



EBENEZER HEALTHCARE ACCESS



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Miami Valley Community ID Drive Expands Access for Local Residents, Including New Americans

At a recent Miami Valley Community ID (MVCID) Drive held at the Dayton Metro Library, volunteers—including community member Ebenezer—helped new Americans and refugees secure a local form of identification that expands access to essential services.

Launched in 2019, the MVCID Program was created to strengthen trust and safety within the Miami Valley by offering an alternative ID for residents who face barriers to obtaining state-issued identification.

In 2021, the Hall Hunger Initiative began providing financial support, while Westminster Presbyterian Church took on hosting and administrative leadership. Since November 2025, the Welcome Dayton has issued over 1,800 IDs.



The MVCID is available to all Miami Valley resident

s—returning citizens, people experiencing homelessness, older adults, new Americans, and refugees. The card offers reliable identification within participating agencies, serving as a bridge to housing support, healthcare access, food assistance, and other basic-needs services. It fosters cooperation between residents and community partners, contributing to a safer and more connected region.

The card is not a driver's license, cannot be used to vote, does not replace state identification, and carries no impact on new Americans status. It is recognized only by organizations that have formally partnered with the program.

At the Dayton event, Ebenezer assisted new Americans and refugee attendees as they navigated the application process—helping ensure that more of the region's newest residents can participate fully and confidently in community life. The next ID drive is scheduled for Saturday, February 28, 2026.



Celebrating Service: Pastors and EHA Join Forces for Health and Hope

Columbus-OH: On November 7, Ebenezer Healthcare Access (EHA) hosted a special luncheon to



honor local pastors for their meaningful contributions to the spiritual and social wellbeing of community members in need. The gathering brought together pastors serving diverse immigrant communities, including those from Nigeria, Burundi, and Rwanda. Although seven pastors were expected, four were able to attend and participate in the event.

Dr. Irene Niyongombwa, Director of EHA, Columbus Office, led an engaging discussion with the pastors, highlighting the crucial role they play in supporting underserved populations—not only spiritually but also socially. Dr. Niyongombwa emphasized how faith leaders often serve as the first point of

contact for individuals facing challenges related to housing, health, employment, and family needs. Looking ahead, the group explored potential partnerships for the coming year. One promising idea discussed was co-hosting community health events in 2026, specifically focusing on breast and cervical cancer screening—an effort that would significantly expand access to preventive health services for women in the communities served.

The pastors expressed heartfelt appreciation for being recognized and voiced strong enthusiasm for continued collaboration. Their willingness to work alongside EHA reflects their commitment to uplifting those most in need and strengthening the wellbeing of the communities they serve.

During the luncheon, the conversation also focused on strengthening collaboration between EHA and local churches. Dr. Niyongombwa shared opportunities for pastors to support EHA's mission to address the social determinants of health among new Americans, refugees, and other vulnerable populations.

Cincinnati: EHA Leads Food Assistance Initiative for New American Families

On November 12, the Ebenezer Healthcare Access Cincinnati team demonstrated strong leadership by providing essential food assistance to new American families experiencing hardship. This initiative was made possible through a generous contributions from two members of a local church, Peoples church, The New Vision United Methodist Church and Impacting Tomorrow, enabling families to receive culturally familiar foods—items that respect their traditions while supporting their overall well-being.



Dr. Amy Christopher, Director of Grant Acquisition, Research, and Health

Education, noted that the effort comes at a critical time, as many households continue to face increased strain due to recent reductions in SNAP food benefits. By offering culturally appropriate groceries, Ebenezer Healthcare Access is helping ensure that families not only have adequate nutrition, but also feel recognized, supported, and valued.

The Cincinnati team's work reflects Ebenezer Healthcare Access's broader mission to reduce barriers, promote inclusivity, and advance health equity for New American and refugee populations. This event underscores the impactful results that can be achieved through strong partnerships and the dedication of staff committed to serving the community.

The Cincinnati Office Director, Vital Manirakiza, who was on site, expressed appreciation for the collaboration between Ebenezer Healthcare Access and its partners and reaffirmed the organization's steadfast commitment to fostering a healthy, resilient, and thriving community for all.

EHA Strengthens Outreach to Immigrant Communities in Cincinnati

Ebenezer Healthcare Access (EHA) continues its mission to support immigrant and underserved communities by helping individuals successfully navigate the complex U.S. healthcare system.

Recently, Dr. Amy Christopher, the Director of Grant and Acquisition met with members of a Spanish-speaking congregation at a local church in Cincinnati to share information about EHA's services and to build meaningful connections within the community.

During the visit, Dr. Christopher introduced Ebenezer Healthcare Access's mission to reduce health disparities by ensuring that new Americans and other vulnerable populations have the knowledge, support, and resources they need to access quality healthcare. She explained how unfamiliar systems, language barriers, and lack of insurance often prevent newcomers from receiving timely medical care, and how EHA works to bridge those gaps.

