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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Heather Burnette, PIO
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January 23, 2024

**Celebrating Half a Century of Compassion and Care:
 50 Years of WIC**

Today, the Lucas County Commissioners recognized the 50th anniversary of the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program with a special proclamation.

This anniversary marks an incredible milestone in the evolution of maternal and child health care. Since the opening of the first clinic in 1974, WIC has been an unwavering beacon of support, committed to improving public health outcomes for women, infants, and children.

WIC’s first clinic opened its doors in Pineville, Kentucky in January 1974. Ohio’s WIC program began a few months later, with Lucas County’s WIC program serving as one of the “pilot” projects for the state. Within the first year, Ohio had \$757,340 in funding and served 10,175 participants at 18 project sites across the state. By 1984, Ohio WIC had grown to be statewide with the addition of the 88th county via the Geauga WIC program.

Lucas County has eight (8) WIC sites and serves thousands of participants each year. WIC provides access to nutrition education, breastfeeding support, and supplemental foods. In the summer months, TLCHD hosts farmers’ markets at the downtown location, allowing families to access healthy local produce.

For 50 years, WIC has been at the center of positive public health outcomes, championing access to healthy food, breastfeeding support, health screenings, and referrals. Join us in celebrating this remarkable legacy and continuing to advocate for a bright and promising future of WIC.

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