

# ***News Release***

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

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**Lifeline, Inc. Announces 2008 Results  
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**PAINESVILLE, Ohio**—Lifeline, Inc., Lake County's Community Action Agency, served 849 unduplicated low-income families, or 1,810 individuals, in 2008 according to the agency year end report.

"We're very pleased to announce our 2008 results," said Carrie Dotson, Executive Director at Lifeline, Inc. "Our results show the early effects of the current economy. However, our focus in 2008 continued to be on programming that would make a difference long-term for our clients and I feel that each of the 849 households who were served was impacted long-term in some facet of their life."

The report details the demographics of each household assisted by Lifeline in 2008. Of the 1,810 individuals served in 2008, 70% were Caucasian, 19% African-American, 9% Hispanic and 2% represented other ethnicities. Fifty-five percent of all individuals served were female.

Of the individuals served, 36% fell within the 0-17 age range; 55% fell within the 18-54 age range; 7% fell within the 55-69 age range; and 2% fell within the 70 years and older age range.

Of individuals age 24 and older, 55% had a high school diploma or GED; 23% had some post-secondary education in addition to a high school diploma or GED; 11% were

non-graduates completing some high school; 4% had only education levels through 8<sup>th</sup> grade and 7% had completed a two or four year degree.

Of the 849 households assisted in 2008, 46% were single person homes; 27% were single-parent households headed by a female; 13% were two-parent households; 8% were couple households; 1% was single-parent households headed by a male and 5% were other types of households.

Other pertinent stats include: 43% of individuals served had no health insurance and 10% of individuals served were disabled. Of the 849 households served, 69% rented housing; 10% owned their own home; and 21% were homeless.

Nearly every community within Lake County was served during 2008. Of the 1,810 individuals served, 54% were Painesville/Painesville Twp. residents; 9% each were from Willoughby/Willoughby Hills and Mentor/Mentor on the Lake; 6% each came from Eastlake and Madison; 5% came from Fairport Harbor; 3% each came from Willowick and Wickliffe; 2% were from Perry; 1% each came from Concord and Kirtland/Kirtland Hills; and less than 1% each came from Grand River, Leroy and Timberlake. No households were assisted in Lakeline or Waite Hill.

“This year we’ve seen several notable shifts in our demographics, likely from the changing economy and the changing face of need in Lake County,” Dotson said. “Probably the biggest shift we’ve seen this year has been in the education level of our clients. In 2007, only 43% of our clients had a high school diploma or GED. In 2008 that jumped up to %55. The number of clients who have had some post-secondary educational also grew, from 19% in 2007 to 23% in 2008. Overall, we’re seeing clients with a much higher level of education than in previous years.”

Dotson also cited geographic location as an additional demographic shift in 2008.

“Another shift we’ve seen in 2008 is that our client base is continuing to spread out of Painesville and its surrounding areas,” Dotson said. “For each of the last few years, we’ve seen fewer Painesville residents in more clients from other areas of Lake County. Particularly in 2008, our client bases grew in western Lake County, with increases in Willoughby, Willowick and Timberlake.”

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.

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 health, housing and family development areas. Our motto is ‘first to help, then to teach.’ Lifeline is currently funded by the UWLC and by grants through the ODOD, the City of Mentor, the Lake County Board of Commissioners, the Western Reserve Junior Service League, the CVS Foundation, the Ohio Housing Trust Fund, the Bikers Aiding Local Diabetics and through private donors.