

West Ohio Community Action Partnership

Happy New Year
from WOCAP!

2025 Seal Christmas



We are so grateful and excited to share the joy of our annual Christmas program that was held on December 19, 2025. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, this program provides holiday gifts and essential household items to families we serve, helping make the season warmer, brighter, and a little less stressful. Seeing smiles, easing burdens, and spreading holiday cheer reminds us why this work matters so much.

Thank you to our donors, partners, volunteers, and staff who make this tradition possible each year. Your kindness truly makes a difference for local families this holiday season. Because of your generosity, families across our community feel supported, valued, and remembered. Thank you for making a meaningful difference!



Financial Support Provided By:

Honda, Enbridge, and Cenovus – whose monetary donations helped us purchase essential items and holiday gifts, as well as meet critical needs for the families we serve.

Household Essentials Donated By:

Procter & Gamble donated items to help families keep up with everyday household needs.

Toy Donations Provided By:

The amazing employees of Lima Shoe Carnival, AARCHBRG (an employee group at Russells Point Honda), and Honda Corporation, who donated toys to help bring joy and smiles to children this holiday season.

We also want to extend a special and heartfelt thank you to ABATE of Ohio, Inc. – Region 3, a huge supporter of this program. Each year, ABATE hosts a toy run dedicated to supporting the families we serve, and their continued generosity makes a meaningful difference for children across our communities. We are incredibly grateful for their ongoing commitment and partnership.

As we step into 2026, we reflect on a year that tested our strength and adaptability. In 2025, we faced significant challenges—from funding losses that required restructuring to transitions that impacted our programs and staff, and even navigating the uncertainty of a federal government shutdown. Yet through these trials, we discovered resilience, creativity, and a renewed commitment to our mission. Today, we look forward to a new year filled with possibilities: strengthening partnerships, expanding opportunities for children and families, and continuing to serve our community with integrity and hope. Together, we will turn challenges into progress and make 2026 a year of growth and impact.



Cheers to 2026!!
Kimberly Bruns, CEO

HELP NEW LIMA - HOUSING FOR THE FUTURE SHAPE THE FUTURE OF AFFORDABLE SENIOR HOUSING!

WE'RE INVITING SENIORS, FAMILIES, CAREGIVERS, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO TAKE OUR QUICK SENIOR HOUSING INPUT SURVEY! YOUR FEEDBACK WILL HELP GUIDE WHAT WE BUILD, IMPROVE, AND PRIORITIZE - THINGS LIKE AFFORDABILITY, LOCATION, FEATURES, AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICES!



✓ Take the survey by scanning the provided QR code

TO STAY UP TO DATE ON NEW LIMA - HOUSING FOR THE FUTURE, PLEASE LIKE AND FOLLOW THEM ON FACEBOOK



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9TVF7VN>



Community Partnership Keeps Head Start Strong During Federal Shutdown

GRATITUDE IN ACTION

THANK YOU HEALTH PARTNERS OF WESTERN OHIO FOUNDATION

During the federal government shutdown, our agency faced significant uncertainty, including the possibility of closing our Early Head Start and Head Start programs. Thanks to the incredible generosity of Health Partners of Western Ohio Foundation, who stepped in and provided a temporary loan, we were able to keep our classrooms open and continue serving children and families without interruption. Our Head Start and Early Head Start kiddos created special thank-you cards to show just how much this support meant to us. Their kindness helped us stay strong during a very challenging time. We are grateful to share that, with the release of our Head Start grant funds, we have now paid back the loan in full.

To Health Partners of Western Ohio, thank you for believing in us, investing in our mission, and standing beside our families when they needed it most. Your partnership truly made a difference.



LIMA'S FUTURE IS BRIGHT—AND WE ARE BUILDING IT TOGETHER

West Ohio CAP joined the City of Lima in December for the Community Procession & Swearing-In Ceremony as Mayor Sharetta Smith began her second term of service.



2025-2026 HEAP WINTER CRISIS PROGRAM

The Home Energy Assistance Winter Crisis Program helps income-eligible Ohioans who are threatened with disconnection, have been disconnected, need to establish new service, need to pay to transfer service, or have 25% (or less) supply of bulk fuel in their tank maintain their utility service.

NOW - MARCH 31, 2026

Eligible Applicants

Households where total income is not more than 175% of the poverty guideline and one or more of the following apply:

- The main heating source and/or related electric energy source is in disconnect status or has been terminated
- New services need to be established
- Service needs to be transferred
- Amount of remaining bulk fuel supply is at 25% or less
- Heating unit repair or replacement is needed

Required Documents

- Income for the primary applicant and all household members 18 years of age or older
- Social Security numbers for the primary applicant and all household members
- Most recent electric and gas bills
- Proof of citizenship for all household members
- For furnace repair applicants, a copy of the invoice and/or estimate from a qualified and insured heating unit technician

Type of Benefits

- **Electric/Natural Gas Utility Assistance:**
 - Up to \$175 for regulated utility customers
 - Up to \$750 for unregulated utility customers
- **Bulk Fuel, Propane, Fuel Oil, Kerosene Assistance:**
 - Up to \$1,200
- **Coal or Wood Assistance:**
 - Up to \$650
- **Heating Unit Repair:**
 - Up to \$1,500 for heating unit repair, replacement assistance

Stronger Together Fund

The Stronger Together Fund: Created by Mayor Sharetta Smith in partnership with the Lima Community Foundation, United Way of Greater Lima, and other trusted community partners, the Stronger Together Fund ensures that no family in our community goes without support.

