

FIFTYFIVE *forward*



Winter, 2018

A Galaxy of Stars Raises Money & Awareness For Programs of Senior Services

The eleventh annual “A Galaxy of Stars Local Celebrity Roasts & Tributes” was held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on Friday, October 12, 2018. This year’s guest of honor was aviation pioneer Ron Ryan. Over 300 guests were treated to a dinner of beef tenderloin while saluting an icon of our community who earned his flying wings right here in Wichita.

Celebrity roasters for 2018 included Larry Steckline, Don Grant, Tim Buchanan, Jack McInteer and Col Ed Sykes. Spangles’ Rene Steven returned as Roast Master. She has hosted the event since its inception in 2008.

Part of the event’s success is the unique focus on celebrating an individual who has made significant contributions to the Wichita community. Guests also appreciated mingling during the cocktail hour and a limited focus on auctions. This year’s event generated over \$120,000 in support of Senior Services making it the second largest event in the organization’s history.

A special thanks to presenting sponsors Meineke Car Care Centers. Other top level sponsors included Legend Senior Living, Brand Plumbing, Cook’s Heating & Air, Depew, Gillen, Rathbun & McInteer LLC, Faith Ablah Real Estate, Classic Real Estate, Larson & Company P.A., Dawson & Patty Grimsley, Russ & Helen Meyer and Dan & Gayla Carney.



It’s Ron Ryan’s turn to take over the podium.



Tim Buchanan brought his ‘Galaxy Of Stars’ ad to life for his part of the roast.



Laughter was amongst the crowd as the room was filled with support for Ron & Senior Services.

Cheers to 50 years! Senior Services Celebrates Monumental Anniversary

In the fall of 1968 local ministers gathered together to discuss the needs of Wichita seniors. They opened the first Senior Activities Center and hung up a simple bulletin board for people to exchange volunteer and job opportunities. A closet was used to store food commodities for those in need. In January of 1969 the first Meals on Wheels were delivered to 17 people living in downtown Wichita.

Now, 50 years later, Senior Services operates 9 programs and provides assistance to over 9,000 seniors each year. That small activities center grew into 4 separate Senior Centers with visitors that surpass 3,000 people each year. The jobs bulletin board is now the Senior Employment Program which provides job placement services to approximately 700 older workers. The food closet is now the Roving Pantry program. The program shops for and delivers groceries every week day. The flagship program, Meals on Wheels has grown and now delivers hot, nutritious meals to 900 seniors each weekday.

In 2016 Senior Services had the foresight to anticipate extreme growth in the aging population. The organization embarked on a capital campaign to expand programming for the next 50 years. A building and remodeling project is currently underway that will provide capacity to serve Baby Boomers who are just now beginning to need community support. "The next generation of seniors will have a whole new set of needs than the one we are currently serving" says Executive Director Laurel Alkire "We must modernize and build to capacity to get ready because there are a lot of boomers who will need us."

Phase one of a three phase campaign was completed in June of 2018. A new Meals on Wheels kitchen was erected to increase service capacity from 1,000 meal preps each day to 3,000.

Senior Employment gained a reception area with individual work stations for jobseekers while the Downtown Senior Center saw a complete refurbish of their existing space to include handicapped accessible bathrooms. Senior Services has raised just under \$4 million of the \$6 million needed to finish the project. If you wish to learn more or can help Senior Services reach completion please contact Chris Heiman at 316-267-0302 ext. 216.



Senior Center Members Give Back To Those In Need This Holiday Season

For several years all four senior centers plan an end of the year project to help those less fortunate during the holiday season. Blankets for the homeless, suitcases for foster kids and pet food for Meals on Wheels clients are just some of the projects both staff and center members have collected over the years. In 2018 each center adopted a family through the Salvation Army's Angel Tree program. Items collected included food, toys and wrapping paper. Donations were accepted through December 3rd then delivered to the Salvation Army.



Last year the centers collected blankets for the homeless.



The four senior centers collect items to donate to the Salvation Army during the holiday season for families in need.

Leave A Legacy - Planned Gifts For Senior Centers

Often it is a challenge to donate to your favorite charity on a regular basis. The desire is there but financial responsibilities like home and health care demand priority. If you wish to make a financial difference but are unable to do so on a regular basis, then a legacy or estate gift may be the right choice for you. Gifts can include estates and wills, cash and securities, along with IRAs and other qualified retirement plans. For more information on legacy giving please contact Chris Heiman at 316-267-0302 ext. 216 or chrish@seniorservicesofwichita.org

CALL TO ACTION: Volunteers Needed To Deliver Meals on Wheels Through The Winter Season.

Each year Meals on Wheels sees a drop in volunteers during the fall and winter seasons. The holiday season is busy and many retired volunteers leave for warmer climates.

This year, due to an aging volunteer base, the demand for regular and fill in volunteers is extremely high. If you or a loved one can help please contact **Meals on Wheels at 267-0122.**



Employees of Westar Energy volunteered their time to help pack holiday and weather emergency meals on November 15, 2018.





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The Gift That Gives Back

All of us know someone special. We all have fond memories of people who have passed on. What better way to honor them this holiday season than with a donation in their name to Senior Services. Any and all amounts given in honor or memory of someone special are a wonderful way to show your love during the season of giving. Senior Services will acknowledge your gift with a letter sent to the person being honored or to the family in memory of those who've gone before us. Senior Services of Wichita is a private, non-government, not-for-profit charity. We rely on several funding sources, including private donations, to operate our programs.

For more information on supporting the work of Senior Services, contact Chris Heiman, Development Director,

at 267-0302, ext. 216

Senior Services would like to thank all our loyal donors for their support in 2018. We are honored to work with you and look forward to a prosperous New Year in 2019!

