



RESIDENT SERVICES NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2023

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Stark County 2-1-1 will transition to StarkHelpCentral.com

On January 1st Stark County 2-1-1 will transition to StarkHelpCentral.com, a community resource website supported by Stark County Mental Health & Addiction Recovery (StarkMHAR), Stark County Job & Family Services, Stark Educational Service Center, Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities, Stark County Family Court, and Stark County Family Council. On StarkHelpCentral.com you can connect to resources like rent, utilities, and homeless services. On the site, there is also a resource guide, that includes the most requested 2-1-1 resources, you can download.



SMHA WILL BE CLOSED ON JANUARY 2ND & JANUARY 16TH

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Hello,

It is January and we have successfully made it through the holidays. SMHA Commissioners and staff wish all readers a healthy, happy, and successful New Year. Winter is upon us, and we have recently experienced extreme cold weather. Please make sure storm windows and storm door windows are down to help with the cold weather. In addition, try to let the sunshine in during the day and close your blinds after sundown.

Finally, on Thursday 12/22/2022 SMHA's Commissioner made the below announcement:

The Stark Metropolitan Housing Authority's Board of Commissioner's has decided on the Executive Director position. They have named Mr. Josh Crites as the new Executive Director who will, tentatively, start on Monday, February 6th.

Mr. Crites most recently served as the Deputy Director of Housing Authority and Housing Department of Washington County, Oregon. He led Washington County's rapid growth which included a budget that more than tripled from \$40 million a year to over \$130 million a year. In his most recent role, he led efforts to rehab the Authority's affordable housing assets, successfully gained admission for the Authority into HUD's competitive Moving to Work (MTW) demonstration program and helped lead the implementation of one of the Country's largest voter-approved homeless measures. He has extensive experience creating innovative programs and policies, building relationships, managing large projects, operations, and budgets, and developing high performing teams.

Prior to joining Washington County, Mr. Crites administered a large-scale homeless program for the State of Arizona, was Strategic Advisor for Seattle Housing Authority and served as a Planning and Policy Analyst at the Tacoma Housing Authority.

"As someone who grew up in Ohio, attended at Toledo University and have deep roots here, it's beyond exciting for me to come back and serve Stark County," said Crites. "Creating and sustaining high quality affordable housing and services for our residents is the priority. This can only be accomplished by the amazing team at SMHA. I look forward to working with our Board of Commissioners and SMHA staff to continue delivering for our residents and community while looking for new opportunities to increase funding and resources."

Jeff Patterson, CPA(inactive), MBA
Interim Executive Director
Deputy and Finance Director

JURISDICTION WIDE RESIDENT COUNCIL

You are invited to the Jurisdiction Wide Resident Council Meeting!

THERE ARE NO JURISDICTION WIDE COUNCIL MEETINGS IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY. WE HOPE TO RESUME IN MARCH 2023

ACTIVE RESIDENT COUNCILS :
Plaza Terrace Apartments- Canton

RESIDENT SERVICES (330) 454-8051

Milistine Tatum, MPA

Director, Resident Services - Ext. 318
mtatum@starkmha.org

Tenicia James

Resident Services Coord. - Ext. 309
tjames@starkmha.org

Melanie Singhaus, LSW

Resident Services Coord. - Ext. 327
msinghaus@starkmha.org

Jackuelyn Towne-Roese

Service Coordinator, Alliance Towers
(330) 823-5120
jtroese@starkmha.org

Sapri Sweat

Family Self-Sufficiency Coord. Ext. 365
ssweat@starkmha.org

Panther Spurlin

Community Health Worker Ext. 386
pspurlin@starkmha.org

Marilyn Schoen

Resident Opportunity Self-Sufficiency
Service Coord.-Plaza Terrace
(330)705-1120
mschoen@starkmha.org

Unable to visit Resident Services during monthly on site office hours?

Call to schedule an appointment or
discuss service/program needs with a
member of our team.

(330) 454-8051 ext 309

Family Self-Sufficiency Graduate, Mandolyn Block



Congratulations to Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Graduate, Ms. Mandolyn Block! Ms. Block Completed FSS in under three years, with goals she established to become self-sufficient. Her goals led to homeownership with the support of FSS partner, Community Building Partnership and FSS Coordinator, Sapri Sweat. Mandolyn shared that she feels blessed to be where she is now, and that she and her family has a place to call home. This has truly changed Ms. Block's life and she hopes that more people learn about the FSS program and witness this life changing experience as well.

FSS provides an escrow incentive that residents earn as a result of increases in their earned income and receive upon successful completion of their goals. The escrow check does not have any restrictions and can be used in any manner they see fit. **Call FSS Coordinator Sapri Sweat at (330) 454-8051 ext. 365 for more information.**

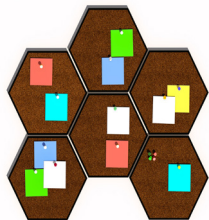
Are You Pregnant? -Your health and the health of your baby are important.



Are you pregnant and can benefit from being connected to community services and support? Community Health Worker (CHW), Panther Spurlin, is available to assist you in decision making during pregnancy. She can link you to services in the community that can help you and your baby. This is a free program, covered by your insurance, that can help you have a healthy pregnancy and delivery. Your health and the health of your baby are important. Panther Spurlin, CHW, can help provide education, support, and connection to community resources.

