

Area Agency on Aging Receives \$2.1 Million Gift

Former Hawkins Grocery Store to Become New Agency Headquarters

Ohio grocery store founder Otis Earl Hawkins is donating his building at Park Avenue West and Lexington Springmill Road in Ontario to the District 5 Area Agency on Aging. The building is valued at \$2.1 million.

The announcement was made by Area Agency on Aging Board President Kathy A. Daniels during a press conference on Thursday, November 10, 2011 at the former grocery store site. Approximately people attended the press conference.

The site, in recognition of its generous donor, will be named Hawkins Corner.

The Area Agency on Aging, now located in 22,000-square-foot of rented space at 780 Park Avenue West, will renovate the former Hawkins grocery store and move its office there. This will allow the Agency to maintain its operational space, while expanding programming, significantly improve service access for older and/or disabled adults and caregivers, and provide space for its other non-profit tenants with like clientele

Chief Executive Officer Duana Patton envisions a “centralized” approach to service access in the former store’s 44,000-square-foot of space. Duana shared during the press conference “Our vision is clear, but the details have yet to be worked out. We will be thoughtful in our approach to design of the building and tenant selection. Through the efforts of our building committee, board and staff, we will ensure that this facility is not just about the Area Agency on Aging, but includes a focus on the community and individuals we serve.”

The Agency has formed a building committee to plan the renovation project, considering the operational needs of the Agency as well as its potential non-profit tenants. Building committee members include Jerry Kithcart, Rick Grazel, Bill Danuloff, Commissioner Gary Utt, Larry Bennett, Board Member, Duana Patton, Kathy Daniels and Greg Webb, Hawkins Corporation, will be an advisor to this committee as well.

About Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc.

The mission of the private, non-profit Agency is to be the leader in the long-term care system and be the preferred organization to provide choices to pathways which enhance the independence, dignity, and well being of older adults, adults with disabilities, and caregivers. For older and/or disabled adults, the Agency is the starting point for locating local services, manages federal and state programs, provides volunteer opportunities, and is part of a grassroots advocacy network for policies and programs that help older and/or disabled adults remain independent.

The Area Agency on Aging has a base of 80,000 clients, more than 200 contracted providers, 75 partner agencies, 30 advocacy specialists, and 500 volunteers through its Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) initiative. Funded by public and private resources, the Area Agency on Aging is governed by a 22-member Board of Trustees with representatives from each of its district’s nine counties.

The Area Agency on Aging serves Ashland, Crawford, Huron, Knox, Marion, Morrow, Richland, Seneca, and Wyandot counties.

###