



February 2024

Be sure to catch up on Greenleaf's program updates, learn about our upcoming Night at the Races event and more.



## Our Appreciation

We are grateful for the following foundations, funds and donors who have supported our important programming through their generous grants and gifts:

Our sincere gratitude to the **Akron Community Foundation** for their generous \$10,000 grant to provide additional capacity to support parents of children with complex needs and involved in multiple systems of care. This grant was made possible thanks to the discretionary funds awarded from the **H.A. Flannery Family Fund and James R. Flannery Family Fund** and the **Bruce Mansfield Fund** and we thank them.

**Akron Community Foundation's Community Fund - Health & Human Services** also provided a \$10,000 grant to support this same growing need and we are grateful.

Our sincere gratitude to **MG O'Neil Foundation** for their generous \$10,000 donation in support of our Annual Appeal.

We are forever grateful to **Terry and Mary Kay Finn** for their \$1,500 gift to support our Annual Appeal.

We appreciate the generosity of **Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton Amer** for their \$1,500 gift to support our Annual Appeal.

We are grateful to be the beneficiary of **TRIAD's Design4Good** pro bono Partnership Program's grant worth up to \$4,000 for design services for our Night at the Races event.

Our thanks to the **Synthomer Foundation** for their \$3,500 grant to support parents of children with complex needs in our PEERS program.

We appreciate everyone who supports the valuable work we do to strengthen individuals and families in our community.



Greenleaf sends out a heartfelt THANK YOU to all of our donors who contributed to our year-end Annual Appeal and supported us throughout 2023! We couldn't do our important work without you! You have made a difference in the lives of the families and individuals we serve and we are grateful! Your support truly reflects your kindness and generosity and we thank you!

**Goodyear Helps Brighten the Christmas Holiday  
for the Families We Serve**



This Christmas was brighter for 98 families (325 people) because of the generosity and kindness of **Goodyear** employees! Year in and year out, Goodyear's employees shower our clients with hundreds of gifts from their wish lists to make their holidays merrier and we are forever grateful! This past year 2 truck loads were packed full! On behalf of our Board, staff and most importantly, our clients, our sincere thanks to Goodyear!



## Save the Date!

15th Annual Night at the Races - June 22, 2024



Save the date for our upcoming signature event, **Night at the Races** on **Saturday, June 22, 2024**. This action-packed horse racing event is always a fan favorite! Mark your calendar for this fun-filled evening of horse racing, raffles, sideboards, and great food to support our mission of offering counseling, education, and support programs to those in need. We look forward to seeing you at St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church in Fairlawn.

Continue to watch for updates and information will be posted to our **website** soon!

## Program News

### Our Own Phoebe Boyd was Highlighted in the National Sources of Strength Newsletter



#### Phoebe went From Peer Leader to Adult Advisor

##### When did you first join Sources of Strength?

I first joined Sources of Strength in my senior year of high school, although I wish it was sooner. I was 17 going on 18 and went to Woodridge High School. When I first got the letter that I had been nominated for sources I was very happy to be nominated in general. Then came the curiosity, what is this for, what are we going to be doing, should I join, or should I not? Fortunately, I was at a time in my life where I had learned to try everything that comes your way and that's just what I did.

**What do you like about Sources as a program?**

I've always been a pretty positive person, so for the Sources of Strength messaging to be focused on Hope, Help, and Strength is pretty spot on for me. I like how it not only brings the students in the program together but also the all students in the building who might see the campaigns. I love how it is student-run because as a student you're so tired of adults *talking at you* all the time. It's nice for students to not only be the focus but also the driving force behind everything. And, of course, I also love how there are also snacks and games involved.

**What did you enjoy most about Sources as a Peer Leader?**

I have always tried my best to help and be a shoulder to cry on when people/friends were at low points in their lives. Going to that training was kind of emotional and spiritual. It opened my eyes to connect with different people I haven't before and to different issues going on that I hadn't thought about. I loved being a peer leader in general but specifically because it gave me a way I could impact people's lives deeper than what I had been before.

**What do you enjoy most about Sources as an Adult Advisor?**

Being an adult advisor is the best part of my job. I get to go to the schools and play games with the Peer Leaders, talk to them, and help them with campaign ideas. If I'm being honest though, my favorite part of being an Adult Advisor is being a trusted adult. I understand students sometimes may not have a trusted adult or want to talk to the same person over and over. The Peer Leaders know that I'm there to play games, brainstorm, make campaigns come to life, but most importantly talk and get them help if they need it.

**Any advice for other Adult Advisors out there?**

I know it's hard as an adult to trust and let kids do what they want, or think is best but this is exactly what the program is for. I mean yes, monitor them and guide them in a positive direction but, Sources is for the Peer Leaders to finally have a leading role in their own school. With Sources, students can change the culture, habits, views, and atmosphere of the school, peers, and even staff. As long as you let the Peer Leaders do their part of leading you will most definitely see these changes.

I think another important thing to remember is that Sources is fun and creative not some writing or math assignment. So don't just hang posters or give boring speeches. Play games, make murals, and *definitely* have a mentor madness bracket. Do things that will be remembered for years to come, so alumni can say "Hey do you remember when that Sources group made that huge colorful tree in the middle of the school?" Sources should be, can be life-changing.

