Muskegon County Senior Millage

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

October 1, 2020 - September 30, 2021

*The information contained in this annual report reflects only the funding that flowed through Senior Resources as the grants administrator, and does not reflect the entirety of the senior millage funding, including 25% that was allocated in FY21 to municipalities, and administrative costs.



I have been privileged to be a member of the Senior Activities Committee for several years, and currently serve as the chairperson. The Senior Activities Committee is appointed by the Muskegon County Commission and is charged with advising the Commission on the expenditure of millage funds, recommending the approval of grants

and contracts to a broad spectrum of service providers, and advocating for the needs of older adults in Muskegon County.

The members of the Senior Activities Committee represent a wealth of experience and knowledge about issues affecting older adults in Muskegon County. Most of us, over 80% of the members, *are* 60 or older! Members of the committee come from backgrounds in business, human services, and government. There is overlap with the Muskegon County Commission with three Commissioners also serving on the committee. Members represent both urban and rural areas of the County.

We have come a long way since the initial passage of the senior millage. While the slate was not completely blank after the millage was passed, over the years guidelines and procedures have been improved to assure that the process of applying for millage funds is fair and easy to understand. The needs of older adults have been assessed and grants are now being dispersed in the areas of health, education, housing, mobility, legal affairs, nutrition, social, emotional, and recreational activities in an effort to meet as many needs as possible while recognizing funds are not unlimited. The intrusion of a pandemic in our world may have altered the way services were provided and how meetings were held, but progress ensued, nonetheless.

Members of the Senior Activities Committee are dedicated volunteers. What has been accomplished since the inception of the millage would not have been possible without the expertise and staff time contributed by the grants administrator, Senior Resources of West Michigan. Senior Resources does the heavy lifting behind the scenes of issuing requests, monitoring the performance of the entities receiving millage funds, and collecting data about who is being served. The Senior Activities Committee is grateful for their support. They have compiled this annual report which we encourage you to read.

Finally, please remember that the meetings of the Senior Activities Committee are open to the public. Please join us and become involved in the discussion of how we can best serve older adults in our respective communities.

Greg Scott, Chair Muskegon County Senior Activities Committee

Disability Network Senior Transportation Voucher Program

"The Senior Transportation Voucher Program granted me the opportunity to: attend church on Sundays, travel throughout Michigan, volunteer in the community, go to grocery store, and dine in at local restaurants. Other transportation services could not accommodate my disability."

- Stanley Allen

"My wife, Sharon , and I will be 80 years old on our birthdays. I must find transportation everywhere, being unable to drive, and it is too much for my wife to drive into Grand Rapids for all my medical appointments. The program helped with all our medical limitations to be addressed."

– Dan Douglass

"It takes a village to keep an elderly person at home where they feel comfort, independent and secure. SMTVP was a big part of that village. It assisted with the needs of picking up groceries and prescriptions, transport to life saving medical appointments, to just plain taking a ride to see the lake or a friend."

 Penny Albertie on behalf of her mother, Helen Lind



SPARK! Program (Nuveen Art Center) November 2020

"The first session was zoomed from the Nuveen Art Center. We did a tour of the facility, and then we discussed (3) self-portraits and the artists: Picasso, VanGogh and Rembrandt. In order to expand awareness, we have partnered with White Lake Assisted Living (WLAL) and they had 11 residents participate. We related the stories of the artists, asked what they saw in each of the portraits and then asked them about their own story. The lifestyle coordinator was going to have them do self-portraits.

"Our second session was at the Playhouse at White Lake. We had 7 WLAL attendees and our first community couple. Beth Beaman, the executive director, gave a tour of the theatre. One of the residents talked about having been in the dressing rooms. We then reviewed some theatre artifacts including an old popcorn box, beverage bottle and projector. After our tour, we did a creative story building program using the Timeslips method inspired by the photos attached. Between session I and session II, I started working with 3 National Honor Society students who attend the sessions with us and help keep the conversations going. They also helped by scribing our Timeslips stories.

