

ABOUT US

NEED HELP

HOW TO GIVE



The only non-profit organization in Volusia County that focuses on seniors.



In this Newsletter You Can Expect:

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- Highlights from the COA Gala - Honoring the Chanfrau Family Legacy
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- Dancing Through the Decades 2026 - **PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS NOW!**
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- Service Spotlight



Help Seniors in Volusia County

Donate to help a senior in need.

**Donate
Now!**

A Message from Volunteers

Mother and Son, Pat Day and Jon Greene

Mother and son Meals on Wheels drivers, Pat Day and Jon Greene for the COA New Smyrna Beach Nutrition Center



Jon began volunteering as a Meals on Wheels driver for the Council on Aging of Volusia County (COA) in April 2020 during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Inspired by a volunteer recruitment advertisement and encouraged by the example of his brother, Robert, who was volunteering at a local nursing home, Jon felt called to serve seniors in his community.

In Jon's words, "I chose Council on Aging because they asked, and I'm always available to serve."

At the time, Jon's mother, Pat, was still working full-time and was unaware that he had begun delivering meals. Once she learned about his volunteer work, she decided to join him one day each week. It provided an opportunity for them to spend quality time together while making a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

Jon believes strongly in giving back and encourages others to do the same. "It's important in general to find things that are outside of your own interests to get involved with," he said.

For Pat, the experience has been equally rewarding.

"It's a good feeling because you're going to clients' homes where they live by themselves, and you're the only person they may see. They smile, they thank you, and they make you feel like you're making a difference," she shared.

Over the years, Jon and Pat have built special relationships with many of the seniors on their route. One client even invited them to her 100th birthday celebration. Today, she is 102 years old and remains someone they look forward to seeing.

"You get to know them, you care about them, and they seem to care about you. It's a good feeling," Pat said.

Jon and Pat consistently go above and beyond for the seniors they serve. Understanding that many clients have little or no support system, they often spend time chatting with them, put out their trash, or bring them utensils so they can enjoy their meals comfortably.

Volunteering has given Jon a valuable perspective on life, while Pat looks forward to the opportunity each week to partner with her son in serving others. On occasions when Jon's work schedule prevents him from volunteering, Pat continues the route on her own. She is especially grateful for the support she receives from fellow volunteers and staff who help load the meal bags into her vehicle.

Jon describes volunteering as a “selfless selfish feeling, knowing you make an impact on others.” He believes every opportunity to serve positively affects his life.

Both Jon and Pat speak highly of their experiences with COA.

“No matter who you’re dealing with at COA, they’ve got the heart for it,” Jon said. “Everyone is there to serve.”

Pat agrees.

“I love coming into the building because I’m greeted with a smile and made to feel very welcome. Between the volunteers who pack the meals and the staff, they make it easy for us to do our volunteer work.”

She also points out that volunteering doesn’t require a huge time commitment.

“It doesn’t take that long, and you’re doing a lot of good,” she said.

For those considering becoming a Meals on Wheels volunteer, Jon offers simple but powerful advice:

“Stop putting it off. It’s an opportunity to serve. It will make you feel good, it’s less commitment than you think, and once it becomes part of your schedule, you can work around anything. All of it will come back to benefit you in the long run.”

If you feel inspired by Jon and Pat’s story and would like to learn more about volunteering with the Meals on Wheels program, please contact Doreen Willett at 386-253-4700 ext. 239 or email dwillett@coavolusia.org.



The Glenn & Connie Ritchey Community Service Award Honoring

The Chanfrau Family Legacy

It's hard to articulate what the evening meant to us at COA, but the pictures truly say a thousand words about the overall success of the event. With the COA Gala 2026 now in the books, we are incredibly grateful to our sponsors, attendees, but most especially our honorees, the Chanfrau Family, for helping make the evening so memorable and meaningful.