Why It Matters Now

The Stronger Together Fund allows our community to respond immediately when crisis strikes – whether to hunger relief, a natural disaster, or other urgent needs.

1. Supports LOCAL families
2. Utilizes LOCAL partners
3. Powered by LOCAL generosity

Every dollar raised strengthens the local safety net that protects our neighbors in times of uncertainty.

\$1 donated = 6 meals
Feed Neighbors.
Give Hope. 



**STRONGER
TOGETHER
FUND**

This season, gratitude inspires giving.

As we gather around our tables, we're reminded that some of our neighbors are facing empty shelves and uncertainty.

Through the Stronger Together Fund, every dollar donated = 6 meals for local families through the West Ohio Food Bank.

**Give thanks. Feed neighbors.
Give hope.**

Donate Today through the Lima Community Foundation

Donate by Mail:
Stronger Together Fund
c/o Lima Community Foundation
207 W. Elm Street
Lima, OH 45801

Or Donate Online:
<https://buy.stripe.com/14A6oJ4vVgGk8wU6xO8Vi01>
Link can be found on the City of Lima's Facebook Page or their website



**BUS
STOP**



“Baby on Board” is a program started August 2025 through **Allen Co. RTA** and receives technical assistance from **Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission**. It is grant-funded through **Ohio Department of Transportation’s** OTP2 allocation.



Lima/Allen County
REGIONAL PLANNING
COMMISSION



For more details and resources about “BABY ON BOARD,” please visit: www.lacrpc.com

BABY ON BOARD

FREE BUS TRANSPORTATION FOR FAMILIES!

ALLEN COUNTY RTA IS OFFERING FREE FIXED ROUTE BUS SERVICE TO PREGNANT WOMEN OR PARENTS WHO HAVE A CHILD UNDER THE AGE OF 2 (EXCEPTIONS CAN BE MADE FOR FAMILIES WITH A CHILD UP TO AGE 5). GET YOUR FREE MONTHLY PASS BY CONTACTING ONE OF THE FOLLOWING PARTNER AGENCIES LISTED BELOW.

GET A FREE “BABY ON BOARD” BUS PASS HERE:



Heartbeat of Lima
421 S. Cable Rd.
Lima, Ohio 45805 419-222-7945



Lima Memorial Health System
1001 Bellefontaine Ave.
Lima, Ohio 45804 419-228-3335



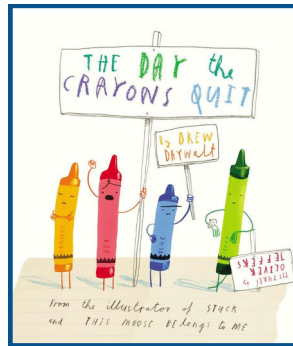
Mercy Health - St. Rita's Medical
Center 730 W. Market St.
Lima, Ohio 45801 419-227-3361



West Ohio Community Action Partnership
540 S. Central Ave.
Lima, Ohio 45804 419-227-2586



BOOK



The Day The Crayons Quit

A hilarious, colorful picture book celebrating creativity and self-expression. Poor Duncan just wants to color. But when he opens his box of crayons, he finds only written letters, all saying the same thing: His crayons have had enough! They quit! What can Duncan possibly do to appease all the crayons and get them back to doing what they do best?

Learning Through Nature at Central D

Central D Head Start classroom welcomed Lindsay Gallagher, a Naturalist from the Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District!

Our children explored the wonders of trees and the animals that call them home through dancing, touching different animal furs, and enjoying a special story.

To wrap up this hands-on learning experience, each child made their own bird feeder using pipe cleaners and Cheerios to hang on their trees at home. Such a fun and educational day connecting our little learners with nature!

Thank you to the Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District for partnering with us to make moments like this possible!



BIRTHDAYS

- 2 - Mary Collins
- 3 - Shareena Ingram
- 7 - Theresa Wynn
- 12 - Patty Rodabaugh
- 13 - Jennifer Freeman
- 18 - Stephanie Staley
- 23 - Lisa Haehn
- 25 - Christine Shepherd

ANNIVERSARIES

- Cynthia Davis - 28 years
- Penny Krouse - 27 years
- Ginger Gossard - 26 years
- Laura Art - 25 years
- Heather Harner - 13 years
- Kris Keller - 9 years

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 6th - HS Classes Resume
- 9th - Home-Based Family Day
- 15th - Policy Council Meeting
- 19th - Agency CLOSED (MLK Day)
- 23rd - Home-Based Family Day
- 26th - Executive/Finance Committee Mtg
- 28th - WOCAP Board Meeting
- 29th - Winter Family Engagement Event
- 30th - EHS/HS Staff Work Day (NO Classes)

Excellent Attendance

Our goal is to prepare your child for their next stepping stone of education whether it is Head Start or Kindergarten. Regular Attendance is an important part of your child's educational, social, and emotional development. When children are absent from school they are missing out on a lot of educational and social opportunities. We would like to thank those parents who assure their child is attending school every day. In the month of November, we had 84 children with Perfect Attendance.

