

LYNX INVESTMENT ADVISORY

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Lynx Investment Advisory — Charity Spotlight Series — January 2023

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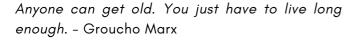
Design & Content Editors: Fadoua Arif & Marysue K. Shore

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CHARITY SPOTLIGHT SERIES:

NATIONAL COUNCIL ON AGING

Helping Older Americans
Age with Dignity



It seems Americans have taken Marx's words to heart. Americans are living longer thanks to improvements in public health, medical technologies and standards of living and hygiene.

But, the quality of those additional years varies greatly across different segments of society. According to the latest U.S. Census report, **older adults are the only segment of the population experiencing greater poverty**, with 6 million living below the poverty line.

The National Council on Aging (NCOA), based in Arlington, VA, is working to bring greater attention to these issues, with the goal of **improving the lives of 40 million older adults by 2030**. Founded in 1950, NCOA's work focuses on improving the health and financial security of older Americans, especially those who struggle, and enabling them to age with dignity.

NCOA empowers older adults with trusted information and education, strengthens and supports the vast network of community-based organizations that serve older adults and advocates for system changes at the federal level. Programs include:

 Benefits Access: NCOA estimates that eligible older Americans leave more than \$16 billion in state and federal benefits unused each year because they don't know about the programs or how to apply. These include the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly Food Stamps) and Medicare Savings Programs. NCOA connects older adults to these benefits through BenefitsCheckUp®, a free online screening tool that allows visitors to see for which programs they may be eligible. NCOA also supports a national network of Benefits Enrollment Centers that help eligible older adults apply to these programs. In 2022, NCOA and its partners submitted \$592 million in benefits applications on behalf of older adults in need.

- <u>Healthy Aging:</u> NCOA supports local organizations, such as senior centers, that offer workshops on how to manage chronic conditions and prevent falls, helping older adults to improve their health and independence. In 2022, nearly 30,000 older adults attended these classes.
- Work: NCOA runs the Department of Labor's Senior Community Service Employment Program, the nation's only job training program specifically for older adults. In 2022, this program helped 4,500 older adults improve their job skills and find permanent employment.
- Advocacy: In Washington, D.C., NCOA is an advocate for older adults and communitybased organizations. It is a national leader in protecting and strengthening the core programs that all Americans depend on as they age, such as Medicare, Social Security



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and the Older Americans Act.

The impact of NCOA's work can be life changing. During our interview with NCOA's President & CEO, Ramsey Alwin, she shared the story of Linda.

For years, Linda had been her mother's sole, full-time caregiver. They were able to scrape by living on Social Security and SNAP. At 74, Linda lost her mother. While she grieved the loss, she faced an uncertain future after being unemployed for more than a decade.

Linda turned to NCOA's job training and placement center in North Carolina, one of twenty-four across the country. Through BenefitsCheckUp®, she accessed programs that helped cover her living costs. NCOA's team assisted her in building computer and job skills and introduced her to an on-the-job training

opportunity with a local company. Within weeks, Linda earned permanent employment with benefits. With hard work, determination and support from NCOA programs, Linda is now enjoying greater confidence in herself and a better quality of life.

"There is a dignity to aging. Older adults offer the experience and wisdom of a lifetime that our culture does not always appreciate." Alwin said.

NCOA is working to ensure that dignity is enjoyed by all Americans.

You can find out more about NCOA's work at www.ncoa.org or by emailing Karen Davis, Chief Development & Marketing Officer, at karen.davis@ncoa.org.