The Chanfrau Family Legacy

COUNCIL ON AGING GALA

THE GLENN & CONNIE RITCHEY COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Bird of Paradise Sponsor

 **Brown & Brown**

Plumeria Sponsors

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GALE LEMERAND & NASCAR & DAYTONA
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PLAN TO PROSPER REALTY PROS ASSURED
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CEO BUSINESS ALLIANCE COASTAL HEALTH CARE

COA'S NEW LIVING LEGACY SOCIETY



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LIVING LEGACY SOCIETY

**JOIN THE
COUNCIL ON AGING
LIVING LEGACY SOCIETY**

**Bequests:
Wills & Trusts**

By designating a portion of your estate to COA, you create a gift that costs nothing today but changes lives tomorrow

**Beneficiary
Designations**

Naming COA as a beneficiary of your retirement plan, life insurance policy, or bank account is a simple way to create a legacy gift without altering your will.

Other Planned Gifts

Charitable gift annuities, donor advised funds, retirement assets, and more.

**REFLECT
YOUR VALUES
IN YOUR WILL**

**Your will is your legacy. It determines
how you will be remembered and can be
designed to reflect what you value most.**

By including Council on Aging of Volusia County, Inc. in your estate plans, you ensure that older adults in our community continue to receive meals, caregiving, social activities, and the dignity they deserve for generations to come.

— THE LEGACY OF COA —

OPERATING SINCE:

1967

SENIORS SERVED THIS YEAR:

2,000+

MEALS PROVIDED ANNUALLY:

250,000



For more information on leaving a legacy gift to Council on Aging of Volusia County, Inc., contact Eveline Kraljic, Co-Executive Director, at ekraljic@coavolusia.org or visit www.coavolusia.org
420 Fentress Blvd., Daytona Beach, FL 32114 | 386.253.4700, ext. 210

BetterAge Health & Wellness Survey/Assessment

We would like to invite you to take this BetterAge health and wellness survey/assessment. It is free, confidential and only takes between 8-10 minutes to complete. After completion you can choose to get a personal health report that has tips and recommendations based on your survey results. It also gives you an opportunity to set some goals and to keep track of progress made.

Simply scan the QR code or click the link below to get started!



What Are Your Health Priorities?

Here is what thousands of older adults have told us:

- 59% Physical Activity
- 40% Sleep
- 37% Brain Health
- 37% Nutrition



Learn More about Your Own Health and Wellbeing. Scan here to start



[BetterAge Survey](#)

Staff Profile Highlight

Amy Ballou, Professional Guardian



Amy serves as a Professional Guardian and has been in this role since August 2014. No two days are ever the same. Much of her time is spent visiting wards in the community—she currently works directly with about 15 individuals—while also handling broader responsibilities such as preparing and submitting annual plans to the court for approximately 100 wards. It's a balance of direct connection and detailed administrative work, all centered around ensuring our clients receive the care and services they need.

Amy's journey began in 1992 with Stewart-Marchman, where she worked in the mental health field alongside her father. After completing a two-year human services program and earning her bachelor's degree, she became a certified addictions professional and helped individuals with disabilities find employment. From there, she moved into case management, working with individuals with severe and chronic mental illnesses.

She later became a State Hospital Liaison, which involved significant travel and helping individuals transition back into their communities. Amy also worked as a psychiatric screener for Baker Act and Marchman Act cases, sitting in during evaluations and assisting with the intake process. Over time, she advanced into leadership, eventually serving as a Vice President overseeing an outpatient clinic and its staff.

Before stepping into guardianship, she completed the required training course and then obtained her certification after starting in the role. Every step along the way helped prepare her for the work she does today.

Earlier in life, she even interned at COA at age 18, making her line of work come full circle. Amy's father was also a strong mentor to her, and she carries many of his lessons with her today.

Amy shares that it's truly an honor and a privilege to be entrusted with making decisions that directly impact someone's well-being. She especially enjoys meeting new clients and learning from the wisdom of older adults. One of the most rewarding parts of this work is helping to reconnect individuals with their families and support systems.

The mission of COA is deeply meaningful to Amy. In her words, "We serve a population that continues to grow, and it's important that we not only provide services but also educate the community about guardianship and what it entails. I take pride in representing this organization and sharing information about the work we do. From my very first day, I have felt welcomed and supported by my colleagues, which has made this work even more fulfilling."

Outside of work, Amy follows a mostly vegan lifestyle and is passionate about advocating for farm animals. She enjoys visiting animal sanctuaries and supporting rescue efforts. Amy also loves taking cardio boxing classes—she claims that it's her form of therapy.

