



# Community REPORT 2025



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# Impact our Community!

# #C3OHIO

## Become a PARTNER

Our partners are a driving force in improving community wellness and allowing C3 to innovate with new programming and outreach. By becoming a partner, your organization will be visible through a variety of branded materials over the course of the year!

Scan the QR code or go to [www.C3Ohio.org](http://www.C3Ohio.org) to become a partner or start the process by having a conversation with our team!

We are thankful for all of our community partners and sponsor. This work could not be accomplished without you!



## Become a TEAM MEMBER

C3 is supported by a volunteer team that is involved throughout the community, living out their belief in service. From volunteering at events, bringing organizations together and delivering on our commitments, our team continues to push forward in advancing community wellness.

Scan the QR code or go to [www.C3Ohio.org/Contact-us](http://www.C3Ohio.org/Contact-us) and we will be in touch about how to join our team!



## Donate TODAY

Your support will continue to allow us to follow our mission and improve conditions throughout our community. Every dollar donated is invested back into the community through a variety of programming, events and volunteer opportunities.

We thank you in advance for your generosity and support.



*You can also donate directly at  
[www.C3Ohio.org](http://www.C3Ohio.org)*

# Community Report

For more than a decade, Caring Community Collaborative (C3) has been dedicated to strengthening and supporting our community. Guided by our mission, we create meaningful impact through programming, service projects, outreach initiatives, and partnerships with local organizations that share our vision. C3 is committed to enhancing community wellness and improving quality of life by identifying local needs and addressing them through strong and cooperative partnerships. Together, we work to build a more connected, caring, and resilient community.

## WHO WE ARE

The Caring Community Collaborative (C3) has continued to make a measurable difference through a diverse range of programming, service projects and community wide initiatives.

Each year, C3 presents programming on a multitude of topics. For 2025 these included: A full day **Mental Health Conference** provided county wide training to mental health professionals. **Food with Friends** focused on teaching budget friendly meals and cooking instruction for all ages. The **Firefighter Chili Cookoff** was the fan favorite! Multiple fire departments competed for the trophy while raising awareness of hunger in our area. The annual **Veterans Tribute** honored those who have served. For the second year, **Santa Trot** returns as a local family fun run with shopping opportunities. Returning this year, **Santa's Senior Shoebox** will deliver gifts to seniors in the community.

Annually, C3 provides a **Police Benevolence Fund** to support our West Chester Police Department. Launching in 2026, the **C3 Phoenix Fund** will provide assistance to victims and children of domestic abuse, in conjunction with the Area 3 Mental Health Court.

C3 works with a wide variety of organizations and partners throughout West Chester and Liberty townships and the broader Butler County area.

**C3 is supported by an all-volunteer team. We are focused on improving community wellness, building connections throughout our county and working to deliver results to those in need. All fundraising goes directly back into providing services for our community.**



Caring Community Collaborative (C3), 501(c)3  
PO BOX 909 West Chester OH 45069



# Executive Board of Directors



**Lynda O'Connor**  
Founder & President



**Steve Johnston**  
Vice-President



**Randy Oppenheimer**  
Treasurer



**Abbie Cook**  
Secretary



**Jeffrey Diver**  
Member-at-Large

## OUR TEAM & VOLUNTEERS

- Leah Aguilar
- Gulame Asif
- Kathy Becker
- Ann Becker
- Deborah Brock
- Kathy Cook

- Brant Cook
- Amanda Poling Edens
- Tom Farrell
- Kerry Hendel
- Steve Johnston
- Bill Lendl

- Nate Maring
- Landon Meador
- Michelle Moody
- Ben Nguyen
- Nancy Nix
- Randy Oppenheimer

- Terry O'Connor
- Marisa Patterson
- Sharon Perry
- Barb Reisen
- Ekagar Singh
- Sophie Trimbur



## VETERANS TRIBUTE HONORS Our Local Veterans

Every fall, C3 hosts a Veterans Tribute to honor and reflect upon those in our military. The touching tribute features a key note speaker, performances from Lakota choirs and a lunch is included. In 2025, we had a packed room of veterans, elected officials and those from the community who came out to remember those who serve. **In partnership with Miami University VOA.**



