

The Way Station

SUMMER 2024



From Tornado Warnings to Heartfelt Tributes

Over 170 guests, including board members, staff, volunteers, and the Couchenour family, attended the dinner and shared stories about how Jim and The Way Station impacted their lives. Highlights included a heartfelt speech by Emcee Mark Frost about how the Holy Spirit has created many circles that connect us all, several more speakers followed, praising Jim's work. Jim himself spoke about the evolution of The Way Station, how God was always in control and taking this journey with his wife Pat. The evening featured surprises like a certificate of recognition from the Ohio House of Representatives, the dedication of two Way Station locations in Jim and Pat's honor and an unplanned tornado warning that sent everyone briefly to the basement. All who were in attendance were moved hearing the emotional stories of all who spoke and at the realization of how many people's lives have been impacted by this organization in so many different ways. Jim and Pat have created a lasting legacy rooted in love and faith that will continue to impact the lives of so many in our communities and beyond.



State Representative Monica Robb Blasdell presenting Jim with a Proclamation of Congratulations and Gratitude from The House of Representatives.



Community Health Workers Bridge the Gap

The Way Station has partnered with the **Mahoning Valley Pathways HUB**. This partnership will allow us to hire Community Health Workers (CHWs) who will connect at-risk families with healthcare and basic needs resources. The HUB program aims to improve health outcomes for expecting mothers, those with chronic illnesses and others by addressing barriers to healthcare access. CHWs bridge the gap between clients and social services by providing education, referrals and **advocacy**. They also perform risk assessments and monitor progress. Data collected helps track program effectiveness and identify community needs. One area that makes this partnership significant is Columbiana County currently has **no maternity delivery services**. All pregnant mothers must travel outside of the county when they are in labor. Another reason is Ohio's poverty rate exceeds the national average. Programs like this one that not only connects low income individuals with resources, but their advocate (CHW) ensures they are **taking care of their health** and making it to all of their appointments, countering the link of poverty to poor health. For more on the HUB program, visit the Mahoning Valley Pathways HUB website at mahoninghealth.org. Or if you or someone you know could benefit by a CHW, please call us at 330-482-5072.



Board Chair, Eileen Dray-Bardon sharing the new plaques naming the conference room in Columbiana the "Jim & Pat Couchenour Community Room" and the program house in East Liverpool the "Couchenour Community Connections Center".