



A NON-PROFIT SERVING VOLUSIA SENIORS
Council on Aging of Volusia County

COA's DIAMOND CONNECTION

The mission of Council on Aging of Volusia County is to enrich the lives of our most vulnerable elderly citizens by providing needed services that enable them to remain safely, comfortably, and with dignity in their own homes.

JULY/AUGUST 2025

Dear Friends and Supporters of COA,

As we embark on the second half of 2025, we want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible work being done in our community—and thank you for being a vital part of it.



At Council on Aging of Volusia County, Inc., our mission has always been simple but powerful: To support seniors in living at home with dignity, independence, and connection. Whether it's a hot meal delivered to a homebound neighbor, a friendly voice on the other end of the phone, or developing activities and inviting engaging speakers to present educational programs, these everyday services are lifelines. And they're only possible because of people like you.

We are continually inspired by the stories we hear every day—

Like Cynthia, who lives down the street from COA's Dining Site in Daytona Beach. Prior to coming to COA, her life was null; she was underweight and needed exercise. Since she lived just down the street, she would get exercise walking there and ultimately gained the necessary weight, thanks to the meals we provide. Now, one year later, she's made so many new friends. Cynthia highly recommends visiting one of our local dining sites to others who have nowhere to go.

Like Jackie, who, when she first started coming, would not engage or take part in games or crafts. After a few weeks, she was participating. Now she has made friends, plays Bingo, and even plays cards. Our warm and welcoming environment draws in new members while fostering continued involvement from existing clients.

We are often asked, **"What are your current needs?"** Right now, our greatest need is for disposable consumable products, such as Depend undergarments, protective underpads, and nutritional protein drinks, like Ensure and Boost. For ease of shopping, we have created an Amazon Wish List with our most in-demand items. Simply click on this link and anything you purchase will be shipped directly to our Daytona Beach office for immediate

distribution: ["Aging with Dignity" Campaign](#)

Our work is not just about services—it's about honoring lives well lived and ensuring that no one ages alone or unnoticed.

Thank you for your continued trust, generosity, and belief in our shared mission.

With our warmest regards and gratitude,

Eveline Kraljic and Terri Karol
Co-Executive Directors

Summer's Heating Up... and So Is the Dance Floor!

Now that we're on the other side of the 4th of July, summer is about to go into overdrive—and that means it's almost time for one of our favorite Council on Aging of Volusia County traditions: the Annual Dancing Through the Decades Event!

Have you gotten your tickets yet? If not, don't wait! Call Doreen Willett, our Community Engagement Liaison, at 386-253-2700 x 239, or simply scan the QR code on the "Dancing Through the Decades" flyer a few articles down to grab your tickets today!

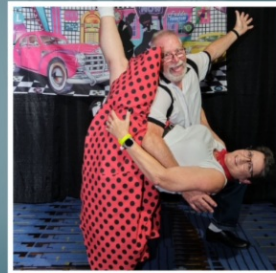
- Tickets are just \$55 (all ages) and include:
- A delicious 3-course plated dinner
- Non-stop dancing to hits from every decade
- An evening packed with fun, friends, and festivities!

So go ahead—dust off those dancing shoes and pick your favorite fashion from the decade that speaks to you most. Whether it's poodle skirts or parachute pants, disco balls or daisy chains, we want to see you WOW the crowd!

We can't wait to see you there!

In the meantime, enjoy a few snapshots from past years below and get ready to make new memories on the dance floor!

*Dancing Through
the Decades*



Dancing Through the Decades





Service Spotlight ^{with}



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The Older Americans Act (OAA) helps organizations like the Council on Aging support seniors in the community.

In this *Diamond Connection*, we want to spotlight our **Personal Care** service, to keep your loved ones feeling their best. To serve our joint mission of helping seniors age with dignity in their own homes, a CNA or HHA will assist with bathing, showering, dressing, grooming, and hygiene services. We at COA believe that everyone deserves access to a clean, safe shower or bath and are grateful for the support of the OAA to keep your loved ones comfortable in their own homes.



Find more Information at
coavolusia.org

Why the Older Americans Act Matters

We all deserve to age well. And the Older Americans Act (OAA) helps make that possible for millions of Americans.

How?

In the 1960s, advocates and policymakers were finally starting to appreciate the breadth of support needed by older adults—support needed by older adults—and how much things like health and economic security overlapped. Among the bills passed in response were the Medicare and Medicaid Act and the Older Americans Act (OAA) in 1965.