"I have connected each of the students to a resident. They will be establishing phone contact and sending postcards, always focusing on story. We also plan to have window conversations with their residents in December." AgeWell Services (February 2021)

"We have distributed a multitude of kits with activities/ goodies aimed at keeping our participants healthy and entertained. For example, we gave out "Sunshine Kits" that included items that were yellow, to brighten the days of the participants, along with activities, like a word search, to keep participants brains active. We partnered with United Way of the Lakeshore to provide personal hygiene kits that included basic necessities for keeping clean. My favorite so far, is the one we have coming up, that includes items and activities centered around Valentine's day. I think this one is especially nice because it offers a chance for everyone to feel special, whether they have a "Valentine" or not.

"Virtual programs are going quite well, and we are expanding our offerings to include yoga, at the request

of participants! I wasn't sure that I would get anyone to sign on when I planned these activities, but we have participants coming back each week, asking us for more. I can't wait to get back in-person, but for now, it's an incredible feeling to be able to offer these participants even an hour of interaction online."

Kaytie Drake, Site Activities Manager, AgeWell Services

OV Senior Center Activities (Winter 2021)



"We hear every week how appreciative they are of what we have to offer with senior millage funding!

I so appreciate the opportunity to serve the seniors of our community.

"We appreciate and love all

the senior activity bags and completing the crafts. It has helped fill in the days of staying home for the virus."

Nancy Armitage, SPARK! facilitator

Jenni Bowen



Total Count of Registered Participants per Program

Participants up to 9/30/2021

^t ategory / Provider Name	Service Name	Participants
ducational		
Alzheimer's Association	Dementia Education and Support*	200
Muskegon Community Health Project	Community Health Worker	248
Muskegon Community Health Project	Senior Navigator	402
Senior Resources Contracted Service	MMAP Services*	1,431
lealth		
AgeWell Services	Health Promotions	35
Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired	Low Vision Rehabilitation	134
Christians for Health	Matter of Balance	22
Senior Resources Contracted Service	Community Living Supports	75
Senior Resources Contracted Service	Homemaker	184
Senior Resources Contracted Service	Medication Management	24
Senior Resources Contracted Service	Personal Care	27
Senior Resources Contracted Service	Personal Emergency Response System	197
Senior Resources Contracted Service	Respite Care	22
United Way of the Lakeshore	Retired & Senior Volunteer Support	60
Volunteer for Dental	Dental Care	84
Volunteer for Dental	Dentures	23
Volunteer for Dental	Preventative Services	44
White Lake Area Community Education	Matter of Balance Classes	16
lousing		
City of Muskegon	Home Repair	31
City of Muskegon Heights	Major Home Repair	99
Community enCompass/Bethany Housing	Major Home Repair	19
Living Word Church	Lawn Care	140
Senior Resources Contracted Service Outdoor	Chore Services	137
Trinity Village Nonprofit Housing Corp.	Major Home Repair	31
egal		
AgeWell Services	SafeSeniors - Investigative	710
AgeWell Services	SafeSeniors - Outreach*	7,544
Fair Housing Center of West Michigan	Education and Outreach	41
Fair Housing Center of West Michigan	Housing Enforcement Services	16
Legal Aid of Western Michigan	Legal Services*	114
The Arc Muskegon	Legacy Planning	4

Category / Provider Name	Service Name	Participants
Mobility		
AgeWell Services	Senior Transportation Program	432
Disability Network of West Michigan	Transportation	56
Living Word Church	Snow Removal	140
Love INC	Ramps	27
Ravenna Township	Grocery Trip	40
Nutritional		
AgeWell Services	Congregate Meals	397
AgeWell Services	Home Delivered Meals	740
Casnovia Township	Monthly Luncheon	226
Fruitport Lions Club	Senior Power of Produce	3,607
Muskegon YMCA	Veggie Van	505
Senior Resources Contracted Service	Home Delivered Meals	27
Senior Resources Contracted Service	Nutritional Supplements	23
Social, Recreational, & Emotional		
AgeWell Services	Senior Center Activities	951
Arts Council of White Lake-Nuveen Center	Spark! Program	17
Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired	Support Groups	18
Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired	Vision Loss Counseling	104
Egelston Township	Monthly Dinner	524
Orchard View Community Education	Senior Center Activities	265
Pioneer Resources	Eastern Muskegon County Recreation	189
Pioneer Resources	Northern Muskegon County Recreation	100
Ravenna Township	Community Luncheon	213
Senior Resources Contracted Service	Adult Day Services	6
White Lake Senior Center	Senior Center Activities	76

*Counts are not unduplicated for Dementia Education and Support, MMAP, Legal Services, and SafeSeniors Outreach.

