



**COUNCIL  
ON AGING**

SINCE 1974

# ANNUAL **REPORT** 2025

[WWW.COASJC.ORG](http://WWW.COASJC.ORG)





## FROM OUR DIRECTOR

2024 was an historic year for Council on Aging. In 2024, we celebrated 50 years of service to our community in St. Johns County, Florida. We explored our history and remembered the visionary individuals who came together to found and then build our organization in service to seniors and those who care for them. This milestone gave us the opportunity to survey 50 years of remarkable growth in services and programs that empower older adults to live their best lives at every age.

From the vantage point of 50 years of history, it became clear that Council on Aging has always embodied growth. Growth is a beautiful legacy for older adults, as within aging there is always the opportunity for continued growth.

Through the programs and services that generations have built, we are grateful for the opportunity to create a brighter future for those we serve. We are inspired to continue to grow to better serve our growing community. In these pages you will read about our exciting plans for continued growth in the year ahead.

We would not be where we are today without your support. Thank you to all of our champions – our donors, funders, volunteers, staff, and community partners – for supporting our critical mission. Together, the future for seniors and caregivers – our future – will grow ever brighter into the next 50 years and beyond.

**BECKY YANNI**  
Executive Director

### COA BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

- STEVE HARRISON, PRESIDENT
- MICHELE CARMINES, VICE PRESIDENT
- LEN TUCKER, SECRETARY
- CASEY VAN RYSDAM, TREASURER
- DR. TODD BATENHORST, M.D.
- LINDA DUCAT
- UNDINE GEORGE
- SHERIFF ROBERT HARDWICK
- ROGER KLINE
- ART MOORE



# OUR MISSION

St. Johns County Council on Aging (COA) has been dedicated to serving St. Johns County's older adults, their families, and caregivers since 1974.

During that first year, COA served a daily congregate meal to 60 participants and delivered Meals on Wheels to just six homebound elders. Today, we serve nearly 90,000 meals per year and operate six senior centers and lifelong learning centers, a memory enhancement center, and a therapeutic adult daycare center. This just barely scratches the surface of the services we provide.



COA offers a comprehensive array of services that help older adults maintain their independence, remain in the comfort of their homes for as long as possible, and enjoy quality of life at every age. Our programs and services are available to anyone in St. Johns County. They can be paid for privately, or if you are over 60 and qualify, they may be subsidized.

As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, we are able to accomplish our expansive mission through the generous financial support of our funders, our donors, and the caring commitment of local volunteers. Along with our partners in the community, we are dedicated to being there for older adults and caregivers and supporting them in enjoying their best lives at every age.

The pages that follow detail the many ways in which COA serves our community, as well as our plans to meet its growing needs. Together, we serve by:

- Creating Community
- Sustaining Nutrition
- Fostering Independence
- Providing Mobility
- Strengthening Memory
- Supporting Dementia
- Caring for Caregivers
- Serving Together
- Creating Our Future





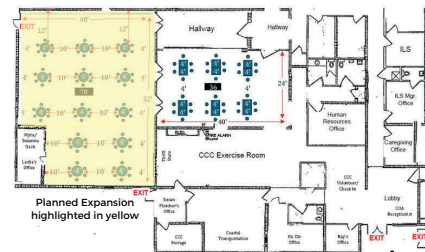
## GROWING WITH OUR COMMUNITY

The population of older adults in St. Johns County continues to grow at an unprecedented rate. In response to this growth, COA plans to expand in order to meet their growing needs in 2025.

COA’s Coastal Community Senior Center at 180 Marine Street in St. Augustine served 131 participants in 2022. By 2024, that number had nearly doubled, growing to 255 individuals served.

To accommodate this growth, in 2023 COA converted our executive director’s office into additional dining room space for senior participants. This year, COA plans to convert an additional 520 square feet of administrative office space to expand the center. The project will increase its size from 2,160 square feet to 3,680 square feet.

“It is a wonderful feeling to see our community’s elders come together and enjoy nutritious lunches, friendship, and engaging activities at the Coastal Community Center,” explained Executive Director Becky Yanni. “We are grateful to have the opportunity to grow to accommodate all those who rely upon the critical services the center provides.”



## CONNECTING WITH OUR COMMUNITY

In 2024, COA Program Director Brian Robinson took the helm as host of the COA Radio Show on WFOY 102.1 FM, St. Augustine’s local radio station for news, sports, and talk. The show features interviews with members of the community and discussions on issues, news, and events important to older adults and caregivers in St. Johns County. Guests include elected officials, COA staff and board members, and other individuals making a difference in our community.



The COA Radio Show is broadcast live every Thursday morning from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. To listen online, visit [www.1021news.com](http://www.1021news.com) during show times. To listen to a selection of previous broadcasts, visit our website at [www.coajc.org/coa-on-the-radio](http://www.coajc.org/coa-on-the-radio).