## Police Benevolence Fund SUPPORTING LOCAL POLICE OFFICERS



The Police Benevolence Fund is a quiet but powerful resource working behind the scenes to support our community in moments of crisis. Through this fund, local officers access emergency assistance cards—small tools that make a big difference when someone's world suddenly shifts. Whether it's helping a family find safe shelter for the night, providing immediate essentials after an unexpected hardship, or offering support when there's simply nowhere else to turn, these cards allow officers to respond with compassion in real time, helping those who are in need. **In partnership with the West Chester Police Department.**



## FIREFIGHTER CHILI COOKOFF

### Highlights Local Hunger Issues

In 2025, our Firefighter Chili Cookoff saw a few exciting updates. Through a new partnership with Liberty Center, we were thrilled to combine our event with Touch A Truck, bringing together two beloved community traditions. The Chili Cookoff continues to serve as an event to raise awareness about local hunger problems within our community. **In partnership with Liberty Center, Liberty Township, West Chester Fire Dept. & Liberty Fire Dept & Skyline Chili.**

### Mental Health Conference TRAINS AREA PROFESSIONALS

Our Mental Health programming continues to deliver results for our community. This year, the conversation was focused on the fatigue that many first responders and mental health professional workers are feeling and strategies to avoid burnout. In 2025, the topic was “Bad News Bombardment”. Strategies were provided regarding compassion fatigue, secondary trauma, and ways to help themselves and those they serve. **In partnership with Butler County Mental Health & Addiction Recovery Services, Envision Partnerships and Butler County Family and Children First Council.**



# Kitchen Skills & Healthy Eating

## ON A BUDGET

Food with Friends continues to serve our community teaching cooking skills to all ages, focused on prepping, cooking and serving budget friendly meals. In this programming, families learn from a chef using home fresh ingredients and take numerous items to help jump start their home cooking! **In partnership with Reach Out Lakota, West Chester Presbyterian Church and the Learning Kitchen.**



# Santa's Senior Shoebox Delivers HOLIDAY CHEER TO SENIORS

The Santa Senior Shoebox program is our community's way of ensuring no senior is forgotten during the holiday season. Each year, we gather thoughtful gifts and essential items, pack them with care, and deliver them to local seniors to brighten their holidays!

In the last four years alone, our volunteers have delivered more than 1,200 shoeboxes, bringing joy, comfort, and connection to seniors across our community. It's a simple gesture with a powerful message: you are seen, you are valued, and you are not alone. **In partnership with WCLCA, West Chester Hospital and Planes Moving Company, EDGE Teen Center, Boy's and Girl's Club of West Chester, Lakota LSD.**



Scan the QR code to donate gifts all year long! They will be delivered to us directly. Thank you for your support!

## Santa Trot Brings Family Fun TO WEST CHESTER SQUARE

Our race has been expanded from 1.5 miles to 2 miles! This year's event will also feature an even greater variety of local vendors in Santa's Lane, offering the perfect opportunity to get your holiday shopping done early.

Families are encouraged to bring both kids and pets – we'll have a Little Elf Race for the young runners and a Pet Parade for our four-legged friends. Warm up with festive beverages and treats, then stop by the MidPointe Library for photos with Santa and fun holiday crafts! **In partnership with West Chester Township and MidPointe Library.**





## C3 BUTLER COUNTY Phoenix Fund

**NEW IN  
2026**

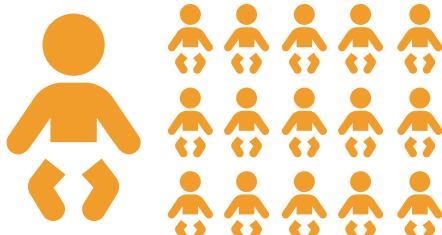
The Phoenix Fund is to serve as a beacon of support for victims of domestic violence, providing urgent financial assistance when it is needed most.

Named after the mythical bird that rises from the ashes, the Phoenix Fund is dedicated to helping individuals begin to rebuild their lives by easing financial burdens that may come with the immediate aftermath of an abusive situation.

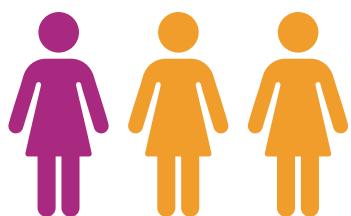
In partnership with Butler County Area 3 Court in West Chester, Ohio through generous donations and community support, the Phoenix Fund will directly aid women and children by covering critical expenses, that may include deductibles to access mental health and recovery services, transportation and other emergency basic needs.

