



AgeWell Services of West Michigan
275 W. Clay Ave., Suite 100
Muskegon, MI 49440

PLEASE HELP KEEP YOUR RECORD UP TO DATE!

Is your name and mailing address correct?
Please contact Heather Delimata with any changes:
Email: heatherd@agewellservices.org
Phone: (231) 412-7966

Thank you!



Step Up For Hunger

Saturday, April 13, 6-11 pm

Bella Maria's Event Center

513 W. Pontaluna Rd., Muskegon 49444



- Extraordinary Dinner •Desserts •Cocktails •Cash Bar
- Live, Silent, Greatest Needs & Good Fortune Auctions •Best Shoes Contest

For Tickets call Heather Delimata, Development Specialist at
(231) 412-7966 or email at heatherd@agewellservices.org



Behind the Wheel

Volume 7, Issue 1
March 2019

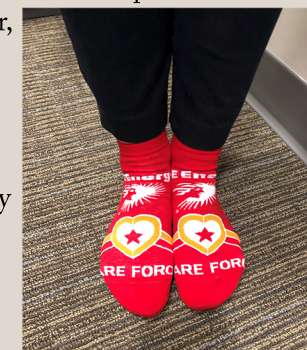
Published four times per year by AgeWell Services, 275 W. Clay Ave., Suite 100, Muskegon MI 49440

The DTE Energy Foundation Spreads Holiday Cheer!



Each year as the holidays approach, thoughts of warm fires, hot chocolate and time spent with friends and family is on most people's minds in West Michigan. However, for many older adults in Oceana, Muskegon and Ottawa counties the change of season brings cold, snow, ice and less of a chance that friends or family will visit.

The DTE Energy Foundation is committed to spreading holiday cheer to those who need it most. For the eighth year in a row, DTE has awarded Senior Resources with a grant to support the Holiday Meal Program. AgeWell Services then prepares and delivers the meals. This year's grant application requested funds to feed 2,800 meals. The only requirement to enjoy the free holiday meal is to be 60 years of age or older. Along with providing the funds to make this day special, DTE employees also volunteer their time to prepare, deliver and serve meals. Besides warming the hearts of the seniors DTE also provided a gift of slipper socks to keep feet warm.



This year we served 3,186 meals which is an additional 386 meals and a 13% increase over the 2,800 meals we requested funds for. DTE donated \$19,200 to support the Holiday Meal Program.

Meals served:

2,771 Home Delivered and Lunch & Activity Center Meals
271 Frozen Meals
144 Breakfast Meals
3,186 Total Meals Served

The menu was Rosemary Roasted Pork, Redskin Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Almond Green Beans, Caesar Salad, Dinner Roll and Cheesecake. The Food was overwhelmingly complimented by participants. Many Lunch & Activity Centers had entertainment such as school choirs and we will work to have entertainment at all Lunch & Activity Centers next year.



In order to implement the DTE Holiday Dinner it takes support from many team members and volunteers.

Volunteers for the DTE Holiday Meal:

25 DTE Employees
50 AgeWell Employees
108 AgeWell Volunteers
183 Total Volunteers

Volunteer Hours Donated:

200 DTE Employee Volunteer Hours
310 AgeWell Volunteer Hours
510 Total Volunteer Hours

Thanks to the DTE Energy Foundation and volunteers, Senior Resources who administers the grant, CALL 2-1-1 who takes reservations for Tanglewood Park and AgeWell volunteers and Team Members that helped make the meal possible.



Letter from the Director



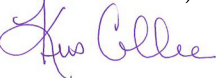
Dear Donor and Volunteer,
We are so proud to report a few of our annual accomplishments from fiscal year October 1, 2017 – September 30, 2018 to you as a “sneak peek” of our Annual Report, set to publish shortly. Aside from our paid team members, you are the first to know that last year we provided 411,472.5 meals to adults age 60 and older residing in Oceana, Muskegon and Ottawa Counties. This represents an increase of 9% from the previous year!

Where does the 9% increase come from? Well, YOU, of course! In addition to your generous contributions, Muskegon County tax payers provided generous support through the Muskegon County Senior Millage in which AgeWell Services of West Michigan is a proud partner. Not only did the Muskegon County Senior Millage provide funding for meals at new Lunch & Activity Centers and Meals on Wheels participants, it also sparked a brand new program called “Senior Center Activities”. We have expanded our offerings at Tanglewood Park by bringing wellness and social activities throughout Muskegon County at both existing and new locations where we partner with local churches, senior centers and municipalities. AgeWell Services is living the Meals on Wheels America motto of “More than a Meal” each and every day. We provide programming that keeps adults active, socializing, learning, and healthy everyday to help them remain living independently and happy!

