

News Release



Ilene Shapiro – Summit County Executive
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro Receives SOAR Award

On May 3rd, 2018, Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro received the Joe Ruby Collaboration in Aging Service Award. This award is given to an individual/s or organization who have improved services for older adults through collaboration in Summit County.

The 2018 Inaugural Summit Oscars for Aging Resources (SOAR) Awards, sponsored by Vantage Aging, seek to raise awareness of aging issues in Summit County, encourage collaboration between people, businesses, government, and nonprofit service providers, and offer an opportunity to nominate outstanding individuals, communities, and organizations who deserve public acknowledgement for outstanding service to the aging population.

“I am humbled and honored to receive the Joe Ruby Collaboration in Aging Service Award,” said County Executive Ilene Shapiro. “Summit County values our senior residents and we want to continue to focus on collaborations that will enhance care, support, quality of life, and services for the senior population. I would also like to congratulate nominee Holly Miller from our Community and Economic Development Department, and all of the SOAR nominees and recipients for the incredible work they do in Summit County and beyond.”

County Executive Shapiro’s impact throughout the senior community in Summit County focuses largely within programs and partnerships established within the Executive’s Department of Community and Economic Development. The Department has been able to utilize funding received from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Department of

Energy to leverage funds from FirstEnergy, Direction Home, Cleveland Housing Network Partners and the City of Green. Funding is utilized to provide ADA modifications, furnace replacements, hot water tank replacement, insulation, LED light bulbs, lead abatement, new refrigerators and new freezers. All programs are designed to allow older adults to stay in their own homes and lower their energy burden.

Partnerships have also been established with the Summit County Public Health Department's Hoarding Task force to assist clients that need assistance de-cluttering their homes prior to having work completed. Presentations are made to senior groups on how to save energy in their homes by making small changes in their daily routines. Presentations also include sharing information regarding programs that are available to Summit County residents.

A comprehensive Senior Booklet has been prepared by the Executive's Department of Administration and Public Information detailing services that are available through other agencies. Community Development Block Grant dollars are granted to local communities for senior citizen projects such as a senior walking trail in New Franklin, a Senior Playground in Springfield Township and senior center upgrades and ADA modifications in Macedonia, the Village of Clinton, and the Village of Richfield. These provide a vibrant living environment for older adults.

For more information: <http://vantageaging.org/events/soar/>

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