

## Vision and Mission of the Council on Older Persons

**Mission:** As an advisory committee of The Center for Community Solutions, the **Council on Older Persons' (COOP)** mission is to promote a better understanding of aging and address the issues and concerns of older person in Greater Cleveland through citizen-led needs assessment, policy development, community education and advocacy. COOP's members include leaders in the aging network who come together to develop strategies, lead advocacy efforts, and implement solutions.

**Vision:** COOP's vision is to shift the community conversation away from one that looks at older adults and persons with disabilities as liabilities. Instead, these individuals and the systems that serve with and for them are community assets and priority stakeholders. They are essential to the future of Northeast Ohio. These individuals and systems make essential contributions to the local economy, enhance the social fabric of the community, and add value to the human services sector.

## COOP Leadership

### Chair

**Catherine Ciha**

*Senior Transportation Connection*

### Vice Chair

**Stacey O'Brien**

*Ursuline College*

### Program Committee Chair

**Marsha Mitchell-Banks**

*NAMI Greater Cleveland*

### Legislative Committee Co-Chairs

**Yvonne Oliver**

*Universal Health Care Action Network  
Ohio*

**Denise Rucker-Burton**

*The Division of Senior and Adult Services*

### Nominating Committee Chair

**Stacey Rokoff MSSA, LSW Evi-Base**

**Meetings are every other month.**

**To learn more about COOP, please visit  
[www.communitysolutions.com](http://www.communitysolutions.com)**

**The Center for Community Solutions**

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The **Council on Older Persons (COOP)** serves as an advisory committee for **The Center for Community Solutions** and as a resource to support communities, organizations, and institutions to promote the well-being of older adults through **education, awareness, and advocacy.**

**Winner of the 2016  
Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging  
Advocacy Organization of the Year**



# Older Adults are an asset to the Community

## Economic Impact

**Employers** — Baby Boomers ages 45 to 64 form businesses at a higher rate than other age groups. Retiring Boomer business owners will sell or bequeath \$10 trillion worth of assets over the next two decades (Source: CABB)

**Employees** — Seniors are employees, providing immeasurable wisdom and experiences to fellow employees in the workplace

**Volunteers** — Seniors are volunteers, providing unpaid service and knowledge to the community (seniors accounted for 23 million volunteer in 2015, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics)

**Homeowners** — Senior homeowners generate income and property tax receipts

*Nationally, seniors hold \$8 trillion in home equity.*

Source: Freddie Mac [http://www.freddiemac.com/news/blog/dave\\_lowman/20160809\\_baby\\_boomer\\_homeowners.html](http://www.freddiemac.com/news/blog/dave_lowman/20160809_baby_boomer_homeowners.html)

## Social Contributions

- Historians and institutional memory
- Wisdom in decision making, often shaped by life experiences
- Civic engagement and organizational leadership (e.g.: commissions, boards, clubs)
- Voting, poll workers, higher turnout as a cohort



*Seniors aged 60 and over comprise over 30% of the electorate in Cuyahoga County. In the last 2012 Presidential Election, national voter turnout among seniors (50+) was more than 70%.*

Sources: Cuyahoga Co. BOE, The Henry Kaiser Family Foundation [http://ltcombudsman.org/uploads/files/issues/Voting\\_Issues\\_and\\_Elders-1.pdf](http://ltcombudsman.org/uploads/files/issues/Voting_Issues_and_Elders-1.pdf)

## Aging services agencies ensure strong neighborhoods

- Promote social inclusion and diversity
- Coordinate and collaborate to ensure access to services
- Use of best practice, effectiveness, and efficiency across the continuum of care
- Content experts on services to older adults and persons with disabilities



*Approximately 29% of Greater Clevelanders aged 65-74 volunteer; 18.9% of those 75 and older volunteer in the community.*

Source: "Volunteering and Civic Engagement in the United States, National Conference on Citizenship"  
<https://www.volunteeringinamerica.gov/OH/Cleveland>