



333 Fourth Street, Marietta, OH 45750
Phone (740) 373-3914 Fax (740) 373-8191

Enriching. Engaging. Empowering. *for 25 years*



PRESS RELEASE
March 23, 2011

For more information: Terry L. Zdrale
(740) 373-3914

O'Neill Center Celebrates 25 Years of Service

The original incorporators of O'Neill Senior Center, Inc., Ralph Gearhart, Ethel Guthrie, and Marian B. Schimmel, could not have imagined the important role the O'Neill Center would play in lives of thousands of Washington County's older citizens. In 1986, the fledgling program offered mostly recreational opportunities and minimal services. Today, the O'Neill Center provides a multitude of vital services and programs all designed to help seniors be HIP: Healthy, Independent and Productive.

"Remaining healthy, active, and socially connected is important to successful aging", said Terry L. Zdrale, the Center's Executive Director. "O'Neill Center provides opportunities to exercise both mind and body – from art to Zumba."

Many older adults benefit from O'Neill's services, which are designed to keep folks healthy and independent. Assistance provided in the home makes it possible for those with limited abilities to continue living where they prefer—in their own homes. Loving caregivers have found much needed support and respite at the Center's adult day program. Still others have received free medications, rides to the doctor, help with Medicare concerns and even a daily phone call to assure their safety.

At the same time, seniors who have a more active lifestyle have traveled around the country on group tours, met new authors, socialized and exercised. Many have participated in health related screenings and programs, enjoyed exciting entertainers and some friendly competition.

As O'Neill Center begins its 25th year of service to the community, it wishes to acknowledge the many partners, businesses and individual supporters that have made the journey possible. With that in mind, the public is invited to join in the celebration at an open house planned for Monday, March 28th from 3 to 6 pm. Staff and volunteers will be on hand to greet visitors and lead tours. The O'Neill Center is one of 200 centers, which has been accredited by the National Institute of Senior Centers. The O'Neill Center is also a participating agency with both the Washington County United Way and the Mid Ohio Valley Alliance United Way.

#####

