

For Immediate Release

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GCI Announces Vision for Geauga County

Gauga Community Impact (GCI) has recently completed the first four phases of an eight-phase project. Based on input from numerous Geauga County citizens, GCI has adopted a vision statement that the group will utilize as they plan for the County's future. A vision statement is a way of stating what GCI would like Geauga County to become over the next 15-20 years. The group approved the following vision statement at a recent meeting:

Geauga County is one of the best places in Ohio to live, work and raise a family. It is a caring, safe and vibrant community where all persons are valued.

Geauga County is a thriving community that balances agriculture, industry, and tourism in an environmentally responsive manner. County residents are proud of their efforts in preserving green space and natural resources such as clean air and fresh water. Geaugans protect the scenic headwaters of the Cuyahoga, Grand and Chagrin Rivers. Geauga County embraces its rural heritage and unique resources including the maple industry and Amish culture. In addition, the arts, culture, parks and outdoor recreational opportunities in Geauga County are varied and accessible.

Geauga County has a range of housing, transportation and employment options that meet a variety of needs of both current and future residents. Geauga County residents support local business, industry and agriculture that provide meaningful employment opportunities. Career and personal goals are pursued through high quality educational services and life long learning opportunities. The County promotes the wellness of its residents through comprehensive, affordable and coordinated health and human services.

Geaugans respond to changing community needs and work collaboratively on a local as well as a community basis. These efforts develop solutions to issues that impact the common good and overall quality of life.

In August 2005, GCI announced the release of **GCI: Report to the Community**; a 300+ page resource book that takes a comprehensive look at the health and human services needs in the County. The needs identified are the result of the ten-month study completed by the group. The report includes a demographic profile of Geauga County, as well as chapters that focus on Community Life; Basic & Emergency Needs; Education; Employment & Income; Health; Housing; and Special Population Groups. The **GCI: Report to the Community** is available in all Geauga County Public Libraries, as well as the Burton Library.

GCI is now in the fifth phase of the project, which involves selecting 3-5 issues that focus on neighborhoods, population groups, issue topics, or on a combination of all three **AND** that

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have a significant impact on Geauga County's future. The group will then derive targeted community outcomes that will guide a future community plan.

GCI is a collaboration of community leaders from local businesses, faith groups, law enforcement, health care, government and neighborhoods that have come together to plan for the future of Geauga County's health and human service needs. Funding for the collaboration has been provided in part by the Lake-Geauga Fund of The Cleveland Foundation, Geauga County Department on Aging, Geauga County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board, Geauga County Department of Job and Family Services, Geauga Family First Council and United Way Services of Geauga County.

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