While Medicare and Medicaid are well-known, the OAA has always worked behind the scenes. It is the quiet backbone of federal aging policy, acting as a hub of funding and guidance that responds to specific aging needs. The services it fuels have evolved over time to include:

- Home-delivered and congregate (group) meals
- Senior center programs
- Family caregiver support
- America's only senior-focused job training and employment program
- Transportation assistance
- Chronic disease education and self-management programs
- Falls prevention programs
- Home- and community-based health care to help people age in place
- Protections against elder abuse and elder fraud

- Rules and regulations for nursing homes

[CLICK HERE TO READ THE FULL NATIONAL COUNCIL ON AGING ARTICLE](#)

CAREGIVERS HELP PREVENT ELDER FRAUD

Have a discussion
about common
scams and ways
that seniors can
protect themselves.

See the *Fraud Schemes* page at
www.smpresource.org for Medicare scams.



you can help

800.963.5337

FLORIDASHINE.ORG

SUPPORTED BY GRANT # 90MPRC0002 FROM ACL
<https://dailyaring.com/8-ways-to-protect-seniors-from-financial-fraud-and-scams/>

Caregivers Help Prevent Elder Fraud

Caregivers play a vital role in protecting older adults from scams. Take time to talk with your loved ones about common Medicare and healthcare fraud schemes and how to stay safe.

Open conversations can help seniors recognize red flags, avoid giving out personal information, and know when to report suspicious activity.

The SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders) Program and the Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) offer free help to educate, protect, and empower Medicare beneficiaries and their caregivers.

Call SHINE: 1-800-963-5337

Visit: www.floridashine.org

**#CaregiversAgainstFraud #SeniorSafety #ElderFraudAwareness #SMP
#SHINEProgram #MedicareProtection #FraudPrevention #FloridaSHINE**

**DONATION DRIVE OPPORTUNITY FOR
INDIVIDUALS, COMMUNITIES,
BUSINESSES, CHURCHES &
CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS TO HELP
SENIORS**

“Aging with Dignity”

With our ever-increasing population of seniors, the demand for Council on Aging of Volusia County’s critical services is rising faster than ever. We must respond to ensure no one goes without the support and services they deserve.

Our “Aging with Dignity” campaign goes hand in hand with our services in many ways.

We are accepting donations of the following consumable products for our clients:

- Depends, Poise Pads - incontinence products
- “Chucks Pads” (also known as chux pads) - absorbent, disposable underpads used to protect mattresses and bedding
- Disposable Wipes
- Protective Gloves - to change undergarments/bedding
- Protein Drinks - Ensure, Boost or equivalent types of drinks (protein drinks can be a convenient and nutritious way for seniors to meet their daily protein needs, which are typically higher in older adults)



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Consumable products are vital to the overall comfort and well-being of our many clients who are low-income seniors unable to afford these essential supplies. By providing these important items, we can ensure that seniors in our community have the supplies they need to maintain their health and dignity.



All donations can be dropped off at the main office:
Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
420 Fentress Blvd.
Daytona Beach, FL 32114
386-253-4700

A recent donation of consumable products for the “Aging with Dignity” program made by the WOW (Women of Worship) group from the United Methodist Church in Ormond Beach.

We are so grateful for their support year after year.

THANK YOU!!!

For easy shopping and delivery directly to COA:

"Aging with Dignity" Amazon Wish List



Health First delivers "Christmas in July" for COA clients!



Thank you *Health First* for your kindness and generosity by fulfilling our Christmas in July list of "Aging With Dignity" products!



Thanks to *Health First*, we have happy **Daytona Beach Diners** receiving the **Health First** goody bags!



Thanks to *Health First*, we have happy COA staff who will deliver nutritious protein drinks to their clients!

Hurricane Season is here - Are you Ready?



Essential Tips to Keep You Prepared!



Create an Emergency Kit

Prepare an emergency kit with:

- Non-perishable food and water for at least 3 days
- First aid supplies and medications
- Flashlights, batteries, and a battery-powered radio



Develop a Family Emergency Plan

- Identify a safe room or the safest areas in your home
- Plan evacuation routes and meeting places
- Ensure all family members know the plan and practice it regularly



Stay Informed

- Monitor weather forecasts and updates from trusted sources
- Sign up for local emergency alerts
- Have a NOAA Weather Radio for real-time updates



Protect Your Home

- Secure windows and doors with storm shutters or plywood
- Bring in outdoor furniture and secure loose items
- Trim trees and shrubs to minimize damage



Know Your Evacuation Zone

- Learn your community's hurricane evacuation routes
- Follow the instructions of local officials during an evacuation order
- Have a plan for your pets



Stay Connected

- Charge all electronic devices and have backup power sources
- Keep a list of emergency contacts
- Use social media responsibly to stay updated and inform others of your status

For more detailed tips and resources, visit www.volusia.org/hurricane or call 866-345-0345



We would like to thank the following sponsors for their generous support of our upcoming "Dancing Through the Decades" Event:

