

# ***News Release***

**Lifeline for the Empowerment and Development of Consumers, Inc.**

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**Lifeline, Inc. Celebrates 40 Years with Anniversary Event  
June 26, 2013**

**PAINESVILLE, Ohio**— Lifeline, Inc., Lake County's Community Action Agency, has had a busy year commemorating its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Throughout the past year both Board and staff members have continually celebrated the past while looking ahead to the future.

"We began the anniversary year by holding a strategic planning retreat with our Board and staff last fall," said Carrie Dotson, Executive Director of Lifeline. "We came away from the retreat with a strong focus on where we want to be heading in the next few years, both financially and in terms of programming. We also adopted a new mission statement that better defines what Lifeline is about and who we serve."

Lifeline concluded its anniversary year by hosting an Anniversary Celebration Barbeque at Painesville Township Park on May 22. Attended by over 175 guests, it was a chance for Lifeline to display 40 years of history and celebrate its accomplishments.

"We are very much a community-based organization. Last year we served over 1,500 families in nearly every community in Lake County through our energy and community services programs, plus took over 40,500 calls with 2-1-1 Lake County," said Dotson. "We wanted our anniversary event to reflect that and wanted to celebrate with all those who have helped Lifeline get to where we are today, including current and former staff and Board members, collaborating agency partners, funders and donors."

Lifeline for the Empowerment and Development of Consumers was founded in 1973 with the mission of helping Lake County residents by providing them assistance and life skills programming that is designed to increase self-sufficiency. In 1980 Lifeline became a participating agency of the United Way of Lake County, UWLC, and in 1987 was designated a community action agency by the Ohio Department of Development, ODOD. In 2008, Lifeline was designated as a mental health agency by the Ohio Department of Mental Health.

Today Lifeline continues with the same mission of helping Lake County's low-income residents break the cycle of poverty and make the transition from agency-dependency to self-sufficiency. Lifeline's current programming includes services in the healthcare, housing & energy assistance, information & referral services and consumer education & job training areas. Our motto is 'helping people, changing lives.' Lifeline is currently funded by the UWLC and by grants through the ODOD, the Lake County Board of Commissioners, the Lake County ADAMHS Board, Lake County Department of Job & Family Services, the City of Mentor, the Western Reserve Junior Service League, Bikers Aiding Local Diabetics and through private donors.

