

Board of Commissioners

PRESS RELEASE

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Lake County Commissioners Recognize December as *Be a Santa to a Senior* Month

PAINESVILLE, Ohio, November 29, 2022– Home Instead Senior Care created the *Be a Santa to a Senior* program to support lonely or isolated older adults. This program aims to give to those in need by partnering with local organizations to make sure isolated seniors receive gifts and companionship during the holiday season.

The Board of Commissioners is one such partner and has hosted a tree for the previous three years. The Board of Commissioners will host a tree decorated with ornaments featuring seniors' first names and gift or gift card suggestions. The tree will be located on the fifth floor of the Lake County Administration Center outside of chambers. Holiday shoppers can select an ornament and return the gift unwrapped with the ornament attached. Gifts are then delivered to seniors in time for the holidays.

"We are pleased to once again participate in this wonderful program," said Commissioner John Hamercheck. "This program is important as it shows older adults in Lake County that they are valued, especially during the holiday season."

According to Home Instead, since the program began in 2003, there have been 2.1 million gifts given, 750,000 senior Holiday's brightened, 65,000 volunteers dispatched, and 250 offices that have spread joy. Locally, the program provides gifts to over 250 seniors.

"It is our honor to host a tree for the fourth year in a row, this small act of kindness can make a big difference in the lives of our most vulnerable senior citizens," said Commissioner Tyler.

"The Commissioners urge citizens to do their part in sharing the joys of the holidays with the many seniors who may not be surrounded by the comforts of family or friends this year," said Commissioner Richard Regovich. "It's important we look out for one another."

The Commissioners invite those interested to take an ornament from the tree and return the gift item to the same location by December 8.