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### **Central Connections Meets Needs of Older Adults During Coronavirus Pandemic**

MIDDLETOWN, OH: Caring for the needs of older adults in the greater Middletown community during the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic is a prime effort of Central Connections, the senior center in Middletown.

“The well-being and safety of our members, clients and others in our network in Butler and Warren Counties is a primary focus at this uncertain time,” said the senior center’s Executive Director Monica Smith. “We want to use all necessary means to ensure that our Central Connections community is provided for during this time of uncertainty.”

In collaboration with the Council on Aging and the Ohio Department of Aging, Smith said Central Connections is implementing these efforts:

- Follow the same closing protocol for schools as mandated by the State of Ohio. The senior center will close its physical facility to the public and cease all non-essential programming at end of business day on Monday, March 16, for three weeks. Central Connections will re-open its doors for regular programming on Monday, April 6, unless otherwise instructed. Staff and volunteers will respond to phone calls on business days. Older adults with questions or needing supportive services may call 513-423-1734.
- Continue to provide to its clients Home Delivered Meal Services and Transportation Services until further notice. Central Connections is preparing to deliver 14-day shelf-stable food boxes to Home Delivered Meal clients in both Butler and Warren Counties.
- Continue to provide a congregate or communal meal service to five senior resident offsites March 16-20. After that, from March 23 to April 5, shelf-stable meals will be delivered to those clients or until their senior housing facilities instruct Central Connections otherwise. Those offsites are Belle Tower and Booker T. Washington in Hamilton, and Trinity Place, Mayfield Manor and Dublin House in Middletown. The Congregate meal service will resume after April 6.

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Smith noted that all these efforts require additional resources of funds and people. She encourages people to donate toward the purchase of boxes by sending a check payable to Central Connections with “shelf stable” in the check memo. “We also will take donations of Lysol, Clorox wipes and hand sanitizer,” Smith said.

Anyone willing to volunteer to help pack shelf-stable boxes and sort supplies should contact Central Connections by calling 513-423-1734 or emailing [info@centralconnections.org](mailto:info@centralconnections.org). Volunteers will receive instructions on safe handling of items and the wearing of gloves and correct procedures for hand washing.

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*Central Connections, a nonprofit senior center in Middletown, Ohio, and a United Way Agency Partner, promotes whole-person wellness and serves the needs of adults over age 50 with nutritious meals, movement classes, transportation services, health screenings, recreation, volunteer opportunities, and social and educational events and programs. Central Connections also provides a banquet center, meeting rooms, and catering services for private, corporate, and organization gatherings. For more information, call 513-423-1734 or visit [www.centralconnections.org](http://www.centralconnections.org).*

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