Central A
A'Mariana C.
Joshua S.
Winter S.

Central B
Je'A'Zya C.

ELC-Fox A
Emersyn L.
Emma T.

EHS Home Based (GG)
A'King W.

EHS Home Based (JJ)
James K.
Harley P.

Smart Start
Da'miri S.
Ja'sai S.

Kingdom Daycare
Josiah A.

Little Rascals A
Elijah N.

Little Rascals B
Phoenix S.
Jayce S.
Sylo W.

Shawnee Munchkin
Luxe F.

Shawnee Terrific 2's
Kane H.

The Children's Place
Cameliana A.
Darius F.
Jersei J.
Ka'Marion N.

Trinity-Bear
Giana M.
Leighton W.

Central C
Jordyn B.
Anastasia B.
Chanze B.
Cyrus D.
Mathew P.
Malayah S.
Quayvion W.

Central D
Kellum I.
Austin K.
Amelia L.
Za'Raeah S.

Central G
Kingston G.
La'Mira T.

Central H
Daan A.
Kashton B.
Kamryn K.

ELC-Howard A
A'myria S.
Levi V.

ELC-Howard B
Zora D.
A'Layah G.
Kahmora H.
Rilynn L.

ELC-O'Neal A
Zarian G. Jr.
Khari J.
Ka'Lani M-A.
Zahra R.
Nova'Rose S.
Ruth VV.

ELC-O'Neal B
Ezekiell R.

HS Home Based (KC)
Daniel B.
Stephanie B.
Emberly K.
Abel M.
Kenya T.

Market St. I
Lyric H.
Amiyah M.
Elena W.

Market St. II
Maxton N.
Weston N.
Kah'Zylah P.
La'Nyiah S.



READY FOR CHANGE?



COME JOIN OUR Head Start TEAM!

Are you looking for a fresh start, rewarding job,
or a chance to make a lasting impact in the
community?



Join our Head Start team and become a
champion for children and families.

WE HAVE MULTIPLE OPENINGS



Why Head Start?

- ✓ Choose the schedule & hours that work for you
- ✓ Grow Professionally with paid training & credential support
- ✓ Enjoy Great Benefits and build a career with purpose



Whether you're changing careers, returning to
the workforce, or just ready to do something that
matters -this is your moment



APPLY ON LINE

wocap.org/employment-opportunities/job-openings/



NOW ENROLLING!

OUR PROGRAMS

- **Early Head Start**
- Ages Birth to Three Years
- **Head Start**
- Ages Three - Five Years



Fill out our Pre-Application Today!



www.wocap.org

419-227-2586

www.wocap.org

West Ohio CAP
540 S. Central Avenue
Lima, OH 45804



Parents are involved in decision making and in carrying out the program's activities. Parents serve on Parent Policy Council, parenting groups, and work as volunteers in the classroom. They also help to develop educational and social activities for their children.

FREE program that offers social, emotional and intellectual growth to prepare children for success in life

Head Start is a comprehensive program for children and their families. We offer Home-Based and Center-Based options to best meet your needs. The Home-Based option consists of a home-based teacher, child, and family working together to provide activities and experiences designed to meet the child's needs in the home environment for 1.5 hours.

What Services Are Provided?

Developmental screenings, hearing, vision, dental exam and treatment, lead testing, hemoglobin testing, parenting classes, and various training opportunities. Transportation to the center may be provided for eligible children and each child receives a free snack, breakfast and/or hot lunch daily. Field trips and family days are scheduled throughout the year.

What Are The Requirements?

- Families income must be at or below 100% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.
- Families/children experiencing homelessness or who are in foster care are also eligible.
- Children with a disability may also qualify.
- Services available for children age birth - five years of age
- Services are available to families/children that live or work in Allen County





2-1-1

Get Connected. Get Help.™

**NEED HELP?
CALL 2-1-1**

We're here for you!

Live. Free. Confidential. 24 hours a day. 7 Days a week.

2-1-1 provides callers with information and referrals to social services for every day needs and in times of crisis. For example, 2-1-1 can offer access to the following types of services:

- Food
- Clothing
- Childcare
- Youth
- Seniors
- Veterans
- Mental Health Services
- Education
- Employment
- Mental Health
- Substance Abuse
- Legal Issues
- Healthcare
- Emergency Shelter
- Transportation
- Prescription Discounts
- Utility/Rent Assistance

Call Us
DIAL 2-1-1

Toll Free
800-650-4357

Visit Us
allen211.org



Mental Health &
Recovery Services Board
ALLEN • AUGLAIZE • HARDIN



UNITED WAY
Greater Lima

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