When SPARK Parent Partner Alexis began working with Phoenix, the five year-old had just gone through some big changes in her life. “When I started with the family in February, Phoenix had just moved in with her aunt and cousins,” said Alexis. Soon after, Phoenix started the free SPARK (Supporting Partnerships to Ensure Ready Kids) program with Alexis, and began working towards school readiness. Phoenix faced some barriers during the first five years of her life so her development was a few years behind her age range. She had difficulty communicating and she did not know her letters or numbers. “On our first visit in February, she only knew how to write a ‘P’ on her own,” said Alexis. “Now she knows almost every letter in the alphabet and almost all numbers 1-10!”

When enrolled in the SPARK program, families meet monthly with their home visitor, called a parent partner. The parent partner and the

parent work through a lesson with the child that helps with kindergarten readiness and gets the child excited to learn. The lessons are usually math or reading focused, and make learning fun for the whole family.

Phoenix’s aunt does a phenomenal job of working with all the children in her household, and her continued support has been instrumental to Phoenix’s education. And by working with the SPARK program, Phoenix has gotten even more encouragement. “I am so proud of this family; I just had a visit in April, and Phoenix was able to write every letter in her name on her own, with just a little guidance on spacing her letters. Phoenix is growing and learning so much in such a short time of working with her, it is amazing!” said Alexis.

To learn more about the SPARK program, or to become involved, contact AMHA Resident Services Early Childhood Initiative at 330-376-9695.

Two Summer Camp Opportunities Through AMHA

AMHA is currently sponsoring summer camp registration for children in Public Housing, and for children in Edgewood Village and Eastland Woods.

Public Housing Families

Families in public housing are eligible for the City of Akron Community Center Summer Fun Camps, Specialty Camps, and Tiny Tots Day Camps. These camps offer a variety of indoor and outdoor activities including games, sports, arts and crafts, field trips, and more.

All campers get a special camp t-shirt. Breakfast and Lunch are provided, except during field trips. Summer Fun Camps are for school age children who have already completed Kindergarten.

How to Apply: visit akronohio.gov/recreation for 2019 summer camp registration. Submit completed forms to the community center your camper will be attending and indicate that you are an AMHA Public Housing Resident. Community Center staff will then confirm your residency with Resident Services.

Note: Children must be on the public housing lease to qualify.

Edgewood Village & Eastland Woods Only

Families living in Edgewood Village and Eastland Woods are eligible for 4 area summer camps. These camps include the Akron Zoo, the Akron Urban League, ARISE Summer Camp, and Firestone Park YMCA.

Spots are Limited! To learn more about these summer camp options click here.

How to Apply: Call AMHA Resident Services at 330-376-9699 ASAP to reserve a spot for your camper in one of these four camp options. Once you have registered with Resident Services, you will be contacted by our staff to complete your registration. If we are not able to reach you after three tries, we will move on to an individual on our waiting list.
May is Older Americans Month!

Find Resources that Work for You!

1. AMHA Resident Services
Resident Services provides resource connections to senior residents through specialized service coordinators that focus on elderly resources and support. Call 330-376-9699 for more information.

2. The Golden Buckeye Program
Ohioans aged 60 and older are eligible for a Golden Buckeye Card. Merchants of all types offer special savings or deals for Golden Buckeye cardholders. For more information, visit www.aging.ohio.gov/GoldenBuckeye.

3. Metro RTA SCAT Program
SCAT is a weekday origin-to-destination shared ride service for individuals who are 62 years of age or older. Call METRO SCAT at 330-376-5353 or toll-free at 1-800-227-9905 to register.

4. University of Akron 60+ Program
The University of Akron’s Sixty-Plus (60+) Program gives individuals age 60 and older the opportunity to take classes that interest them for FREE on a space-available basis. For more information, visit www.uakron.edu/60.

5. Kent State Senior Guest Program
The Senior Guest Program at Kent State University allows Ohio residents age 60 years and older to attend regular university on-campus classes tuition-free on a space-available basis. Visit www.kent.edu/seniorguest for more information.

6. Vantage Aging

End of Life Planning Assistance Available Through Summit County Court

Think about the situations you may face as you age or if you are in a sudden accident. While it may seem too early to have a conversation with your family, doctor, and a legal representative, planning for your end-of-life care ahead of time can save time, money, and heartache for those close to you.

By deciding when you are healthy what end-of-life care best suits your needs, you can help those close to you make the right choices if the time comes. This not only respects your values, but also allows those closest to you the comfort of knowing they can be helpful.

Advance Directives do what the name suggests, allow you to direct others as to how to conduct your personal business, health care and end-of-life choices. If you become unable to make your own decisions, advance directives provide reassurance that your affairs will be conducted in the manner you desire. The individuals you name in your advance directives as your attorney-in-fact or agent will have control over your well-being and assets. Therefore, you should carefully select these individuals and talk to them at length.

To start planning, visit https://summittohioprobate.com/end-of-life-planning-page/.

GIRLS ON THE RUN

GIRLS ON THE run at the Reach Opportunity Center Completed their Practice 5k!

All participants finished the practice and are ready to race! GOTR fosters friendship, health, and positive self-esteem through exercise and sisterhood.

Job Corner

May 15th 2019 @ Ohio Means Jobs

Participating Employers:
- Arrow Senior Living
- AetnaPointe Community Health
- Blak Center
- Bryant & Stratton
- Canton Police Department
- Career China
- Danbury
- DeVry University
- ECS Tuning
- Fastenal
- FedEx Custom Critical
- FedEx Ground
- First Energy
- Flex Team
- Girl Scouts of Northeast Ohio
- Golden Alliance Inc. (McDonalds)
- Great Works Employment
- Heritage Trucking
- Indian River Juvenile Correction
- InfoCision
- J W O’Donohoe
- Jack Racinco & Casino
- JRayl
- Kelly Services
- Kimble Co.
- Koinonia Homes Inc.
- Main Street Gourmet
- Nestle Co.
- Noor Home Health
- Ohio Means Jobs
- On Point Financial
- Paladar Restaurant Group
- Robert Half/Office Team
- S. A. Comunale
- Specialty Metals Processing
- Summit DD
- Synchrony
- Taco Bell
- The Sherwin Williams Company
- Two Men and a Truck
- US Army/US Reserve
- US Postal Service
- Viaquest Inc.
- Waste Management
- Window Nation
- Workplace Staffing Services

Rubber City Radio Group Job Fair

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 8</td>
<td>12:30 pm</td>
<td>Mom-Me Time</td>
<td>Joy Park</td>
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<td>May 8</td>
<td>5:30 pm</td>
<td>Mom-Me Time</td>
<td>Van Buren</td>
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<td>May 9</td>
<td>10:30 am</td>
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<td>Pinewood Garden</td>
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<td>12:00 pm</td>
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<td>Reach Opportunity Center</td>
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<td>May 10</td>
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<td>ACAN Meeting</td>
<td>AMHA Central Office</td>
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<td>Resident Council Meeting</td>
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<td>Spring Cleaning Workshop</td>
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<td>Resident Organization Meeting</td>
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<td>MetroParks Hike</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 3</td>
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<td>Touch a Truck</td>
<td>Honey Locust</td>
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