



**Westlake Community  
Services Media Contact:**  
Lydia Gadd  
440-899-3544  
[lgadd@cityofwestlake.org](mailto:lgadd@cityofwestlake.org)

**NCOA Media Contact:**  
Vanessa Sink  
571.527.3914  
[vanessa.sink@ncoa.org](mailto:vanessa.sink@ncoa.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Westlake Center for Community Services Honored for Innovative Program Supporting Westlake Seniors**

*National Council on Aging Names 2015 NISC Programs of Excellence Awards*

**Westlake, OH (February 22, 2016)** – The Westlake Center for Community Services was recognized on February 11<sup>th</sup> by the National Council on Aging’s National Institute of Senior Centers (NISC) as one of its 2015 Programs of Excellence for its highly successful Sponsorship Breakfast Program. The annual recognition honors outstanding efforts made by senior centers across the nation to offer innovative, creative, and replicable programs for older adults.

“We are honored NISC chose to recognize the success of our Sponsorship Breakfast”, said Lydia Gadd, Director of Community Services. “We are always looking for the best ways to support our seniors, and provide high quality programs. We are so fortunate to have strong community support from so many local businesses and senior care professionals. The Sponsorship Breakfast is a unique opportunity for us to thank our sponsors as well as plan the next year ahead. It is a win-win in terms of organization, fund-raising, collaborating and relationship building.”

Between 40-50 individuals representing 35 or more organizations usually attend the breakfast which includes networking time, recognition and certificates given by our Mayor, favors and door prizes. The perimeter of the room has sign-up sheets covering our “asks” for the ensuing year. The “asks” include everything from speakers, to entertainers, lunch, and refreshments. Much of our year is planned during that short morning. It serves as both a Planning and a Thank You Event. Our seniors benefit because we are then able to provide so many programs at no or little cost.

The Westlake Center for Community Services is a member of the NISC, the nation’s only program committed to supporting and strengthening the country’s 11,000 senior centers. NISC is setting the standard for the future of senior centers by promoting cutting-edge research, promising practices, professional development, and advocacy. NISC also offers the nation’s only National Senior Center Accreditation Program.

“Baby boomers and older adults across the country are looking for new and exciting programs from their local senior centers and each of these winners reflects their willingness to innovate to meet those needs,” said James Firman, president and CEO of NCOA. “We congratulate the Westlake Center for Community Services for their creativity, while continuing to provide the crucial services that help older adults stay active and engaged in their communities.”

For more information about the Westlake Center for Community Services and its programs for older adults, visit [www.cityofwestlake.org](http://www.cityofwestlake.org) . For more information on the National Institute of Senior Centers, visit [www.ncoa.org/NISC](http://www.ncoa.org/NISC).

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### **About The Westlake Center for Community Services**

*The mission of the Westlake Center for Community Services is to offer enrichment programs and services that address the multiple needs of older persons and provide a system of social services for Westlake residents. Last year we had over 18,000 patron visits for our various Plus Fifty programs. Offerings include: education, health & wellness programs, exercise, entertainment, support groups, movies, art classes and more. Our social service department operates a food pantry, a senior transportation service, a youth diversion program and more. We do rely on support and volunteerism from local businesses, civic groups, organizations and individuals to provide a high quality service.*

### **About NCOA**

*The National Council on Aging (NCOA) is a respected national leader and trusted partner to help people aged 60+ meet the challenges of aging. Our mission is to improve the lives of millions of older adults, especially those who are struggling. Through innovative community programs and services, online help, and advocacy, NCOA is partnering with nonprofit organizations, government, and business to improve the health and economic security of 10 million older adults by 2020. Learn more at [ncoa.org](http://ncoa.org) and @NCOAging.*