

FIFTYFIVE *forward*



Fall, 2017

Senior Services Launches Campaign For Campus Renovation

Since 1968 Senior Services has been serving Wichita's older population by helping them to remain at home and connected to our community. As one of the earliest organizations serving elders, Senior Services provided thousands of older people in Wichita with programs that feed them, allow them a place to congregate and make new friends, assist them in obtaining employment and provide a break for those who are their caregivers.

The Board of Senior Services has a new vision for the future. Senior Services wants to expand services that assist people as they age to remain independent. We know that the next generation - the baby boomers - will seek out more opportunities for successful aging. Senior Services, Inc. of Wichita, a nonprofit organization, is poised to meet that demand by developing more innovative programs and forming new partnerships in our community.

With the future in mind, Senior Services has embarked on a capital campaign to raise funds for a remodel and construction project at the 200 S. Walnut property. A generous gift from the Dwane and Velma Wallace Foundation provided the seed money to begin the campaign, which has now reached the halfway mark to the goal of \$6 million.

Board members and staff have been diligently planning a rework of the entire property. This includes the construction of a



new Meals on Wheels kitchen and the addition of new space to grow our current programs. This project will give Senior Services more capacity to serve the next generation of seniors in the coming years. A larger and more efficient kitchen will allow the agency to begin providing Meals on Wheels clients with a choice in menu items. Enlarging the current Senior Employment Program space will better accommodate the growing number of older job seekers who need assistance in finding employment. Additional classrooms and event space will provide more variety in programming at one time.

Your support is needed

Senior Services is looking to our supporters and the community at large to help us raise the funds needed. We are currently at 50% of our goal. To help, contact Chris Heiman at 316-267-0302, ext. 216, or email Chris@seniorservicesofwichita.org



Respite Program Provides “Such A Blessing”

For years, Lorrrie Beck’s father served as the caregiver for her mother, Shirley, who has Alzheimer’s disease. At the time of his death in April of 2014, they were living with Lorrie. She made plans to take early retirement so she could assist her mother.

Also a volunteer with the Kansas Food Bank and a board member for Habitat for Humanity, Lorrrie welcomes the assistance she receives from the respite program at Senior Services. The three hours of respite care she has on Fridays enable her to remain active with the causes she has embraced.

Senior Services, Inc., of Wichita started its respite program in 1987. Sedgwick County provided a grant with the request that the program serve as many people as possible.

“That is how we developed the three-hour blocks of time once a week,” says Laurel Alkire, executive director of Senior Services and the creator of the program. “We started by recruiting workers from our Senior Employment Program. We wanted older people as they share many of the same interests and backgrounds as those they serve.”

In the 30 years since it was founded, respite care has provided relief for thousands of caregivers.

For seven years, Carolyn Rutherford cared for her mother, who had Alzheimer’s and some difficulties with her heart. She, too, received a benefit from the respite program.

“It was so nice I could go to the store and not worry about my mother,” she explains. Grateful, she has been providing the same service to others since December of 2011, caring for a total of seven people each week, one of them Lorrie’s mother.

“The caregivers need care too,” Carolyn says. “My mom was in need of so much care. I wasn’t getting enough sleep and I couldn’t get away to do anything recreational until we had respite care.”

Having Carolyn provide respite for her mother is a double blessing for Lorrrie, since Carolyn knows first-hand how to best manage someone with Alzheimer’s disease.

For 28 years, Dolores Cooper has served as



the coordinator for respite care. She takes great pride in the quality of their workers. “We are dependable, and the families know they can count on us,” she says. “We don’t have turnover, so people get the same caregivers. They are so committed and they love what they do. They make my job easy.”

Each employee is carefully screened, then receives two days of training on dealing with chronic conditions and spiritual issues. Two inservice sessions are held twice a year to provide additional education. Employees can provide light housekeeping and meal preparation, but their primary purpose is to serve as a companion. Dolores also visits the homes of prospective clients to ensure the safety of the respite workers.

Knowing the integrity of the program, the Alzheimer’s Association contracts with Senior Services to provide the workers for their respite care scholarship program, which is funded by an annual golf tournament and the Area Agency on Aging.

The program was free for years, but the economy in recent years forced Senior Services to begin charging a nominal hourly fee several years ago.

“It’s such a blessing to have dedicated caregivers,” Lorrie says. “They are like heroes. Carolyn’s compassion, love and understanding help me keep mom here at home and out of a facility.”

A Galaxy Of Stars 2017 Honors Wink Hartman

It was a night of fellowship and laughter, fine dining and elegance, as more than 350 people turned out at the Wichita Hyatt August 19 to honor Wink Hartman at A Galaxy Of Stars.

The crowd mingled during the Red Carpet ceremony before being treated to an elegant meal of beef tenderloin and roasted chicken. The roast began shortly after 8:00 p.m. with local celebrities Bobby Lane, Zoe Newton, Michael Monteferrante, Bob Knight, Ron Ryan and Dawson Grimsley. Rene Steven of Spangles returned for the 10th consecutive year as the evening's roast master. All "roasted and toasted" Hartman with laughter and love.

Hartman Oil served as the Presenting Sponsor. Other major sponsors included: Brand Plumbing, Cook's Heating & Cooling, Jack and Pat Shelton, Bob and Maura Geist, Scott and Carol Ritchie, Ken and Paula Miller, Spirit Aerosystems, Vintage Bank Kansas, Jimmy's Egg, Hartman Arena, Envision,



Docuplex, Carla Shepherd, House of Schwan, Standard Beverage Corporation, Ben E. Keith Co. and Sysco.

"A Galaxy of Stars" generates significant funding and awareness for the 10 programs operated by Senior Services. All revenue generated supports the operations for all programs and allows Senior Services the opportunity to serve over 9,400 senior citizens each year.



Leave A Legacy

A gift given in memory of a loved one is a lasting tribute to the special relationship you shared. Making a contribution to Senior Services is a fitting way of honoring this person and, at the same time, making a difference in the lives of those we serve. Memorial gifts give thanks for the past and help establish a vision for the future.

Gifts to Senior Services are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.



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Senior Employment Fair Draws Crowd Of Job Seekers

One hundred and eleven job seekers had the opportunity to connect with 17 prospective employers during the semi-annual job fair hosted by the Senior Employment Program Aug. 1.

The Senior Employment Program offers help preparing a resume, interview strategies, computer training and quality job leads, in

addition to sponsoring the weekly job club and semi-annual job fair. In addition, the program operates an in-home placement service for those who prefer to work for individuals as handymen, housekeepers or caregivers.

