

Council on Aging

COVID-19 Success Story



Clinton County client grateful for hard work of Elderly Services Program staff

November, 2020

Jackie appreciates a hard worker. That's why she is especially grateful for the Clinton County Elderly Services Program (ESP) and the hard work a team of professionals have put in to make her life easier these past 10 years.

"I'm a little bit particular," Jackie, 83, says of her cleaning habits. So when Jackie's homemaking aide, provided through ESP, visits every two weeks to clean her apartment, she is very pleased. Jackie prides herself on being able to help her aide, Jesse, to clean and dust, but there are some things Jackie can't do on her own.



Jackie's decades-long struggle with chronic back and neck pain resulting from a fall down the basement steps, makes walking and mobility a challenge. She has begun using a walker to steady herself, and sometimes uses a back brace.

At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Jackie received COA's home-delivered meals, but put them on hold when she began to use her Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program coupons. The program, which provides fresh, nutritious, unprepared locally grown fruits, vegetables, herbs and honey through farmers markets, roadside stands and community supported agriculture (CSA) farmers, was available in Council on Aging's service area for the first time in 2020. More than 1,100 eligible older adults, like Jackie, enrolled in the program.

Jackie enjoyed using the fresh vegetable in her cooking. In fact, she received so much corn, she froze it in individual packages for the winter – a process which brought back memories of younger days in which she and her husband canned everything from green beans to beets from their garden.

Jackie and her husband, Daryl, lived in Clarksville, 15 minutes outside of Wilmington, for 47 years. In the country, they raised their four children, Rick, Rhonda, Randy and Rita. Daryl suffered from heart issues and diabetes and died in 2001.

As Jackie got older, she realized that the large, country house was too much for her to handle on her own. She moved to the senior apartments next to the senior center in Wilmington. There, she enjoys the

attentions of her adult children. She especially enjoys exchanging “I love yous” when they bring her dinner.

Because of the pandemic, Jackie spends a lot of time inside and is not able to see her children as often as she would like. If Jackie is not watching the Amazing Race or Young and the Restless, she’s crafting and making wreaths. She is especially proud of the face masks she made for herself and her family out of scrap material. She says of COVID, “We’ve got to conquer it. There’s still winter to go through, yet.” And with her positive attitude and the twinkle in her eye, she will make it the best it can be.

For more information about how Council on Aging is serving seniors during the pandemic, please visit www.help4seniors.org. Any senior who needs help during this difficult time should contact Council on Aging at 513-721-1025.

About Council on Aging: Council on Aging of Southwestern Ohio (COA) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing quality of life for older adults, people with disabilities, their families and caregivers. COA promotes choice, independence, dignity and well-being through a range of services that help people remain independent for as long as possible.

COA is a state-designated Area Agency on Aging serving Butler, Clermont, Clinton, Hamilton and Warren counties. One call to COA links people to the wide variety of agencies, information and programs that serve older adults and people with disabilities.

Regional Headquarters

175 Tri County Parkway, Cincinnati, OH 45246 | 513-721-1025 | 800-252-0155 | www.help4seniors.org

Clinton County Resource Center

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