

## NEWS RELEASE



### **For immediate release**

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**March 4, 2010, Marietta, Ohio** – The O'Neill Senior Center has been re-accredited by the National Institute of Senior Centers (NISC), a unit of the National Council on the Aging (NCOA), located in Washington DC. The five-year accreditation is an official recognition that O'Neill Center is meeting its mission in a nationally accepted, professional method. The O'Neill Center was first accredited in 2005.

NISC accreditation is the end result of a rigorous two-step process that involved an agency self-assessment and on-site inspection by reviewers from the National Institute of Senior Centers. The assessment process included input from O'Neill board and staff members, senior center participants, and community leaders. Over a period of months, committees examined policies, budgets, files, operations, programs, procedures and facilities.

“Successfully achieving accreditation status takes the work of many people both in the senior center and in the community. When these two groups work together the rewards will be felt for many years to come,” said Sharon L. Lally, Co-Chair, National Senior Center Accreditation Board. “The organization (O'Neill) demonstrates outstanding leadership and commitment to quality programs and services. We are pleased to have the O'Neill Center on the list of more than 185 senior centers who meet the standards as developed by NISC. These are centers that are held up as models for others to follow. ”

“Through the accreditation process we were able to evaluate, and then set even higher goals in order to deliver quality services and programs for older adults in the future.” said Libby Brokaw, President of O’Neill Board of Trustees.

The O'Neill Senior Center is a not-for-profit organization that serves older adults from throughout Washington County. The organization provides vital services such as medical transportation, adult day services, prescription assistance, homemaking, and social services. Countless numbers of older adults enjoy a wide variety of fitness and life enrichment programs, which promote healthy aging and independence. A strategic alliance between the O’Neill Center and the City of Belpre provides enhanced and expanded opportunities for seniors in the Belpre area.

The National Institute of Senior Centers (NISC) is a dynamic network of professionals who represent the senior center field, which serves millions of older Americans each year through community-based senior centers nationwide. These professionals and their centers serve as effective agents for the provision of services and opportunities to older people.

The Institute serves as the most appropriate vehicle for coordination, communication, action, and guidance to the Senior Center field on a national level. Promoting the growth, development, and expansion of Senior Centers; developing Senior Center leadership; working to improve the quality of activities and services in Senior Centers; and enhancing the Senior Center image are among the many purposes of NISC.

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