

UNITED WAY OF THE OHIO VALLEY
OHIO COUNTY
PARTNER AGENCY: OHIO COUNTY SENIOR SERVICES

This is the story of Mr. Sash. Mr. Sash lives alone he has no family. The only person he had to help him was his landlord. He came to us when we had our adult daycare program when his landlord convinced him to try the daycare program so he would not have to spend so much time alone. At first he was very shy and a bit backward. On his first day when he came through the front door he leaned against the wall and stood there for the entire 6 hours he was here. No matter how much we tried to convince him to come and take a seat. The next day he took a chair but would not eat lunch. It took about a week before he would have lunch with the other clients. He would never go out into the Senior Center to attend any of our events he was too shy to mix with strangers. Mr. Sash came to daycare for about 10 years and during this time he became comfortable with the daycare routine, but still shied away from the congregate and activities on the senior center side. Last year the state took away funding for our adult daycare program. We became concerned of what would happen to our clients, especially Mr. Sash because he was dependent upon the noon meal as his main meal of the day. We were determined not to let these folks fall through the cracks so we convinced them to come and participate in the programs on the senior center side of the building. Mr. Sash was very hard to convince, but finally he agreed. At first, he just sat out in the foyer in his wheel chair. I think our regular clients sensed he was shy and they went out of their way to speak to him and be friendly. A few weeks later he rolled his wheel chair into the dining and activity room and began to watch the activities. He considered himself the dominoes champ of daycare and after a while he began to teach the clients in the senior center how to play. We arranged for him to be placed on the homebound meals for the 2 days a week that he does not come in to the center for congregate meals. Now it is 6 months later and he is a big part of the fun and activities we call him the Domino King. We continue to take him to his doctor's appointments and other errands as we do other clients. This is a fine example of how people's lives can be changed through the senior programs we provide. First he was a man with no family spending all his time alone with no one to prepare food for him. Then he joined daycare where he made a few friends and had daily activity. Lastly the daycare closes but we transfer him to another of our programs where he now comes 3 days a week, has even more friends and his life is much happier and satisfying.

WHAT DIFFERENCE WILL YOUR INVESTMENT MAKE?

With your investment of \$100 **Ohio County Senior Services** can:

- Purchase supplies to make a raised garden to grow vegetable to give to the seniors
- Purchase new games for the Wii
- Purchase new pool cues and chalk
- Purchase supplies to conduct cooking and tasting classes
- Purchase a new bulletin board.