Here is a shining example of Amy's exemplary work with COA:

In early 2015, while working in the Guardianship Department at COA, Professional Guardian Amy Ballou was assigned to Nancy*, a woman in her mid-50s residing in a local

nursing home. Nancy had been diagnosed with vascular dementia and had a history of substance use. At the time, Nancy was withdrawn, largely non-communicative, and refused most aspects of her care—including medications, hygiene, and social interaction.

After being appointed as her Plenary Guardian, Amy made regular visits to build trust and better understand her needs. Although engagement was minimal, there were subtle signs that Nancy was more aware than she initially appeared.

When her care team recommended hospice due to her refusal of treatment, Amy hesitated. Instead, Amy advocated for her medications to be administered in a way she could tolerate—crushed and mixed with food. Within just a few weeks, Nancy experienced a remarkable turnaround. She began getting out of bed, engaging in activities, reconnecting with others, and even re-establishing relationships from her past.

As her condition improved, Nancy expressed a desire to regain her independence. COA supported this request and petitioned the court for restoration of her rights. Following an independent evaluation, it was determined that Nancy had been misdiagnosed. She was not suffering from dementia, but rather bipolar disorder.

With this new understanding, the court restored Nancy's rights—allowing her to return to the community and reclaim her autonomy.

Nancy's story is a powerful reminder of the importance of advocacy, critical thinking, and truly seeing the person behind the diagnosis.

***Name changed to protect client privacy**



"Dancing Through the Decades!"

Save *the* Date

Friday, September 4, 2026

at

Ocean Center 101 N Atlantic Ave,
Daytona Beach, FL 32118

Early Bird Tickets: **\$60**

Full Table: **\$600**

from now through August 1

Regular Tickets: **\$70**

Full Table: **\$700**

after August 1



With
Presenting Sponsor

HALIFAX HEALTH



Scan the code or call Doreen Willett at
386.253.4700 ext. 239 for tickets

Who is COA?

Are you familiar with the services provided by Council on Aging of Volusia County (COA)? Did you know we will be celebrating our 60th birthday in March 2027 as the only nonprofit dedicated exclusively to serving seniors in Volusia County?

Now is the perfect opportunity to learn more about how COA supports older adults in our community. If you live in a 55+ community and would like our Community Engagement Liaison, Doreen Willett, to present at your next HOA meeting or community coffee hour, please call 386-253-4700, ext. 239.



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Council on Aging of Volusia County



Who is Council on Aging of Volusia County, Inc.?



Meals on Wheels:



One of COA's premier programs, Meals on Wheels offers nutritious meals delivered to the home. This also allows for a well-being check on those who may not have regular daily contact with anyone else.

Nutrition Centers:

COA's Nutrition Centers function as neighborhood dining sites, offering older adults the chance to enjoy a healthy meal among peers. Located throughout the county, each Center has a roster of engaging activities meant to encourage social wellness and mental enrichment.



In-Home Services:



Personal care and light homemaking services aim to keep seniors feeling their best. From running errands, to grocery shopping, to transportation to medical appointments, to personal hygiene assistance, COA can help older adults maintain their dignity in their own homes.

Senior Activity Centers:

Senior Activity Centers create opportunities for older adults to enjoy engaging communal activities, from exercise classes, to card games, to educational presentations. Every activity is designed to promote social wellness.



For questions about services, please call us at 386.253.4700 ext. 225, visit us at coavolusia.org, or use the QR code above!
Council on Aging of Volusia County, Inc. is a 501c3 non-profit organization serving seniors in Volusia County.

*Together We Can
Make A Difference*

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)

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

Neighborhood Nutrition & Senior Activity Center Highlights

Ormond Beach Senior Center Carnival!





A Day at the

CARNIVAL

COA Ormond Beach Senior Center

Sp. Ladies and Gentlemen
Come One, Come All
Greatest Carnival of All!
Carnival Games & Food
MAY 22 10 AM - 3 PM





[Click here to view the Senior Center Activities Calendars](#)



Community Foundation/United Way of Volusia-Flagler Counties' Social Innovation Fund

The Social Innovation Fund (SIF) at the Community Foundation and United Way of Volusia-Flagler Counties (CF/UWVFC) is a program managed by Generation IMPACT that provides mini-grants and mentorship to local students, high schoolers, and young adults for innovative projects tackling community challenges.