But my most important advice for adult advisors would be, don't not forget your role as the TRUSTED adult. You are now part of a close-knit group of students who most likely identify you as a trusted adult. So don't forget that these Peer Leaders may also need you and more help just as much as the kids who aren't in the meetings.

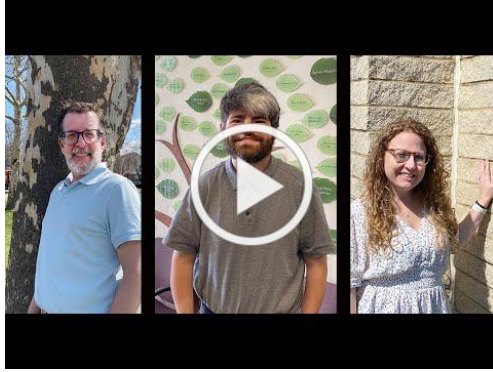
**If you could go back and tell your past-Peer-Leader-self one thing, what would you say?**

I would tell myself that because of your growth as a person teachers noticed you. Because of you being open to new opportunities you created amazing campaigns. Because of your passion for sources, you got offered a job/career. Because you chose to be a Peer Leader, your entire life changed.

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**Case Management Services Through CSD Helped Our Deaf Client Secure a Successful Career**

This enlightening video showcases Spencer's path from high school to a career as a machinist at Swagelok. Spencer is Deaf and he learned valuable skills while working with Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) and our own Community Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CSD) Program's, Mark Byrd. Mark was Spencer's job coach. Learn how Karen Penny Murphy from OOD and Mark helped to shape Spencer's success.



## Greenleaf's CSD Announces an American Sign Language (ASL) Tax Preparation Day

We are excited to announce that our CSD program is hosting a special Deaf and Hard of Hearing ASL Tax Preparation Day in partnership with **United Way of Summit & Medina's** Financial Empowerment Center. This event will be held on March 28 from 4 – 7pm.

To schedule a tax preparation appointment, please call CSD's VP: 234.525.6176 or P: 330.376.3665. The flyer below also includes the required documents needed for the appointment.



# FREE TAX PREP



Does your household earn less than \$64,000 per year? If so, you're eligible for FREE tax preparation services from United Way's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program!

Tax prep will be at our Financial Empowerment Center, 1060 Kenmore Blvd, Akron. Tax prep options include in-person, drop-off and free self-file.

Drop-offs accepted on Mondays between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.

## SCHEDULE TODAY!

CALL 2-1-1 OR VISIT [UWSUMMITMEDINA.ORG/FEC](http://UWSUMMITMEDINA.ORG/FEC)  
Appointment Required

If your household makes less than \$79,000, you are eligible to Self-File. Please email [vita@uws Summit Medina.org](mailto:vita@uws Summit Medina.org) to receive access to the no-cost tax software. Tax experts are ready to assist with tax questions if you are using the supplied tax software.

## REQUIRED DOCUMENTS FOR YOUR TAX APPOINTMENT



- 1 Photo ID for yourself and your spouse, if filing jointly\*
- 2 Social Security number for you, your spouse, and any dependents. Acceptable documents include:
  - Social Security Card
  - Social Security verification letter issued by the Social Security Administration
  - Social Security income statement
- 3 Income documentation (W-2, 1099, Social Security Benefit Statement, etc) for the tax year
- 4 Self-employment documentation, if applicable (mileage and other related expenses, for example)
- 5 1095 A Health Coverage Form (if you had marketplace insurance)
- 6 Copies of the previous year's federal and state tax returns, if available
- 7 Bank routing and account numbers for direct deposit (a voided check is acceptable)
  - If you don't have a bank account and want your refund faster, visit [www.uws Summit Medina.org/services/bank-on-roller-city](http://www.uws Summit Medina.org/services/bank-on-roller-city)
- 8 IP PIN for the current year, if one has ever been issued

\*Your spouse must be available to sign off on required forms if filing jointly.



For all the breastfeeding Moms out there, don't miss out on our upcoming support group on Feb. 29 from 11 am - 1 pm. This session focuses on breastfeeding/postpartum. Contact your Community Health Worker or the Program Manager at (330) 376-3717, ext. 253 to register. We are grateful for the support from our partner, Project Milk Mission!



Presented by  
Project Milk Mission  
and  
Mom's and Babies First:

# Breastfeeding Postpartum

Part 2  
11:00am - 1:00pm  
Summit Lake Community Center  
380 W. Crosier St. Akron, OH  
44311

## 29 February

RSVP by 4:30pm on  
Feb. 6, 2024  
Contact your Community  
Health Worker or the program  
manager at  
330-376-3717 EXT 253



### Donate Today

Donors like you make it possible for Greenleaf to deliver life changing care.

Did you know that a **\$25** donation would provide books and therapy tools to help children in counseling?

Or that a **\$50** donation provides group therapy for a single mom struggling from trauma and hoping to gain better parenting skills?

**YOUR** contribution helps us to do everything we can to strengthen individuals and families.

[www.greenleafctr.org](http://www.greenleafctr.org)

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