my gratitude for the generous support provided in 2018 and so far in 2019.

Aging service organizations like us are seeing an increased demand for care as people are living longer. In some cases, our elders have outlived their resources which means they depend on other payer sources such as Medicaid. Unfortunately, the cost of care and the reimbursement provided by Medicaid do not match up.

The gap in reimbursement is bridged through the benevolent care fund and the endowment fund. The need for benevolent care is growing in recent years as the funding from Medicaid has not kept up with the

true cost of elder nursing care. Additionally, the number of people using Medicaid is growing. MHCO provided close to \$1.5 million in uncompensated care in 2018. Your support of the benevolent care fund and endowment programs helps MHCO continue to provide programs and services to our elders.

Thank you for your believing in the MHCO vision "To be the community's source of innovative care, excellent services and comprehensive resources for older adults." Please contact Chris Moser at 419-358-1015 ext. 263 for more information on opportunities to make a charitable gift of cash, appreciated assets, charitable IRA distributions or estate gifts. ■

Brighter Lives	'18 Goals	'18 Contributions	'19 Goals
Benevolent Care	36,000	45,810	75,400
Endowment	5,000	14,780	15,000
MHCO General Fund	36,000	32,240	20,000
Special Projects	23,000	18,780	9,000
Brighter Lives Total	\$100,000	\$111,610	\$119,400
Designated Gifts & In-kind	30,600	38,515	40,600
Total Giving	\$130,600	\$150,125	\$160,000

Your support of the benevolent care fund and endowment programs helps MHCO continue to provide programs and services to our elders.

Thank You!

ELIZABETH SHELLY HAS GREEN THUMB AND CARING HEART

From Africa, to Belgium, to Kentucky, Elizabeth “Betty” Ruth Bauman Shelly has carried the spirit of service and volunteerism with her. A volunteer at Mennonite Memorial Home since 1999, Betty cares for more than 60 plants; watering, pruning and even talking them into remaining healthy.

As she goes about her horticultural activities, Betty shares her warm smile and positive attitude with elders and staff. Her favorite plant is a giant Peace Lily, left to MMH after a memorial service. Betty said it’s “beautiful, simple and elegant like Jesus’s mother Mary.” She works with skilled hands, using her knowledge of growing things to encourage a stunted plant to grow and gently cleaning the leaves of a Christmas Cactus.

Earning a bachelor of science degree in biology from Bluffton College in 1954, Betty wanted to follow in the footsteps of her physician parents. She then completed a bachelor of science in medicine at The University of Illinois, Chicago, and earned her MD at the Presbyterian Hospital, now related to the Penn Medical Complex. She completed residencies in OB-GYN in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania and Oakland, California.



Elizabeth “Betty” Shelly brings the beauty of nature indoors for all elders of Mennonite Memorial Home to enjoy.

Betty and her husband, Dr. Walter Shelly served as medical missionaries and trained in Brussels, Belgium before traveling to Zaire, Africa, where they lived for 10 years. Returning to the U.S. with their four children, Betty and Walter culminated their missionary service at the Appalachian Regional Medical Center in Hazard, Kentucky.

Following Walter’s death in 1998, Betty moved to Bluffton where she attends First Mennonite Church and is a member of the Mennonite Women’s Group. Never far from a garden, Betty enjoyed caring for the rose bushes at the church.

Betty Shelly brings the beauty of nature indoors for all elders of Mennonite Memorial Home to enjoy. Her nurturing of plants has also nurtured our residents and staff. Thank you, Betty! ■

More than 325 Volunteers contributed over 8,600 hours in 2018!

Thank you!



Gary Dipnarine serves ice cream at the Maple Crest/Riverbend Ice Cream Social.



Volunteers from Kristi’s Music Studio kept busy with face painting during Fall Festival.



The Bluffton University football team has helped with grounds maintenance and other outdoor projects.



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Bluffton, OH 45817

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NON-TRADITIONAL GIFTS HELP SUPPORT MHCO'S WORK

WHAT IS A GOOD GIFT TO SUPPORT MHCO?

When it comes to charitable contributions, we are grateful for gifts of all amounts and of all types that support our work and mission. Typically, contributions made to MHCO are gifts of cash sent by check or online.

Someone recently asked if we would accept a gift of gold and silver. In general, the rule is that any gift that has appreciated in value can make an excellent gift as the donor will avoid paying capital gains tax when the item is transferred to MHCO. This can make non-traditional gifts ideal charitable contributions. Examples include gifts of appreciated stocks or mutual funds, land, real estate, gold or silver and even grain.

MHCO has also received non-traditional gifts from businesses like Community Markets and McDonalds, when they have provided products for events, or from a supply company such as McKesson. In each case it is important that both the donor and charitable organization follow IRS

guidelines to make sure the item is appraised or valued properly. Other gifts growing in popularity include gifts from an Individual Retirement Account as part of a charitable distribution directly from the donor's IRA. The gift is actually a transfer to a recognized 501(c) (3) and is excluded from the donor's earned income.

If you have a question we encourage you to contact the charitable organization, as well as your accountant. Last year, MHCO received more than \$44,000 in non-traditional charitable gifts. We are honored with the gifts made by so many people and organizations that support MHCO as we provide care for the many elders in our communities. These gifts become more important as the number of people that have outlived their resources increases and the support provided from Medicaid does not provide for the true cost of care.

By the way, that gift of gold and silver was designated to support the MHCO Benevolent Care Fund, Endowment and elevator repairs at MMH which are soon to be completed. Thank you for your support of MHCO! ■