

I worked at LCOI from May 1987 till July 2008.

When I interviewed for my position at LCOI I did not have a clue what the agency was or did. At the time I worked 2 shifts at Carthage Area Hospital which included weekends. I knew it was a Monday-Friday position. With young family at the time LCOI was great "family" to become part of. The world of not-for-profits was very educational and more times than not I tried to share that knowledge with those that could benefit. I look at the programs available at LCOI and other agencies in Lewis County as "helping hands" not a "hand out".

My responsibilities over the years varied greatly. In the early years I assisted other staff with outreach activities, the food pantry, clothing bin and some clerical tasks as needed. Eventually I became responsible for networking with the five food pantries within Lewis County. This included assisting those pantries in applying for funding to stock pantry shelves, food drives, referrals to the pantries and volunteer recruitment. For several years I screened consumers for the FEMA program which assisted with financial assistance for rent, fuel/utilities and food. I did facilitated enrollment for a short time which assisted families to enroll their children in the Child Health Plus and Medicaid programs. In 1998 my responsibilities shifted to providing Representative Payee services to consumers who were unable to manage their own finances. These individuals received Social Security Income and/or Social Security Disability. In addition to taking care of the finances for these individuals, case management soon became a part of the program. I would assist them applying for benefits/ services, monthly financial records, reports to the Social Security Administration, etc. I supervised staff providing youth services for a short time. I also volunteered for the Crisis Hotline the entire length of my employment at LCOI and a few years following.

Leaving LCOI was a very difficult decision for me but I do enjoy working with the seniors of Lewis County. In July 2008 I accepted a position at Lewis County Office for the Aging as the Aging Services Examiner. My main responsibility is screening seniors for the Home Delivered Meal Program (HDM). This program provides five meals a week to eligible seniors. Caseload for the HDM program can range from 120-140 depending on the time of year and available funding. I work closely with our caterers, Home Delivered Meal drivers and nutrition site staff. I assist the Nutrition Coordinator with day to day operation of the six Senior Nutrition Sites in Lewis County. During home visits to screen for the HDM program I will also screen for any other programs or services that the senior could benefit from. I assist with outreach activities provided by Office for the Aging such as the farmer's market coupons that are available each summer to seniors in Lewis County.