The current fiscal year started strong. Federal funding is flat and has not decreased. Thanks to the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act, we were not affected by the government shut down. We are watching the situation closely with the food access networks (food pantries, supper houses, schools and churches) in each county to ensure important programs remain intact to feed people in need. We have experienced a trend in smaller contribution amounts from the people who receive meals, which is affecting the number of meals we are able to serve. There is also a high demand for services which has caused us to carefully ration our resources.

So far this year, we have experienced 11 snow days! ELEVEN! This is more than the agency has experienced in our history. We have 53 people on the road delivering food each weekday. The safety of our participants and team members is our #1 priority. When we cannot deliver, we call to check on our most fragile seniors to ensure they are safe, warm and have other resources for food. Luckily we are able to think ahead and send shelf-stable food supplies prior to a storm; these boxes contain up to 3 meals. During the Polar Vortex week in January, we were closed 6 days in a row. We are reviewing the emergency management procedures for longer-term closures with other food access partners and developing a collaborative approach to emergency food distribution. In addition to how the weather has affected our clients, it has also impacted our financial bottom line negatively. Loss of meals sent into the community means less meals being reimbursed because there are fixed costs associated with the program.

The increased demand, limited resources and weather impact makes your role as a donor and volunteer vital to the number of people we are able to reach each year. Thank you for your continued support of our mission!

Yours in Service,

Kris Collee
Executive Director

Donor Spotlight: Family Financial Credit Union



**FAMILY FINANCIAL
CREDIT UNION**

Family Financial Credit Union (FFCU) is very generous and in 2017 picked AgeWell Services as their Charity of the Year. They held a golf outing on June 24, 2017 at Colonial Golf Course in Hart. Throughout 2017, FFCU held numerous fundraisers and events. In January 2018 Family Financial made a \$10,000 donation as a result of their yearlong efforts. Thank you Deb Dietz and the Family Financial Credit Union Services Team for your commitment to Meals on Wheels. FFCU began supporting us in 2016 with donations to Heels for Meals and Meals on Wheels. On Columbus Day, their employees came to Tanglewood Park and packed Emergency Meals, which are used when the weather is bad and we cannot deliver meals. They also create beautiful and valuable gift baskets for Heels for Meals Auctions. We appreciate FFCU & their continuing generosity.



Delivering Hope

Each year AgeWell Services coordinates our “Delivering Hope” fundraiser with local businesses and individuals. Proceeds from Delivering Hope are used to provide holiday meals to seniors aged 60 years and older. Each individual or business is asked to sell buttons to give to the donor to wear, or tags to display the donor’s name in their place of business for a suggested amount of \$1-\$5.

This year, 32 individuals and businesses came together to raise \$7,136!

With these funds, AgeWell is able to provide 1,189 meals to aging adults in Oceana, Muskegon and Ottawa counties. Thank you for helping raise these dollars!

If you or someone you know is interested in participating in our 2019 Delivering Hope fundraiser, please contact Heather Delimata, Development Specialist at 231-412-7966, or heatherd@agewellservices.org to be included next year.



Parties in the Park

AgeWell Services Has Their Own Party in the Park!
Friday, June 28, 2019 from 5-9pm at Hackley Park

This fundraiser will have a live band, local food vendors and beverages. Mark your calendars for this great party you will not want to miss.



We also need 60-100 vounteers. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Henrietta Hadley, Volunteer Coordinator at (231) 559-0476 or at henrietta@agewellservices.org

Volunteer & Donor Appreciation Party

AgeWell Services Volunteers & Donors are invited to an Appreciation Party!
Thursday, May 16, 2019 from 5-7:30pm at Tanglewood Park

We want to celebrate you and all that you do for us! We couldn’t fulfill our mission without your support! Snacks, beverages and tours of AgeWell Services will be provided.

Please RSVP to Henrieta Hadley, Volunteer Coordinator at (231) 559-0476 or at henrietta@agewellservices.org

Wish List

Promoting healthy aging and maximizing independence through nutrition, wellness, and supportive services in Oceana, Muskegon and Ottawa counties requires a lot of food and support from you! With a donation to fund items below, you can help us continue to lead the way to aging well.

- Dual Compartment Convection Steamer- \$20,000
- One Energy and Water Efficient Conveyer Dishwasher - \$11,000
- One Laptop with Docking Station to support Meals on Wheels staff - \$900
- iPad Mini and scanner for Point of Sale System for Senior Discount Dining Cards. - \$598

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Mission Statement
AgeWell Services invites you to redefine age! We provide vital connections to keep you nourished, active, learning and living independently.

AgeWell Services of West Michigan
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Phone: (231) 755-0434

www.agewellservices.org
www.facebook.com/agewellservices