Muskegon County Senior Millage Services and Reimbursed Amounts					
Educational	\$	154,131	Mobility	\$	247,468
Health	\$	153,101	Nutritional	\$	391,035
Housing	\$	405,553	Social, Recreational, & Emotional	\$	323,107
Legal	\$	226,457	Total	\$ 1	1,900,852



Unique Participant Count by Municipality

Total participant count as of 9/30/2021

Municipality	Community	Participant Count	*Senior Population	Percentage of Seniors
Blue Lake	Township	34	675	5%
Casnovia	Township	191	598	32%
Casnovia	Village	13	76	17%
Cedar Creek	Township	119	952	13%
Dalton	Township	289	2,157	13%
Egelston	Township	522	2,445	21%
Fruitland	Township	159	1,994	8%
Fruitport	Township	372	3,918	9%
Fruitport	Village	115	341	34%
Holton	Township	74	698	11%
Laketon	Township	286	2,415	12%
Lakewood Club	Village	34	253	13%
Montague	City	156	745	21%
Montague	Township	44	527	8%
Moorland	Township	57	374	15%
Muskegon	City	3,770	8,355	45%
Muskegon	Township	819	4,636	18%
Muskegon Heights	City	448	2,312	19%
North Muskegon	City	163	1,289	13%
Norton Shores	City	899	7,679	12%
Ravenna	Township	79	570	14%
Ravenna	Village	195	265	74%
Roosevelt Park	City	155	976	16%
Sullivan	Township	68	742	9%
White River	Township	43	585	7%
Whitehall	City	215	962	22%
Whitehall	Township	50	607	8%
	TOTALS	9,369	47,146	20%

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Population Survey Estimates (April 2021)

NOW I HAVE A KITCHEN AGAIN!

Karen Payne looks admiringly at her completely rebuilt kitchen. Ms. Payne lives in a quiet neighborhood on the west side of Muskegon. She says she has lived there in the same house all of her adult life, over 50 years.

"I raised all of my seven children in this house" she says with quiet pride. "They all grew up here and mostly live nearby. I love this neighborhood and know the neighbors."

But over many years her home began to need repairs which were not affordable on a fixed income, especially the kitchen. The ceiling tiles began to fall and the ceiling had to be removed. The walls were cracking and had to be removed, leaving the kitchen torn down to the studs. The wiring was old and unsafe. A family member was able to assist by re-wiring the kitchen. Then another family member sought assistance for her mom through the 211 service hotline. They connected her with Trinity Village Non Profit Housing's program of major home repairs, funded through Muskegon County Senior Millage Program

When Effie Grandberry, Trinity Housing's Home Repair Program Manager, made a home visit to determine the repairs needed, she saw the kitchen walls torn down to the studs. "There was no kitchen, only a room!" she said.

Trinity Housing worked with a local contractor. Through the repair program the walls, ceiling and window were replaced. New floorcovering was installed on the floor. Then the fun part began. Ms. Payne worked with the contractor to choose the wall color she liked best from paint swatches the contractor brought.

"I thought about gray but I wanted it light and not gloomy," she said. The kitchen is a lovely, soothing light gray which goes well with the darker counter tops, giving the room a very modern, up-to-date look. Ms. Payne chose light oak cabinets which add color and zing to the room.

Trinity Village Non Profit Housing has been developing multi-family housing for over 30 years. However, for the past several years Trinity Housing has concentrated on single family home repair and renovation. "It's very satisfying to see how much of a difference we can make in the quality of life for seniors with major home repairs. Some of the repairs which provide accessibility may



make the difference in being able to remain living independently in their homes," said Judith Transue, Executive Director of Trinity Village Non Profit Housing.

Seeing how happy Ms. Payne is with her new kitchen really brings home the meaning of serving the community, especially our elders who have given so much to the community.



Muskegon County Senior Activities Committee Members

Rachel Cereska

Kim Cyr County Commissioner

Peggy Foster

Marcia Hovey-Wright County Commissioner

Nancy McCarthy

Greg Scott Chair

Robert Sewick

Patricia Shafer

Rillastine Wilkins County Commissioner



Senior Resources of West Michigan is the grants administrator for the Muskegon County Senior Millage. Muskegon County is the fiduciary of the senior millage, and the county commissioners have ultimate authority over the millage funds.