Dr. Christopher highlighted several of EHA's key services, including assistance with scheduling and navigating medical appointments, professional interpretation services to support effective communication with healthcare providers, and guidance with



understanding and applying for health insurance. In addition, EHA offers health education to help individuals better understand

preventive care, chronic disease management, and how to make informed decisions about their health. This outreach visit reflects EHA's commitment to culturally responsive care and community-based engagement. By partnering with trusted spaces such as faith communities, EHA ensures that new Americans feel welcomed, respected, and empowered to seek care without fear or confusion. Through education, advocacy, and personalized support, EHA continues to play a vital role in helping new Americans settle into their new lives and confidently access healthcare services in the United States.

Ebenezer Healthcare Access Hosts Annual Christmas Celebration

On December 19, Ebenezer Healthcare Access (EHA) hosted its annual Christmas celebration, bringing together employees from its Dayton, Cincinnati, and Columbus offices, along with their families, Board members, and friends. The gathering was a joyful time of fellowship, reflection, and appreciation for a year of meaningful service.

The event opened with a prayer led by Pastor Augustin Zigiranyirazo, who thanked God for his guidance and provision throughout the year. His prayer set a grateful and reflective tone for the evening.

In his remarks, Dr. Silas Mureramanzi, Human Resources Assistant, welcomed guests and highlighted the purpose of the gathering to celebrate the season and reflect on EHA's accomplishments, which align with its mission of serving people with dignity, compassion, and understanding. He emphasized EHA's work with refugees, immigrants, and underserved communities in Dayton, Cincinnati, and Columbus, particularly those facing language, cultural, and transportation barriers.

The Executive Director Jean de Dieu Mukunzi then shared organizational highlights. In 2025 alone, EHA served 3,633 clients, with Community Health Workers completing 37,146 pathways across all offices. Mukunzi also mentioned to the attendees that EHA moved its



In closing, Jean de Dieu Mukunzi, the Executive Director thanked God for

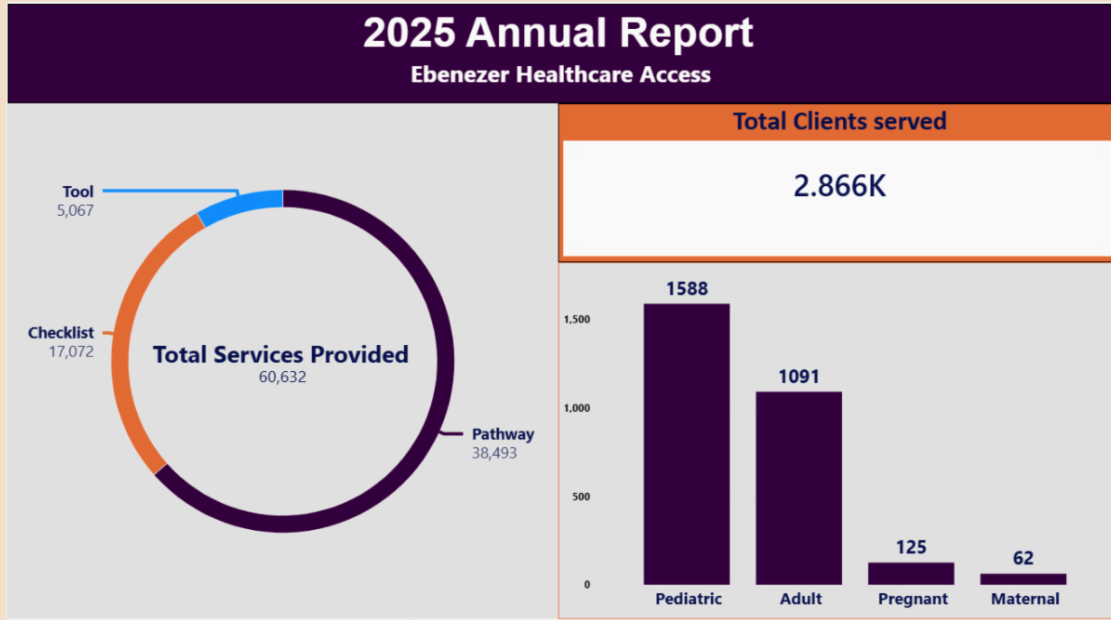
his provision and expressed appreciation to the spouses and children of EHA employees for their continued support. With the assistance of three Board members in attendance, certificates of appreciation and incentives were presented to employees in recognition of their dedication and hard work. Along with being awarded certificates of appreciation, employees enjoyed a Secret Santa gift exchange, embracing a tradition that is widely celebrated in American culture.

The celebration featured Christian songs performed by employees, with some translated and sung in different languages to reflect staff diversity.

staff from 1099 contractor status to W-2 employment status, which will allow employees to receive benefits, including paid time off, paid holidays. Additionally, EHA expanded its team by hiring five new employees: a Director of Grant Acquisition, Research, and Health Education; a Director of Marketing and Communications; and three Community Health Workers. Looking ahead to 2025, EHA increased its assets by purchasing three vehicles to support transportation needs for employees and clients.



The atmosphere was warm and festive, with attendees elegantly dressed and sharing a meal together. The event served as a meaningful reminder of EHA's unity, mission, and commitment to serving the community.



UPCOMING EVENTS

January
30 **Board Meeting**

February
28 **Community ID**

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