

# PSR The Advocate

NEWSLETTER

**Piedmont Senior Resources Area Agency on Aging, Inc.**  
www.psraaa.org • April 2025

## PSR PET FOOD DRIVE BRINGS HOPE AND HAPPINESS TO SENIORS AND THEIR PETS



Throughout the month of February, our community rallied together to support PSR's Pet Food Drive — an effort that's about much more than just pet food. Compassionate donors helped PSR's Pet Love Program continue its mission to keep low-income, homebound older adults and their cherished pets together, happy and healthy.

"By providing pet food and supplies, we're helping make sure no one has to choose between feeding themselves or their pet. It's a simple way to make a big difference in the lives of the older adults we serve," said Nutrition Coordinator Nikki Dean.

Donations of food, cat litter and monetary gifts poured in. PSR also welcomed donations via online purchases from Chewy, Amazon or Walmart, allowing supporters to contribute conveniently from home. All food and supplies collected during the drive will be distributed to older adults who receive PSR's Home-Delivered Meals services. For many of these individuals, their pets are an important source of unconditional love and companionship.

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's Pet Food Drive! Your kindness and generosity are making a difference in the lives of seniors and their beloved pets. If you missed the Pet Food Drive but would still like to contribute, monetary donations are always welcomed. Visit [psraaa.org/pet-love](https://psraaa.org/pet-love) to learn more and donate.



**DONATE TO  
PSR PET LOVE**

*"Pets are extremely important to the health and well-being of everyone but especially the elderly. Public support for this program is greatly appreciated!"*

– Justine Young  
PSR Executive Director

## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



**GEOFF ANGLE**

## CELEBRATING ONE YEAR OF SERVICE & SUCCESS

**Job Title:** PSR Director of Nutrition and Transportation

### Why PSR?

A year ago, Geoff Angle turned 50 and decided it was time for a change. He felt that serving the older adult population in PSR's seven-county service area would be a good fit. Geoff started working as PSR's Director of Nutrition and Transportation in March 2024.

"I wanted to concentrate my efforts closer to home," Angle said. "It came down to who I would serve...These are the people who need help — especially in a rural area. PSR helps restore dignity to the lives of elderly clients, and that's really important."

### People May Be Surprised to Know:

Geoff previously worked as an executive for the Boy Scouts of America Heart of Virginia Council in Richmond. Now, he's applying his leadership experience to serve our community.

Join us in celebrating Geoff's first successful year with PSR!

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### A VISIT FROM BOB BLANCATO (NANASP)

We had the honor of welcoming Bob Blancato, the executive director of the National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs (NANASP), for a special visit!

As one of only three Virginia recipients of the prestigious NANASP 2024 Mid-Year Grant, Bob shared that "a special visit was in order." We are thrilled to have received this \$3,000 grant in support of our PSR Pet Love Program, dedicated to improving the health and well-being of older adults in our community.

Our Pet Love Program is tackling malnutrition and reducing the risk of alpha-gal syndrome by providing flea and tick prevention for pets in the homes of older adults. Since alpha-gal syndrome is spread by tick bites, keeping ticks off pets helps prevent them from entering homes and posing a risk to our seniors.

Bob commented that "it was the most unique application received," and we are proud that our innovative approach was recognized as well worthy of the funding.

Nikki Dean, Nutrition Program Coordinator, expressed the significance of this grant, stating, "Being able to provide flea and tick prevention for our PSR Pet Love Program clients is a game changer. Not only does it protect their beloved pets, but it also helps prevent the spread of alpha-gal syndrome in our area. This grant allows us to expand our efforts in keeping both our clients and their pets safe and healthy."

As an added bonus, Bob even brought a special surprise: a generous pet food donation to support the PSR Pet Love Program!

We are grateful for NANASP's support and look forward to continuing our mission to improve the lives of older adults in our community. Together, we're making a difference!



### RAM CLINIC BRINGS FREE MEDICAL CARE TO CUMBERLAND COUNTY

On March 29 and 30, Cumberland County High School became a hub of healing and hope as the Remote Area Medical (RAM) clinic arrived to provide free dental, vision and medical care to those in need. As part of the Community Health Group organizing the event, PSR was proud to stand alongside local partners, volunteers and medical professionals to make this life-changing weekend a reality.

Individuals who had never seen an eye doctor left with glasses. Patients received much-needed dental surgeries. Women accessed mammograms for the very first time. For many, this event offered essential care and made a great impact.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to Dr. Maria Almond for her tireless leadership and to Chip Jones and Cumberland County High School for graciously hosting the clinic. We're also deeply grateful to the many doctors, nurses and volunteers who generously gave their time and expertise.

This event would not have been possible without the support of incredible partners, including Centra Health, county governments, Donna and Jon VanCleave, Todd Robinson, Rock River Homes, the Rotary Clubs of Blackstone and Farmville, the Farmville Lions Club, nursing students from Longwood University and Southside Virginia Community College, and many dedicated churches and individuals.

Thanks to your generosity, RAM brought more than just healthcare to Cumberland — it brought compassion, connection and community.



## SHAMROCK YOUR HEALTH: INSPIRING WELLNESS AND COMMUNITY CONNECTION

PSR recently hosted a fantastic Shamrock Your Health event on Saturday, March 15, at the Fuqua Lower School Gym. The free health fair, held in partnership with USAging's Aging and Disability Vaccination Collaborative (ADVC), brought together older adults, individuals with disabilities and community members for a fun and informative day dedicated to healthier living. Attendees enjoyed free health screenings for vision, skin cancer, blood pressure and more.

"Screenings can detect diseases like cancer, high blood pressure and diabetes before symptoms appear," said Ginger Downes, RN. "Early detection can lead to better outcomes and a longer lifespan."

Medical professionals were also onsite to offer expert advice and wellness activities designed to promote vibrant aging, such as diabetes education and stress-relieving massages.

"Our goal is to empower everyone to take charge of their own well-being," said Victoria Case, a PSR community health worker.

PSR was proud to partner with all of the incredible local organizations and professionals who made the day a success: Caption Call; Ginger Downes, RN; Seventh Day Adventist Church; Dr. Reeves LaRoche; Jeane Pohlman, RN; PACE; RidgeView Dermatology; Southside Bodyworks; YMCA; Pharmacy, Medical Reserve Corps; and Beltone.

We extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated!



## SAVE THE DATE

### FUN EVENTS COMING YOUR WAY!

Mark your calendars! We have some exciting events lined up that you won't want to miss. From fresh produce to furry friends, there's something for everyone!

MAY  
10

**Petals & Paws Pet Walk**  
Saturday, May 10  
10 a.m.-2 p.m.  
Wilck's Lake Park

Grab your leashes and join us for a stroll with your four-legged companions during our second annual fundraiser event with vendors and more! This fun walk is perfect for pets and their humans, all while supporting our beloved Pet Love Program.

JUNE  
01

**Farmville Community Marketplace**  
Sunday, June 1  
9 a.m.-1 p.m.  
213 North St., Farmville

Enjoy fresh, local produce and handmade goods at our vibrant Farmers Market. It's a great way to support local farmers while enjoying delicious, healthy options.