“We would like to thank WFOY for providing this invaluable platform to help us reach those we serve,” Brian Robinson said. “We are extremely grateful for their support for our mission.”

# PROVIDING SHELTER & SHADE

In 2025, Council on Aging will embark upon an exciting, new capital improvement project called **Shelter and Shade**. The project will construct improvements to provide shelter from the elements and greater ease of access for participants as they

attend COA's programs at 180 Marine Street in St. Augustine, Florida. The facility is home to COA's Coastal Community Senior Center, COA's therapeutic adult daycare center, the Sunshine Center, and COA's administrative offices.



Thanks to the generosity of members of our community and a \$545,000 grant received from the Delores Barr Weaver Legacy Funds, COA will begin construction of Phase One improvements in March of this year.

**Phase Two** of the project will refinish and screen the Sunshine Center's outdoor deck so that participants may sit outside in the shade year-round and enjoy nature therapy in COA's garden. Landscaping and additional outdoor seating will also be installed so that participants walking to and from the centers may sit, rest comfortably, and relax.

"We are excited to be able to create more ease, more comfort, and improved quality of life for seniors in our community," COA Executive Director Becky Yanni said. "We cannot thank Delores Barr Weaver and all of our donors enough for their generosity in making these improvements possible."

COA asks members of the community and local businesses to please join in the effort to complete Phase Two of the project. To contribute, please contact COA's Development Manager Amy Robinson at (904) 209-3700. Donations may also be made online at [www.coasjc.org/donate](http://www.coasjc.org/donate).

## PHASE ONE

**Phase One** of the project will raise the elevation of the building's front entrance and construct a covered portico to provide shelter, improved comfort, and ease of entry for seniors as they access COA's life-sustaining programs and services.

**Delores Barr Weaver** Legacy Funds  
established 2012

## PHASE TWO





## CREATING COMMUNITY

Council On Aging welcomes adults in St. Johns County to participate in a wide range of programs at COA's six **senior centers and lifelong learning centers**. Programs are specifically designed for self-managing adults who enjoy socializing, staying active, and living a healthy lifestyle.

**River House** - Lifelong Learning for Ages 18+  
179 Marine St., St. Augustine, FL 32084 (904) 209-3655

**COA Center at UF Health Nocatee**  
Lifelong Learning and Caregiver Support for Ages 18+  
351 Town Plaza Ave., #205, Ponte Vedra, FL 32081 (904) 819-3234

**THE PLAYERS Community Senior Center**  
175 Landrum Ln., Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082 (904) 209-3659

**Coastal Community Center - Ages 60+**  
180 Marine St., St. Augustine, FL 32084 (904) 209-3700

**Hastings Community Senior Center - Ages 60+**  
6150 S. Main St., Hastings, FL 32145 (904) 209-3694

**Trout Creek Community Senior Center - Ages 60+**  
6795 Collier Rd., St. Augustine, FL 32092 (904) 209-3658



## SUSTAINING NUTRITION

Every day, COA and a group of caring volunteers work diligently to provide nutritious meals to older adults throughout the St. Johns County community through our **Meals on Wheels** and **Congregate Meals** programs. The meals are freshly-prepared daily, well-balanced, and approved by a registered dietitian. Congregate meals are served at four of COA's senior centers. Meals on Wheels are hand-delivered by COA volunteers who share friendly visits and nutrition education.

COA provides access to subsidized meals, as well as private-pay options, accommodating both long-term and short-term meal arrangements. COA also provides monthly pet food deliveries to Meals on Wheels recipients who own pets.

**In the past year, COA's small kitchen staff and dedicated volunteers prepared 89,712 meals.** The meals were served at COA senior centers and hand-delivered to homebound elders by 192 COA volunteers.



## FOSTERING INDEPENDENCE

COA's **Independent Living Services** program coordinates access to subsidized services that facilitate at-home, independent living for adults age 60+ (and adults 18+ with specific cognitive diagnoses.) Subsidized services are accessible through a variety of federal, state, county, and community-based contracts and programs, contingent upon availability and eligibility.



COA's **Care Connection** program helps independent, older adults meet and manage the more challenging demands of everyday life. 100% donor-funded and volunteer-powered, the program fills the gaps in providing services for which there are no government funding sources. These services help seniors safely remain happy, healthy, and independent in their own homes where they are most comfortable. Services include minor home repairs, basic lawn care, wheelchair ramp construction, providing assistive devices, food for pets, and help applying for outside assistance programs.



COA's **Prescription Assistance** program helps eligible seniors apply and qualify for free or reduced medication costs through pharmaceutical company Patient Assistance Programs. If you are eligible, COA will help you navigate the application process. In 2024, we saved 278 St. Johns County seniors over \$3.25 million!