Your interactions with Ms. Spurlin are confidential and protected under HIPAA. **If you or someone you know can benefit from the support of a CHW, contact Panther Spurlin, at (234) 458-1557 or email pspurlin@starkmha.org to schedule an appointment today!**

SMHA Bulletin Boards Contain Important Information



The bulletin boards in your lobbies and off-site management offices contain updated information on what's happening in your community, and resources that are available to you. Don't forget to stop and check them out while entering or exiting your buildings. Fliers that have been approved by SMHA Resident Services will be marked. **If you have any questions about what is posted, call Resident Services at (330)454-8051 ext. 309 or email rs@starkmha.org**

DISCOUNT MEMBERSHIP

Resident Services provides all residents of SMHA with YMCA vouchers that provide discounted annual membership pricing. YMCA locations also offer yearly, semi-annual, and quarterly payment options for SMHA residents dependent upon the location. **For a YMCA Voucher Application, call (330) 454-8051 ext 309.**



social media



/StarkMHA

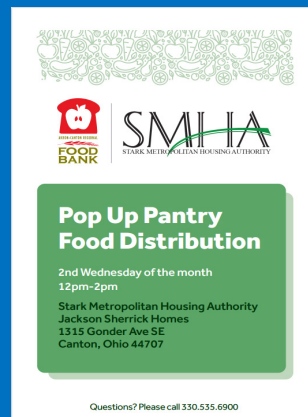


@StarkMHA



@StarkMHA

Pop-up Food Pantry at Jackson Sherrick



The Akron-Canton Food Bank is partnering with SMHA to provide a pop-up food pantry at Jackson Sherrick Homes. The pop-up pantry visit is scheduled for **Wednesday, January 11th, 12:00 PM-2:00 PM**. If you have any questions about the pop-up pantry, call (330) 535-6900.



Feeling Lonely or Socially Isolated?

Everyone needs social connections to survive and thrive. But as people age, they often spend more time alone. Being alone makes people more vulnerable to loneliness and social isolation. Studies show that loneliness and social isolation are linked to higher risks for serious health problems such as heart disease, depression, and cognitive decline.

Tips for Staying Connected

You can help protect against the negative effects of loneliness and social isolation by staying active and connecting with others. Consider these tips:

- ☒ Schedule time each day to contact family, friends, and neighbors in person, by phone, email, video chat, or social media.
- ☒ Restart an old hobby.
- ☒ Take a class to learn something new. Sign up for an online or in-person class at your local public library or community center.
- ☒ Volunteer to help others in your community.
- ☒ Adopt a pet if you are able to care for them.

For More Information

Find tips and resources at www.nia.nih.gov/CommitToConnect, or call the Eldercare Locator at 800-677-1116 to connect with resources and services in your community.



Are You at Risk?

You or a loved one may be more likely to feel lonely or socially isolated if any of the following apply:

- ☐ Live alone
- ☐ Can't leave home
- ☐ Are a caregiver
- ☐ Have trouble hearing
- ☐ Had a major loss or life change, such as the death of a partner
- ☐ Live in a rural and/or unsafe neighborhood
- ☐ Feel a lack of purpose

If you are feeling lonely or isolated, talk with your doctor about your concerns.

Stark County Hunger Task Force

Community Campus Food Pantry
Ken Weber Community Campus at Goodwill
408 9th St SW Canton, OH 44707

Mon & Tue 9:15am-2:35pm
Wed 9:15am-3:35pm
Thu & Fri 9:15am-1:35pm

Pantry visits are by appointment only. Appointment tickets are available on a first come first serve basis at both reception desks starting at 8:00am each day. Clients may visit the pantry twice per month.

Required for service:
Must be a Stark County resident
Must meet income guidelines set by USDA
Dates of birth and names of all residents
Photo ID (does not need to be valid or state-issued)

info@starkhunger.org
330-455-6667 | starkhunger.org



NEW

Ready for School

Birth to Age 8

Free parent education program

Ages 5-8 Homework Help at select Stark Library locations

Receive bi-monthly learning activity kits with books

In Person and Virtual Appointments available

Call/Text 330-265-6375 or 330-268-3176 for more information

STARK LIBRARY

Stark County Community Action Agency HEAP Winter Crisis Program

Do you need help paying for your utilities?

(Program runs from November 1, 2022 through March 31, 2023)

Free Utility Assistance
(for income eligible households)

HEAP
Housing Emergency Assistance Program

Call (330) 617-1055 for Appointment or schedule online at app.appointments.com

2022-2023 Winter Crisis Program Income Chart

Size of Household	Monthly Gross Household Income	Monthly Gross Household Income
1	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00
2	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00
3	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
4	\$2,400.00	\$2,400.00
5	\$2,800.00	\$2,800.00
6	\$3,200.00	\$3,200.00
7	\$3,600.00	\$3,600.00
8	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00

If you believe that you qualify, please schedule an appointment!

SAVE THIS NUMBER!

Stark County's Mobile Response Team is made up of local licensed counselors who will arrive within minutes when you call.

Family argument | parental struggles | concerns for a neighbor | isolation | and more.

330-452-6000
Anytime, day or night!

STARK COUNTY