High school and college students, working individually or in small groups, are invited each year to submit ideas for projects to foster youth opportunity, financial security, healthy community, and/or community resiliency in Volusia and Flagler counties. Students whose ideas pass an initial screening are assigned a mentor to help them develop a proposal and compete for funding to turn their ideas into reality.



Key Features of the Social Innovation Fund:

- **Targeted Areas: Projects focus on Education (literacy,**

On Thursday, April 16, guests gathered at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University to listen to the four pitches from

graduation rates), Financial Stability (housing, income), Health (opioid crisis, food insecurity, health), and EDI (Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion).

- **Generation IMPACT Support:** The fund is managed by the young professional group Generation IMPACT, who mentor students and host a pitch competition.
- **Impact:** The fund supports student-led initiatives, often providing thousands of dollars to high school and college projects in Volusia and Flagler counties.
- **Funding Source:** It is part of the Community Foundation and United Way of Volusia-Flagler Counties' broader impact, aimed at creating lasting change and supporting the ALICE population, as discussed in the Generation Impact - Community Foundation and United Way.

students attending Florida State University, Daytona State College, Stetson University, and Spruce Creek High School, who took the stage to pitch their proposal to grand decision-makers and other donors.

Brittney Jabot, a Florida State University medical student, delivered a pitch to receive a \$2,500 award to fund "Healthy Home Starter Kits" benefiting senior clients of Council on Aging of Volusia County. Brittany interned with COA in February 2026, where she gained first-hand insight into how our mission supports seniors in remaining safely in their own homes.

The Healthy Home Starter Kit project is a practical, prevention-focused initiative designed to improve health, safety, and housing stability for older adults. The project addresses a frequently overlooked, but critical, barrier affecting ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) households: Consistent access to basic household cleaning supplies necessary to maintain a safe and sanitary living environment.

We are so proud of Brittney for delivering an outstanding presentation that won the award in the amount of \$ 2,500.00, which will allow us to purchase the first set of Healthy Home Starter Kits for our aides, which will be used to help clean our clients' homes. We wish her much success in her future in medicine and look forward to hearing/seeing how she will continue to innovate with passion and purpose.

Service Spotlight

Caregiver Support



Service Spotlight on

Here at the Council on Aging, our goal is to keep our senior population happy, healthy, and living with dignity in their own homes.



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This edition's Service Spotlight is on our **Caregiver Support Groups**. Caring for a loved one can be rewarding, but comes with challenges and high stress. The Caregiver Support Group is led by trained facilitators and offers a safe, welcoming environment to share experiences, find encouragement, and connect with others who understand the journey.

Join us on the last Monday of the month at United Methodist Church, 396 E. University Ave. in Orange City and the last Thursday of the month at Prince of Peace Parish, 600 S. Nova Rd. in Ormond Beach. Please email customerservice@coavolusia.org with any questions.



Find more Information at
coavolusia.org



Thank You for supporting COA

How Your Gift Will Support Council on Aging of Volusia County

All gifts to COA will help seniors continue to live with dignity in their own homes. Because of YOU, we're able to serve over 2,000 seniors annually throughout Volusia County, providing in-home care, meal delivery, rides to medical appointments, social wellness activities, and more!

Matching Gifts

Did you know that more than 65% of Fortune 500 companies offer matching gift programs? But just because you don't work for a Fortune 500 company doesn't mean you shouldn't check whether your donation is eligible. Visit [Charity Navigator](#) or [BestBuddies](#), and see if your company participates.

Please note that these sites are not hosted by Council on Aging and are public resources. If you have any questions about your donation, please reach out to us at sduguay@coavolusia.org!

DONATE

Administrative Offices:

Council on Aging of Volusia County, Inc.
420 Fentress Blvd.
Daytona Beach, FL 32114-1208
386-253-4700
www.coavolusia.org



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Visit our website at www.coavolusia.org

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