## PROVIDING MOBILITY

COA's **Paratransit Service** provides door-to-door transportation for ambulatory, wheelchair, and door-through-door stretcher, non-emergency medical, and other related transportation services. Subsidized funding sponsorships are available for the general public, the elderly, individuals who are disadvantaged, and those with chronic or temporary disabilities.



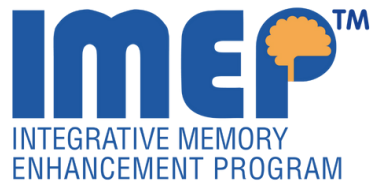
For over 20 years, COA's **Sunshine Bus Company** has been the St. Johns County contracted provider of public transportation to and from a wide range of origins and destinations necessary for everyday living. The combined system of public bus and paratransit service has continued to expand as demand and funding have become available.

COA's **Coastal Transportation** provides private charter bus service for small groups, and shuttle services for groups and individuals. Travel in comfort and safety to any destination in Florida while supporting COA's charitable work in our community.





## STRENGTHENING MEMORY



**IMEP™** is COA's groundbreaking **Integrative Memory Enhancement Program**, an original, research-based program that integrates mind, body, and brain connections to boost cognitive reserve and minimize the progression of memory loss and dementia. Presented by trained facilitators in a light-hearted atmosphere, each class includes mental agility activities that support flexible thinking, problem solving, memory, and reasoning, among other brain functions. Small group classes provide humor, peer interaction, and authentic dialogue, allowing participants to experience connection and acceptance while building self-esteem.



IMEP™ has been serving participants in St. Johns County for fifteen years. The unique program is also being successfully licensed and implemented at other agencies and senior facilities throughout the United States.

## SUPPORTING DEMENTIA



The **Sunshine Center**, licensed by AHCA #9081, celebrated 20 years of service in 2023 as COA's adult day health care center. Designed as a therapeutic activity center for adults with special needs, the Sunshine Center offers nursing care and specialized activities to adults requiring guidance and personal assistance. The center also provides crucial respite time for caregivers. Participants enjoy nutritious lunches, supportive services, social interaction, and cognitively stimulating activities in a safe and secured environment, including:



- Person-centered care and activities for individuals dealing with Alzheimer's Disease, dementia, or other brain disorders
- Cognitive and sensory stimulation
- Socialization and activities
- Music, art, and pet therapy
- Trained nursing staff
- Caregiver respite
- Daily lunch served



# CARING FOR CAREGIVERS

As a caregiver in St. Johns County, you are not alone! COA's **Community Care-Giving** program provides valuable tools that promote and empower a positive and successful caregiving experience.

Whether new to caregiving, new to the area, or just in need of some assistance, support, or information, COA is here to help. Our Community Care-Giving program can provide you and your family with a free needs evaluation, education, support groups, community assistance information, and more.

We offer:

- Invaluable services to those on the caregiving journey
- Educational programs with strategies for dealing with new challenges in your caregiving journey
- Free, one-on-one needs assessments



## SERVING TOGETHER

COA offers more than just services for seniors and caregivers. **We also offer the chance to make an important difference in the world.** Our over 550 dedicated volunteers put their skills and talents into action to help older adults and caregivers every day.

COA provides a wide array of opportunities to meaningfully serve, from delivering meals and welcome visits, to helping with home repairs and lawn care, or building ramps so that homebound individuals may once again enjoy the freedom to interact independently with the world. Volunteers also contribute their varied areas of professional expertise and skills in support of Council on Aging's mission.

The opportunities to change lives for the better are as endless as the needs of our community's elders for assistance and kindness. No matter what your skills or talents, COA offers a way to serve and help others.

To learn more and to discuss the volunteer opportunity that is right for you, please contact COA's volunteer coordinator at 904-209-3700 or [volunteer@coasjc.org](mailto:volunteer@coasjc.org).



## Community Care Giving

- Local support group meetings with caregivers from your community
- Self-care activities to help reduce stress
- Information on community assistance programs
- Phone call support





## CREATING OUR FUTURE

Council on Aging began our mission over 50 years ago through the vision and commitment of members of the St. Johns County community. Just as at our founding, our future depends upon the participation of the entire community to be there for our elders and their caregivers.

As we embark upon our future, we are committed to continuing our strong history of innovation and responsiveness to the changing needs of those we serve.

### Growing With Our Community

The population of older adults in St. Johns County continues to increase each year. We are committed to meeting their growing needs for services, support, and responsive programming with your help.

### Bridging The Gap

We will continue to expand our partnerships with local businesses, organizations, and individuals who share our commitment to bridging the significant gap between available government funding and the help that seniors urgently need.



### Reimagining Aging

The creative possibilities inherent in maturing and aging are numerous and frequently underestimated. We will continue to create new opportunities to encourage those we serve to live to their greatest potential, make new connections within our community, and continue to grow at every age.

