

WHAT'S NEW

You can now make referrals, sign up directly to volunteer, and stay up to date on events on our new website.



CHECK OUR NEW FEATURES TODAY
AND LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK!

As a volunteer led organization, it's only right to empower our volunteers to continue executing excellence in the elderly community and make friendship as seamless as possible for you and our elderly friends. With our new online portal you can now sign up as a new volunteer, schedule orientation, schedule your self for service, and stay up to date on all things LBFE Volunteer related. Check your email for an invitation to complete your profile and dive into your new LBFE volunteer experience.

Don't see an invitation?
Visit our site and sign up today –
it's as easy as 1-2-3!
www.littlebrotherscincinnati.org



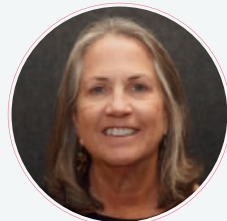
GALAXY DIGITAL



MEET OUR STAFF



Ja'lah
Executive Director



Yogi
Elderly Services Coordinator



Zaire
Volunteer Coordinator



Shyrle
Program Coordinator



Dawn
Assistant Director

NEED SUPPORT NAVIGATING THE NEW PORTAL?

Call our office today to sign up for a Volunteer Portal Training Session.

If you wish to opt out of the online system and continue receiving communications through mail please email zaire.sims@littlebrothers.org



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Cincinnati, OH 45239

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JOIN US IN 2024 FOR OUR 3 FUNDRAISERS!



27TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

March 9th, 2024. Ticket sales are live!!!
Join us as we celebrate the work and legacy of the Yogi Wess herself!



ITALIAN DINNER & OPEN HOUSE

May 5th, 2024

27TH ANNUAL TOM WESS MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING

August 17th, 2024

26TH ANNUAL TOM WESS
MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING
RAISED \$30,848



FLOWERS
BEFORE BREAD -
THE BELIEF THAT
LOVE, DIGNITY,
AND BEAUTY IN
LIFE ARE AS
ESSENTIAL
AS PHYSICAL
NEEDS SUCH AS
A HOT MEAL.



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ja'lah Willingham - Executive Director

As we reflect upon this past year, we are pleased to share the progress and impact that you have made in serving lonely and isolated elders in our community. Your continued support has been instrumental in our success and your contributions have enabled us to expand our reach, improve our programs, and make a positive impact on the lives of lonely and isolated elders.

Our mission at Little Brothers - Friends of the Elderly is to combat loneliness and isolation faced by elders in our community by providing companionship, support, and resources to enhance their well-being. We are a volunteer-based organization offering the opportunity to join the elderly in friendship and celebration of life. This year, we remained committed to this mission, adapting and expanding our programs to better meet the needs of those we serve. In 2023 LBFE provided 90 events, over 700 holiday deliveries, 400+ volunteers, and unlimited friendship and support to your elderly friends. Our dedicated team of volunteers have made significant strides in reaching elders through regular visits, phone calls, and outings - allowing us to engage with more individuals who were otherwise isolated.

As we look to the future, we are excited about the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead. We remain dedicated to our mission and are exploring new partnerships, innovative programs, and ways to enhance the quality of life for the elders we serve. Your ongoing support will be crucial in helping us achieve these goals and make a lasting difference in the lives of those who need it most.

In closing, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to each one of you for your unwavering support. Together, we can continue to make a meaningful impact and give the gift of friendship to lonely and isolated elders in our community.

Warm regards,



NEWS

Winter 2023

OUR STORY

Little Brothers - Friends of the Elderly began in France in 1946. Our founder, Armand Marquiset, devoted himself to alleviating what he termed "the greatest poverty of all - the poverty of love." After Witnessing the suffering and hardships of the elderly after World War II, Marquiset began visiting and delivering hot meals with flowers to the elderly poor of Paris.

OUR MISSION

Little Brothers - Friends of the Elderly is a national, non-profit, volunteer-based organization committed to relieving isolation and loneliness among the elderly. We offer to people of good will the opportunity to join the elderly in friendship and celebration of life.

OUR CORE PROGRAMS

- Visiting Volunteer Program
- Telephone Reassurance
- Holidays & Birthdays
- Social Activities
- On-call Program

HOW WE SERVE

Audrey's House, located in Batavia, IL is a vacation/retreat house surrounded by corn fields and a pond offering the perfect spot to relax and recharge after a long day of fun activities. For our 1-day adventure into downtown Chicago, a new activity this year was a trip to the Lincoln Park Zoo. Never disappointing is our trip to Misericordia for lunch, shopping, and scrumptious bakery items. Morton's Arboretum, Randy's made to order breakfast and going to the movies rounded out some of the fun activities. In the evenings there were rousing games of Dominoes, karaoke or just talking amongst friends. A good time was had by all!

