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PRESS RELEASE
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**Wesley Community Services Designated
Site for Full-Time AmeriCorps VISTA Volunteer**

Wesley Community Services has been approved to receive a full-time AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer through the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks (OASHF). Wesley was one of 35 approved host sites out of 189 applicant agencies throughout the state of Ohio. All the agencies awarded a VISTA volunteer for the coming year are involved in addressing poverty or hunger.

“Wesley Community Services VISTA volunteer will be involved in coordinating our volunteer services in Meals-On-Wheels and transportation and working with our WesleyLinks program, involving 65 area churches seeking to assist their senior congregation members to stay in their homes for as long as possible” says Stephen Smookler, Executive Director of Wesley Community Services. “We are thrilled that we were one of the agencies approved as a VISTA site in Ohio. VISTA volunteers are being given the opportunity to commit a year of their life to service.” said Smookler.

The OASHF serves as an intermediary for the Corporation for National and Community Service. The placement of national service volunteers into community and faith-based organizations is occurring through its SHARECorps program, an initiative of OASHF and AmeriCorps*VISTA.

Dustin Speakman, Director of Community Services for OASHF explained, “Due to tough economic times, Ohio’s unemployment rate continues to rise and the SHARECorps program gives individuals the opportunity to come together and help our neighbors in need”.

If you are interested in applying for the VISTA 12-month position available, which will focus on organizing Wesley Community Services volunteer activities and provide staff assistance to WesleyLinks, go to <http://my.americorps.gov> and click Search Listings, Select Program Type as AmeriCorps VISTA, and State as Ohio, Type OASHF in Program Name and click Search, Click on the listing you are interested in, Read the description, then scroll down and click Apply Now! Candidates for the position at Wesley Community Services must be a college graduate interested in serving seniors and individuals with disabilities, like to be around people, and have excellent communications skills. Successful candidates will have good computer skills. Deadline for applying is June 11. Great opportunity for a person who wants to serve mankind and make a difference. Federal program provides small stipend and great benefits.

About Wesley Community Services

Wesley Community Services fosters and supports seniors seeking to remain in their home for as long as possible through the provision of essential home-based services including Home Cleaning Services, Meals-On-Wheels, Specialized Transportation, and a Pet Portions Program (free pet food for client pets) to over 2,300 seniors and individuals with disabilities. Wesley Community Services is funded by the Council on Aging of Southwestern Ohio and is a United Way partner agency. For more information about Wesley Community Services call 513/661-2777, or visit www.wesleycs.org.

About AmeriCorps*VISTA

AmeriCorps is an opportunity to make a big difference in your life and in the lives of those around you. It's a chance to apply skills and ideals toward helping others and meeting critical needs throughout communities. Each year, AmeriCorps offers 75,000 opportunities for adults of all ages and backgrounds to serve through a network of partnerships with local and national nonprofit groups.

About the Corporation for National and Community Service

The Corporation for National and Community Service acts as a catalyst by providing support to volunteer organizations that, in turn, deliver much-needed services to communities throughout the country. In Ohio, the CNCS is based out of the state's capital of Columbus and provides much needed support to many nonprofit and volunteer based organizations.