Presenting Sponsor: Halifax Health Hospice

Waltz Sponsor
Family Health Source

Jazz Sponsors
Lohman Funeral Homes

Tango Sponsors
Mara Law | Conviva Care Centers

Salsa Sponsors
Sender Retreat | Absolute Health | JJ's Dance Fusion
Florida Power & Light | AdventHealth

Disco Sponsors
Seacoast Bank | Health First | Emerald Assisted Living
Stay for a Day | Family First Firm

Cocktail Hour Sponsor
Arrow Clinical Trials

Photography Sponsor
Wire 3

DJ Sponsor
First Light Homecare



General Sponsorship Levels

Waltz Sponsor - \$5,000

Opportunity to hold 12 Educational Presentations at a COA Senior Center*
Two VIP tables for ten w/premium seating, sponsor & table signage

Jazz Sponsor - \$2,500

Opportunity to hold 6 Educational Presentations at a COA Senior Center*
One VIP table for ten w/premium seating, sponsor & table signage

Tango Sponsor - \$1,500

Opportunity to hold 3 Educational Presentations at a COA Senior Center*
One VIP table for ten w/premium seating, sponsor & table signage

Salsa Sponsor - \$1,000

Opportunity to hold 1 Educational Presentation at a COA Senior Center*
One reserved table for ten

Disco Sponsor - \$500

4 Tickets to Event

Exclusive Sponsorship Levels

(Reserved for One Sponsor per Level)

Valet Sponsor - \$2,500

Opportunity to hold 6 Educational Presentations at a COA Senior Center*
One VIP table for ten w/premium seating, sponsor & table signage

Cocktail Hour Sponsor - \$2,000

Opportunity to hold 4 Educational Presentations at a COA Senior Center*
One VIP table for ten w/premium seating, sponsor & table signage

Photographer Sponsor - \$1,750

Opportunity to hold 3 Educational Presentations at a COA Senior Center*
One VIP table for ten w/premium seating; logo on ALL event photos

DJ Sponsor - \$750

6 Tickets to Event

ALL OF THE ABOVE SPONSORSHIP LEVELS INCLUDE:

Name & logo recognition during event; display table available upon request

Provide swag bag items for up to 500 guests

All event media promotion & recognition w/logo

*Educational Presentations Must be Pre-Approved by COA



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Council on Aging of Volusia County

SCAN QR CODE BELOW TO PURCHASE TICKETS



PRESENTS

Dancing Through The Decades

Friday, September 12, 2025

6:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Hilton Daytona Beach Oceanfront Resort

"DANCING THROUGH THE DECADES" IS A SPECTACULAR NIGHT OF FOOD, FUN, AND LOTS OF DANCING! JOIN US ON THE DANCE FLOOR AS WE GO ON A MUSICAL JOURNEY THROUGH THE DECADES!

Tickets Are Now Available!

All Tickets: \$55.00/Person
Reserved Table for Ten: \$550.00



Ticket price includes plated dinner!

Scan me to purchase tickets!



Interested in being a sponsor? Call 386.253.4700, ext. 239 or email dwillett@coavolusia.org

Proceeds benefit Council on Aging of Volusia County's programs and services that support our area's most vulnerable seniors.





Who's that behind the "Volunteer Cape"?

A Heartfelt Thank You from Our Deltona Nutrition Coordinator

Our Nutrition Coordinator in Deltona, **Laura Blocker**, wants to give a special shout-out to a few of her everyday heroes who keep things running smoothly with dedication, compassion, and an incredible work ethic.

In Laura's own words: "I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge **Kathleen Justis**, **Pete Zapitz**, **Dennis Jefferson**, **Cynthia Fort**, **Sari Blondell**, and **Brandy White**, who have truly been an incredible help over the past couple of months. The Deltona dining site has been short on drivers weekly, and not only are these volunteers covering their regular routes, but they are also stepping up to take on extras—ensuring our clients continue to receive the meals they depend on.

These Meals on Wheels volunteers are simply amazing—in the best way possible! Beyond their work with COA, they also give their time to other organizations and show such genuine care for the people they serve. They constantly provide updates about our clients, whether it's health-related or just day-to-day well-being, treating each client like family. They are truly the most caring group of people I've ever met.

I especially want to thank **Kathleen Justis**, to whom I owe an enormous debt of gratitude. Kathleen not only volunteers almost every single day, but she also manages the scheduling for all the drivers. She arranges routes, ensures everyone is happy and supported, and keeps me in the loop on anything that needs attention—often solving problems before I even hear about them. She

has us scheduled and covered sometimes a month in advance! I honestly can't imagine doing this job without her.

To all of my drivers—thank you for your unwavering dedication and for making this job a true joy to come to every day. Please know that I appreciate and care about each and every one of you deeply.”

"I also want to take a moment to give a **HUGE** shout-out to the amazing team of volunteers who help make everything run smoothly for our clients who come in to eat, play games, and enjoy each other's company. Their dedication, kindness, and willingness to jump in wherever needed make my job not only possible but also so much more joyful.

