

Director's Report

February 2026

Programming Board Report

Meals served January 1 – January 31, 2026:

Breakfast: 48; Lunch: 958

January 1, 2026 – January 31, 2026:

Breakfast:48; Lunch: 958

Volunteer Hours: January 1 – January 31, 2026

- Volunteer Driving: 25.50 Hours
- SHIP: 3.50 Hours
- Our Friends House:
- Servers: 101.50
- Kitchen: 37.50 hours
- World Horizon: 80 + Hours
- Exercise Participants: 189
- Social/ Activity Participants: 160
- Games: 180
- Outings:

Program Update:

In January...

We held our first Dinner Around the World meal on January 24th. It was a wonderful meal from India; our kitchen staff prepared it in-house, and volunteers and staff served it. We had 75 guests, even though the weather had not cooperated in the days leading up to the event. The next meal is a Traditional Mexican meal and is on March 7th.

The Programming Team has begun planning activities and events for the first quarter of 2026. Upcoming events to look forward to are Meijer Gardens- Butterflies in Bloom, the Lantern Festival at the John Ball Zoo, museum trips, and more. Overnight trips are being planned for up north and Frankenmuth, and an extended-stay bus trip to the Biltmore and Asheville, NC, is scheduled for October.

Senior Care Services Update:

- Currently, Senior Care Services is assisting 42 clients with in-home services.
 - Of those:
 - 40 are full private pay
 - 1 is Senior Resources
 - 1 is a combination of private pay and Senior Resources
 - Our Friends House (OFH) is assisting 5 clients with services.
- While the number of clients at OFH has remained steady over the past few months, several clients have increased the number of hours they attend. Families are seeing the benefits of OFH and are

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choosing to transition their loved ones to full-time schedules. Currently, we have three clients who attend every day we are open for a full day. This consistency has strengthened relationship-building and continues to provide a safe, supportive environment for seniors, while offering much-needed respite care for their loved ones.

- OFH totals for November:
 - Client hours: 103.5
 - Meals served: 38
 - OCCOA rides (OFH clients): 45
 - Volunteer hours provided by our World Horizons Volunteer, Clara: 52.5
- Looking ahead, OFH is refocusing on activities to better align with the capabilities and dynamics of our current clients. Programming is being adjusted to meet individual needs and cognitive levels, with a renewed emphasis on slowing down, being present, and truly engaging with participants. By listening to our clients and honoring how they want to spend their time at OFH, we are creating a more meaningful and person-centered experience.
- Due to a generous donation from the Community Foundation, OFH has been able to purchase games and activities that better meet the needs of our current clientele. One of the most exciting additions has been a complete set of drum fitness balls and equipment. Clients have responded enthusiastically to drum fitness, as it provides an enjoyable form of exercise where they feel confident and successful. We look forward to moving, exercising, and having fun together. In preparation, participants had the opportunity to decorate and paint their own drumsticks, adding a creative and personal touch to the experience.
- Upcoming excitement at OFH!!! On February 11th, OFH will be hosting a Valentine's party for current clients. Back by popular demand, the String-a-Longs with entertainment. Our Friends House Coordinator, Kim, is working diligently on the food items for this event and the clients are already looking forward to it!
- Community Living Support (CLS):
Community Living Support services have remained steady, with a current waitlist of three clients awaiting services. Several CLS clients have requested an increase in hours, and their assigned CLS Specialists have successfully adjusted schedules to accommodate these needs. This flexibility and responsiveness are a direct reflection of the dedication, professionalism, and compassion of our CLS staff. Their strong relationships with clients allow them to recognize changing needs, adapt quickly, and provide consistent, high-quality support. It is an honor to work alongside such a committed team as we continue to support seniors in our community in aging in place with dignity, safety, and independence.

