

THE COUNCIL ON AGING COLLECTIVE

Newsletter of the Council on Aging for Henderson County



ABOUT THAT VIRUS:

What a start to 2020, eh!? We started the year dreaming of all the fun possibilities - new ventures - and folks we would get to serve here in Henderson County. We began on-boarding new volunteers - setting up volunteer days, events, meetings & even planning our annual volunteer appreciation event.



As we began to "MARCH" into what would inevitably be a productive (and amazing) spring time - we found ourselves thrown the curve ball of all curve balls - the curve ball that ironically halted baseball season itself - yes, you guessed it...COVID19!



But fear not...while this pandemic scale virus may have halted much of life as we know it - shifting work schedules - altering office hours - our mission remained the same - and as we spoke with our community it was affirmed how **VERY CRITICAL** this service is to seniors in our area.

When everything began closing - we began bringing on more volunteers. We received phone call after phone call after email after walk in visit. It was astounding! We were humbled seeing the reaction of this community and their desire to continue serving home bound seniors in this time.



Like most pandemics - or world wide spread viruses - this one came with it's suitcase of surprises. Our staff began to shift accordingly - and make the necessary changes to continue ensuring the optimal safety and wellbeing of all clients, volunteers & staff members involved in this agency. When a stay at home order was issued - plans shifted again and staff began distributing weekly frozen meals to 350+ clients. Even though our volunteers could no longer deliver meals - you did not let this deter you. You began making daily phone call check ins to your MOW folks - and they have LOVED this simple, yet sweetly relational gesture.



Our community has dropped off care packages, food boxes, face masks, distillery made hand sanitizer, gas money for staff, and so much more! You have donated to this agency, and written kind emails to check in on our staff team. YOU are truly one in a million!

Our Thrift Stores may have closed their doors, but that has not deterred volunteers from stepping up to prepare for re-opening.



THRIFT STORES



IAM & MANNA Food Bank continue to provide shelf stable supplies for our folks! (yes...we promise it's food and not pale ale!)



The donation of a van for MOW has been incredibly helpful during these times!
Thank you Amy & Gaby!



Nothing says "support local" like hand sanitizer made by a local distillery!
Thank you Two Trees Distillery!

Volunteers have been championing face mask making, and jewelry pricing - as well as taking home furniture to spruce it up, items to prices, and so much more. Volunteers, YOU continue to invest in your passion for this critical work serving older adults in Henderson County - and your dedication, thoughtfulness, and passion are significantly felt. We can't do it without you!

**Update on our THRIFT store volunteers:

- **Jean Fears** has been working away at home on her craft department for ETS, getting items put together and priced/ready for when we are able to open again.
- **Glee Letterman** has been working on masks for some of our COA folks, friends and family. She has also been working on wreaths for the store, as well.
- **Kurt & Marcia Myers** have been spending a lot of their time refinishing and painting furniture for the store and getting it spruced up and ready for its next home.
- **Barbara Stanley** keeps herself busy working with vintage china. She takes broken pieces that others might think is trash and she turns them into a beautiful piece of art.
- **Judy Woelke** has been pricing & separating Jewelry. She has put together beautiful jars of broken jewelry for our customers who can't get enough of the fun jars.
- **Anne Huske** has teamed up with church members to make face masks for anyone who needs one. With a team of 30 volunteers, in just their first week of sewing, they were able to make and deliver and mail off over 1,200.

All of our hardworking volunteers are anxious to get "back to work" and miss the fellowship between each other and our customers as well. We can't wait to see you!

SUPERHERO STAFF



That's right - they make phone calls - deliver meals - connect clients to needed resources - grocery shop - write grants - spruce up the thrift stores - attend meetings - strategize safety protocols - organize new routes - assess clients - recruit volunteers - engage the community - sit at the table with local leaders and so much more!

Shout out to TEAM COUNCIL ON AGING for DAILY rising to the challenge, but especially (and creatively) in this season!



CAMERON named new Director of Operations

Congratulations to David Cameron who was recently appointed by Executive Director Keith Logan to his former role @ COA as the new Director Of Operations.

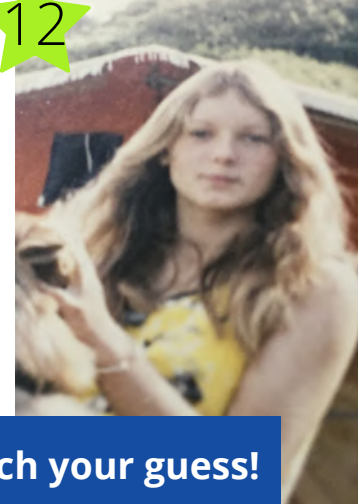
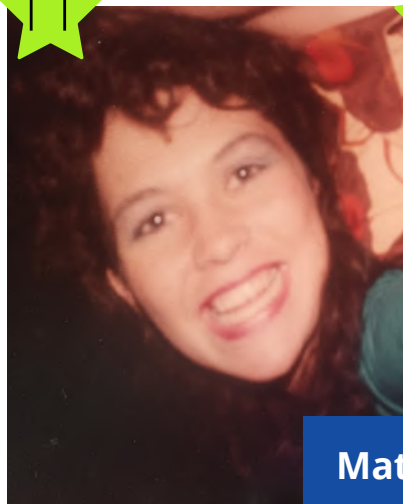
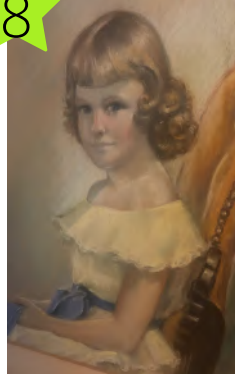
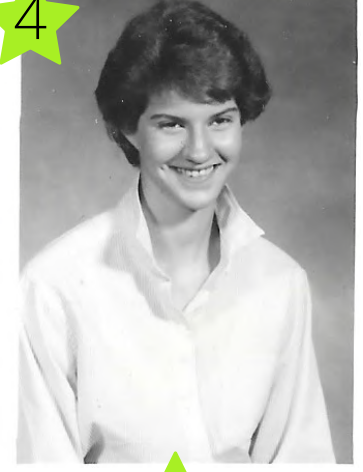
David is known as a man who gets things done. With a genuine care for clients - the greatest sense of wit we've ever seen - and a true passion for this work. He steps into this role driven and excited to decrease (and eventually eliminate) the MOW waiting list. David has been providing client assessments & other services as needed in his time @ COA and with great excitement - our team is preparing to launch a new partnership with ADVENT HEALTH in early May, as well as launching 3 (yes you heard right...3!!!) new MOW routes - which will cut our waiting list by over 1/3! AMAZING!



NEW PARTNERSHIP LAUNCHING IN MAY

While PARDEE hospital will continue providing and preparing the bulk of our meals for MOW clients, this new development with ADVENT health has us excited about leveraging MORE meals to serve MORE folks in our community! We can't wait! Stay tuned for more info. to come! - the MOW team

Quarantine Activity: Who's Who COA STAFF



Match your guess!
Answers to come!



 Council
on Aging
for Henderson County
**Volunteer
with us!**
coahc.org

As we prepare to shift gears in the coming weeks/months and return to (somewhat) regular delivery schedules with our volunteers - (adhering to all necessary guidelines) - *we will need your help more than ever!* We have a group of interested folks who want to volunteer - but *with 3 NEW routes - we need you & your friends!* Let's do this together! **coahc.org/volunteers**

Marina
Betsy
David
Kat
Kathleen
Jessica
Christy
Angie
Keith
Scott
Wendy
Suzanne

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