~ KATHY EBY



AUDREY'S HOUSE 2023

Attendees: Jack Henn, Darla Wiggins, Larry Adams, Anthony Davis, George Royal, Kathy Eby, Yogi Wess, Dolores Allman, Brenda Johnson, Emily Mueller, Gloria Stewart, Henry Franklin, Donald Searl, Randy Yauss



"IT FELT LIKE A MIRACLE TO ME TO GET TO SEE HER AGAIN AND EXCHANGE NUMBERS. I WAS SO TOUCHED BY THE VISIT, I COULDN'T EAT MY LUNCH."

- DARLA WIGGINS

After moving to Cincinnati from Cleveland, Meridith became my visiting volunteer through LBFE. She became a friend at a time that I really could use one. She was there for me during a rough time and we became great friends. Two of our favorite places to frequent were Frisch's and Skyline, true Cincinnati favorites! In getting to know Meridith more, I also had the chance to meet her boyfriend and her mother. Meridith is a true inspiration to women and I am grateful to know her. We had the best times together for a few years before she relocated to Baltimore for school. During this transition, I lost track of her, but she was always in my heart. I loved her like a daughter, but I knew it was time to let her go and grow.

Fast track to 2023 - Yogi was told there was a new volunteer in Chicago and it was Meridith! During the LBFE Cincinnati trip, Yogi shared with Meridith that the group would be there. Meridith was able to join the group for lunch. Everyone shuffled around to make room for her next to me. It felt like a miracle to me to get to see her again and exchange numbers. I was so touched by the visit, I couldn't eat my lunch. I was tickled that she ordered grilled cheese and is now a vegetarian and also glad I didn't bring her Skyline chili after all! We had a wonderful visit together and again, it was hard to say goodbye. This time, I'm hopeful we will stay in touch.

The trip to Chicago this year was a great experience. Everyone at LBFE from staff, to volunteers, and other elderly friends are so kind. Audrey's house, a part of the LBFE Chicago chapter, is magnificent with cathedral ceilings. Of all the trip adventure, I really enjoyed the zoo and Arboretum. Coming home, Randy was determined for us to find BBQ. Our second stop, we found a tiny BBQ place. They all pushed the tables together, Randy got his BBQ, and everyone was pleased as we closed out yet another LBFE vacation.

YOGI WESS - 46 YEARS OF SERVICE FOUNDING THE CINCINNATI OFFICE 27 YEARS AGO



The mission of LBFE attracted me in 1977 while a student at NKU and the attraction is still as strong. LBFE is about love, friendship and caring for the elderly in a respectful way. I have had a variety of positions with the organization over the years and have had the opportunity to meet many loving, caring volunteers, generous donors, work with amazing staff and invited into the lives of many elderly friends. ~Yogi



Yogi Wess

The future of LBFE Cincinnati is exciting with the dedication of the staff, their belief in the mission of LBFE, and the continued support of volunteers and donors. I look forward to being involved with LBFE as the future unfolds as a continued supporter and volunteer.

Laurie McGrail

Yogi has been a role model to me at LBFE for the past 20+ years. Countless times have I seen the loving kindness she outpours to all of our elderly, staff, & volunteers - giving each one her undivided attention.

Vacation trips to Chicago, Florida, & various other places were wonderful experiences that she gives to many.

Yogi loves making home visits to our old friends & being a compassionate witness to their stories. If someone has a special need, then Yogi does her best to fulfill it.

Throughout the years, the Force of Five Committee dealt with a lot of problem solving & Yogi was the faithful leader who always seemed to come up with the right solution. Finally, Yogi is the life of the party at all of our holiday gatherings. I love how she makes us all laugh at her quirky jokes.

I could go on & on but will end with saying that Yogi's beautiful essence & fantastic energy continues to uplift Little Brothers-Friends of the Elderly. It's an honor to know & love her!



"We have seen the empathy and care Yogi has for the elderly. She is a blessing to LBFE and our community in general."

Dawn and Gary Caudill



LOOKING AHEAD 2024 HOLDS SO MUCH MAGIC BECAUSE OF YOU!

"Thank you, Yogi, for 27 years with Little Brothers - Friends of the Elderly in Cincinnati. You have been responsible for so much joy, great memories and love that you have given and orchestrated for our elderly friends and for the staff and volunteers you have worked with and led. Your boundless energy is remarkable.

Not only are you kind, giving of your gifts and loving but also so bright and intuitive.

Since the first time I met you when you introduced me to our dear, unforgettable friend Marjorie, I appreciated your kindness, caring nature and wisdom."

- KATHY KNUTSON



ART WORK WILL BE FOR SALE ON THE WEBSITE STARTING IN JANUARY!



THANK YOU FOR BRINGING JOY TO THE SEASON AND SPREADING LOVE AND WARMTH TO ISOLATED HEARTS.

THANK YOU, THANKSGIVING VOLUNTEERS AND DONORS!



125 Hot Thanksgiving Dinners and personal visits.
175 Holiday Gift Bags
35 Nursing home Baskets
335 African Violets delivered to our elderly community.



DECEMBER ART CLUB - TRIM THE TREE