#### COA EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

Becky Yanni, Executive Director  
Matt McCord, Transportation Director  
Brian Robinson, Program Director  
Patty Solano, Finance Director  
Amy Robinson, Development Manager

### Make History With Us!

Council on Aging exists because of a long line of caring individuals who were committed to creating the future they envisioned for us all. **Please join us today in creating an ever brighter future for seniors and caregivers in our community.**

# MAKING A DIFFERENCE

## Year-Over-Year Impact

Council on Aging’s impact in the St. Johns County community increased significantly in 2024, with increases in individuals served and programs and services provided.



### 2024 Percent Change in Programs & Services

Congregate & Home-Delivered Meals **+14%**

Senior Center Participation **+36%**:

- Coastal Community Center **+27%**
- Hastings Senior Center **+18%**
- THE PLAYERS Senior Center **+9%**
- Trout Creek Senior Center **+69%**
- COA Center at Nocatee **+19%**

Paratransit Services **+5%**

River House Lifelong Learning Participation **+14%**

Independent Living Services Clients **+8%**

Care Connection Clients **+68%**

Sunshine Center Participation **+19%**

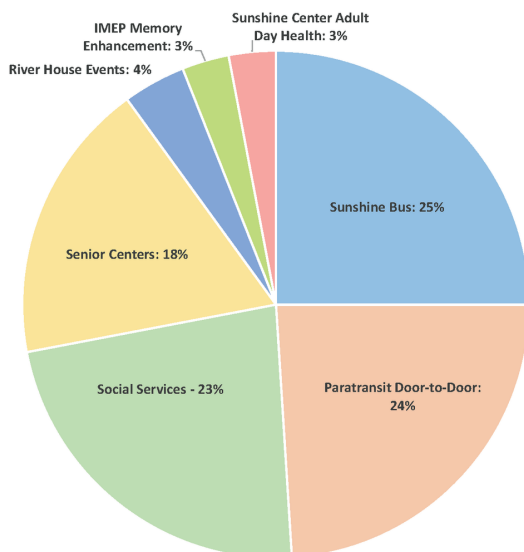
IMEP™ In-person Participation **-15%**

IMEP™@HOME Participation **+4%**

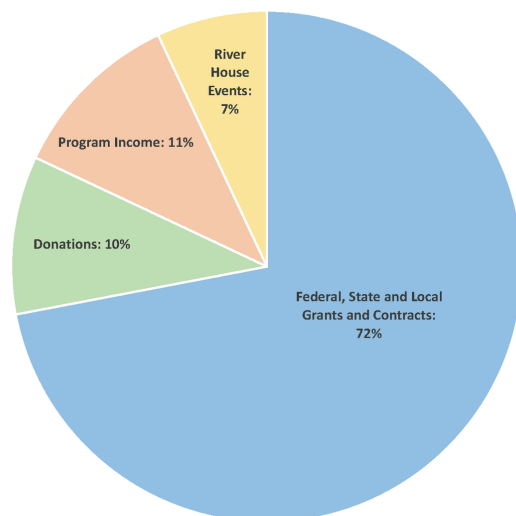
Community Care-Giving Participation **+19%**

## RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP

### 2024 EXPENDITURES



### 2024 REVENUE





**We are privileged and honored to serve our community's elders**



## JOIN US!

**It takes the entire community to be there for our elders.** As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, COA relies upon the financial support of members of the community to ensure that elders in St. Johns County are empowered to live their best lives at every age.

Thankfully, caring and generous St. Johns County community members stand with us. **Please join us!**

Founded in 2020 during the height of the COVID-19 crisis, COA's **Elder Guard** is comprised of community members who are committed to supporting the important work COA does every day. Elder Guard members are financial supporters who contribute the resources necessary for COA to deliver the essential services and programs seniors need. Their generous support also allows COA to create programs that provide older adults with opportunities to continue to grow, discover new interests, make new connections, and enjoy their 'golden years' to the very fullest.

**"We cannot accomplish our mission without our trusted partners in the community,"** COA Executive Director Becky Yanni explains. **"Our Elder Guard members continue to create a brighter future for seniors and caregivers in St. Johns County."**

Please join other community members and businesses as an Elder Guard member today, and help COA meet the needs of St. Johns County seniors for generations to come.



**To join us and make a gift today, please visit [www.coasjc.org/donate](http://www.coasjc.org/donate) or contact COA Development Manager Amy Robinson at [arobinson@coasjc.org](mailto:arobinson@coasjc.org) or 904-209-3700.**



Council On Aging is a private 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation sponsored by the Federal Older Americans Act, ElderSource, the State of Florida, Department of Elder Affairs, St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners, United Way of St. Johns County, and Private Donations.