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Transportation Update:

TRANSPORTATION: February 2026 Board Report

	JANUARY 2025	JANUARY 2026	YTD 2025	YTD 2026	YTD INCREASE
BUS MILES	6,465	6,017	6,465	6,017	-448
NON-SENIOR TRIPS	13	8	13	8	-5
SENIOR TRIPS	137	171	137	171	34
NON-SENIOR DISABLED TRIPS	186	157	186	157	-29
SENIOR DISABLED TRIPS	353	267	353	267	-86
TOTAL TRIPS	689	603	689	603	-86
PARATRANSIT MILES	529	383	529	383	-146
TOTAL TRIPS	14	14	14	14	0
VOLUNTEER MILES	4,318	785	4,318	785	-3,533
TOTAL TRIPS	90	53	90	53	-37

UPDATE:

The four snow days and other severe weather in January had a significant impact on volunteer driving, as both clients and drivers stayed inside and many appointments were rescheduled for warmer months. I was surprised to note, however, that we were only down 86 bus trips for the month.

The Jeep did not start following the week of snow days in January. It was taken to the dealership, where a system update was identified that should resolve the battery drain issue.

While attending the Board of Commissioners meeting, I spoke with Troy Maloney of Oceana County Emergency Management regarding transportation's role in the County's Emergency Management Plan. Stephanie and I later met with Mr. Maloney and Sergeant Phillips and agreed to participate in the transportation component of the plan. Additional meetings will be scheduled as the plan progresses.

The Bus Garage Committee met with Deputy District Director Josiah Bear from Congressman John Moolenaar's office to discuss the possibility of constructing the bus garage on our current property. He will follow up in the coming weeks. The committee will also tour three facilities on Friday, February 27th for construction ideas.

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The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) FY27 application has been submitted, totaling \$978,500.00. This includes a \$60,000 request for a keyless entry system at all three (3) locations. Due to limited success with large discretionary grants in recent years, significant state capital funding may be available. Transit capital previously planned as match for those grants may now be eligible for 100% state-funded capital projects.

We have been encouraged by the Office of Passenger Transportation (OPT) to include all possible capital needs in the FY27 application cycle. Projects will be prioritized as follows:

1. Replacement vehicles (based on useful life)
2. Facility projects related to safety and security
3. Equipment, including technology
4. Expansion vehicles

Based on this guidance, the keyless entry system, along with other equipment and technology needs, was included in the application as part of our safety, security, and operational improvement efforts.

The required public notice will be published upon MDOT approval.

- Non-Senior Disabled Trips are mostly WMCMH "Progressions" clients

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- OCCOA is working with the Oceana County Sheriff's Department and Oceana County Emergency Management by partnering and being part of the plan to provide transportation and assist with family reunification in the event of a catastrophic event.
- OCCOA is also partnering with the Michigan State Police – Hart Post to provide education to staff and seniors when it comes to scams targeting senior citizens.
- OCCOA continues to work with Safe Seniors, Safe Seniors works to identify, advocate, and seek justice for adult victims of abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation within Muskegon, Ottawa, and Oceana counties of Michigan. www.safeseniors.info
- OCCOA hosted the Hart Rotary Casino Night Fundraiser on Saturday, January 31st where more than 70 community members from around Oceana County came to support a great cause and had an opportunity to see the OCCOA building, some for the first time. Stephanie was able to give a welcome, both as a Rotary member and OCCOA ED, thanking the community for their support and inviting attendees to learn more about the Agency.
- Stephanie attended the monthly Michigan Association of Senior Center Board meeting.
- Stephanie and Lisa as well as members of the Bus Garage Committee met with Congressman John Moolenaar's office on Wednesday, February 10th to discuss options for the bus garage as it pertains to NEPA. Stephanie had a chance to show the staff member around the Center and discuss OCCOA services, millage, and how the Agency can offer so many needed services to the residents of Oceana County.
- Stephanie and Kay will be meeting with Diebold Insurance to discuss coverage

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- Stephanie has been contacted by the Michigan Health Council, a Michigan Non-Profit with a mission to ensure the future of healthcare workforce. They are looking for OCCOA's perspective on issues such as medical transportation, increasing demand for services, workforce shortages, and the role of community supports like senior centers would be incredibly valuable. It sounds like demand for services is expanding rapidly, and we would love to better understand how communities are adapting and filling gaps where the medical system alone can't keep up.
- A big Shout Out to Lisa Nagel, our Transportation Director. In 2025 she switched our fleet gas from Dave's Party Store in Hart to WEX (Speedway) Cards. These can be used in Michigan, which is a great convenience and time saver, and we get a rebate on every gallon. In 2025 this rebate was \$643.00. This change is one more example of how our staff finds ways to save money and improve efficiency.