By removing financial barriers with immediate assistance, the Phoenix Fund empowers survivors to take their first steps, at a critical point, towards independence and healing. Through this project, support is provided for those caught in a devastating situation.

Together, we can ensure that no one has to choose between safety and survival. Join us in rebuilding lives—because everyone deserves a future free from fear.



A child who witnesses domestic abuse at home is  
**15 TIMES**  
more likely to be sexually or physically abused than the  
national average



**1 IN 3**

women in Ohio have been  
victims from domestic  
abuse or stalking

SOURCE: NATIONAL COALITION  
AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



**50-80%**

of women develop PTSD or depression after  
suffering from domestic abuse.

**114 DEATHS**

in Ohio from July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024  
as a result of domestic violence

# The Community Cost of DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

When domestic abuse occurs, there are no winners. From inflicting long-term damage to family members to communal loss of productivity, cost of long-term mental and healthcare along with the cost of police intervention: domestic violence costs lives and money.

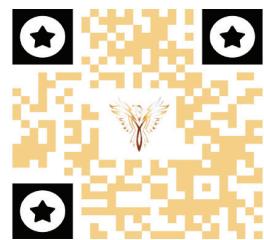
Studies have continued to show that long term treatment reduces PTSD, depression and anxiety in women and children who are survivors of domestic violence.

The Phoenix Fund will work as an emergency assistance fund focused on supporting long term individual and community wellness by supporting treatment options and emergency needs for those whose lives have been shattered by domestic violence. The chart below shows the annual cost to four Ohio counties from domestic violence. These numbers reflect averages from 2021-2024.



	BUTLER	PREBLE	CLERMONT	WARREN
<b>LOSS OF LIFE</b>	\$7,999,785	\$825,455	\$4,314,364	\$5,132,085
<b>LOSS OF PRODUCTIVITY</b>	\$7,591,815	\$783,359	\$4,094,341	\$4,870,360
<b>PHYSICAL HEALTHCARE</b>	\$8,831,071	\$911,231	\$4,762,685	\$5,665,377
<b>MENTAL HEALTH CARE</b>	\$4,082,288	\$421,229	\$2,201,618	\$2,618,901
<b>CHILD WELFARE</b>	\$1,154,718	\$119,149	\$622,751	\$740,783
<b>PROGRAMS, SHELTERS &amp; CENTERS</b>	\$2,505,692	\$258,549	\$1,351,344	\$1,607,471
<b>POLICING</b>	\$250,871	\$25,886	\$135,297	\$160,941

**Help change the future**  
*Learn more and get involved!*  
[www.C3Ohio.org](http://www.C3Ohio.org)



# Thank you to our Sponsors



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— OHIO —

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Ascent Advisors, LLC

## Santa Trot & Santa Senior Shoebox Community Partners

- Edge Teen Center
- Lakota Local School District
- Boys & Girls Club of West Chester Liberty
- Big Brothers and & Big Sisters Hamilton
- Planes Moving and Storage
- The Print Bug
- Voyacy Wealth Advisors
- Welling Jewelers
- West Chester Hospital
- West Chester Liberty Chamber Alliance

# 2026 Calendar

**05**

## **Mental Health Conference (late spring 2026)**

Our Mental Health focus in 2026 was be on the fatigue that many first responders and mental health professional workers are feeling and strategies to avoid burnout.

**06**

## **Food with Friends, June 6th**

Food with Friends will continue to teach cooking skills to all ages, focused on prepping, cooking and serving budget friendly meals.

**06**

## **Mental Health Conference, June 25th**

This conference "The Joy Conference" is centered on cultivating a positive mindset—learning how to turn difficult moments into meaningful growth and discovering joy even in life's challenges.

**10**

## **Chili Cookoff, October 4th**

Our annual Firefighter Chili Challenge is sure to be tasty and entertaining, with family activities for everyone to enjoy!

**11**

## **Veterans Tribute, November 6th**

Our Veterans Tribute will celebrate our local veterans through a patriotic musical tribute and an inspiring keynote speaker who will honor their service and sacrifice.

**12**

## **Santa Trot, December 5th**

Enjoy a 2-mile Santa Run, a special Workshop with Santa, hands-on workshops, and plenty of kids' activities for all ages. A jolly day of holiday cheer for the whole family.

New to 2026, The Phoenix Fund.  
For more info please visit our website at  
[www.c3ohio.org](http://www.c3ohio.org).