I truly could not do it all without them. From daily operations to behind-the-scenes magic, they are the heartbeat of this center.

Special thanks to:

- **Ngaly and Todd Frank** – take charge twice a week with energy and enthusiasm. Their reliability is unmatched.
- **Carmen De Bosques** – who comes in every single day and, at her age, still puts everyone to shame with her drive and positivity. We all look at her in awe, wishing we could grow up to be just like her!
- **Tony Adames and Roberto Rivera** – my special guys who truly have my heart. They spoil not only me but everyone around them. Roberto is always there when you need him—there isn't anything he wouldn't do. He's an inspiration to us all.

Though not pictured, we're lucky to have even more wonderful volunteers who make a huge impact:

- **Carol Lewis** – keeps everything in order with reservations and sign-ins to help us track our visitors with care and precision.
- **Thuanne Melo** – our delightful college student who helps at the front desk once a week (or whenever we need her). Everyone loves her bright spirit!
- **Kathy Hamel** – who not only covers the front desk but also handles our Publix donation pickups every Friday—a big job that makes a big difference. Thanks to her, we have plenty of breads and goodies to serve daily.
- **Maritza Bryan** – a gem of a volunteer who's always one step ahead of me, with a heart of gold.
- **Helen and Glen Kogan** – our newest team members, already making a wonderful impact in the kitchen and with our clients. They serve with warmth and help ensure everything is prepped and ready each day.

To all of you—thank you from the bottom of my heart. Your kindness, hard work, and love for our community don't go unnoticed. I am so grateful to have each and every one of you on our team."

Let's all join Laura in thanking these outstanding volunteers who go above and beyond to care for our seniors and our community. You truly are the heart of what we do!

I WANT TO VOLUNTEER

MEOW...WOOF!!!

Did you know that COA has taken the joy of pet care to a whole new level with our Pet Meals on Wheels program? That's right! We're serving up smiles and tail wags by ensuring seniors and their furry - and feathered - companions are well-fed and happy! It's a "purr-fectly" heartwarming service that brings an "ear scratch" of joy to both pets and their humans.

If you're ready to unleash your enthusiasm and find out how you can help spread this love, please call us at 386-253-4700 x 239. Let's come together as a community to make a "paw-sitive" impact in the lives of our seniors and their beloved pets! ☐



WOULD YOU BE ABLE TO IGNORE THAT ADORABLE FACE?



Our clients can't either.

That's why we offer our Pet Meals on Wheels Program.

Are you going to eat that?

PET MEALS ON WHEELS

COA
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Council on Aging of Volusia County

We are in need of:

Dry/wet food, treats, toys, collars and flea medicine for both cats and dogs; leashes for dogs; cat litter; bird food; and kibble for hamsters

or cash donations to
<https://www.coavolusia.org/donate/index>



Join the ElderSource Advisory Council

ElderSource is seeking volunteer members for its Advisory Council. Duties for an Advisory Council member are to report on the needs of older adults and emerging issues in their respective counties; review and comment on the agency's Area Plan; study

legislative issues and advocate on behalf of the elderly; assist in promoting the mission, programs and activities of the agency; and to educate the public about the needs and the contributions of the elderly.

Meetings are held on the third Thursday of every other month from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. and are conducted virtually using the Zoom platform.

There are currently openings in Baker, Clay, Nassau, and Volusia Counties.

For more information about how to become an ElderSource Advisory Council member, please email AdminSupport@MyElderSource.org.



How You Can Support Council on Aging of Volusia County

Council on Aging of Volusia County is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that relies on the generous financial support of individual donors, foundations and government grants, businesses, and community partners. We are also deeply grateful for the many in-kind donations we receive throughout the year. Without this essential support, we would not be able to provide vital, life-sustaining services to the more than 2,000 clients we serve annually.

Please show your support for the Council on Aging of Volusia County!

There are several meaningful ways you can contribute to help seniors in our community:

- Click the **DONATE** button below
- Mail a check or visit our main office: Council on Aging of Volusia County at 420 Fentress Blvd., Daytona Beach, FL 32114
- Call: Prefer to make a donation over the phone? Call us at 386-253-4700 x215
- In-Kind donations
- Volunteer for different programs

Your generous support directly benefits our clients and helps us continue providing vital services to older adults throughout Volusia County. Every donation makes a difference.

Thank you!

DONATE

**Administrative Offices:
Council on Aging of Volusia County, Inc.
420 Fentress Blvd.
Daytona Beach, FL 32114-1208
386-253-4700**



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A United Way Agency
Visit our website at www.coavolusia.org

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Council on Aging of Volusia County | 420 Fentress Blvd | Daytona Beach, FL 32114 US

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