



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 Colleen G. Steinman with any changes:
Email: Colleen@agewellservices.org
Phone: 231-412-7966



HOPE Looks a Little Different This Year!



It's so much more than a meal! Along with delivering nutritious meals, your support for Delivering Hope helps our team offer engaging activities, healthy exercise classes and friendly door-to-door rides to important medical appointments.

Help deliver hope to your senior neighbors!

**Delivering
Hope**



Click to donate now

SAVE THE DATE!

Thursday December 16th, 2021

AgeWell Services will offer its annual
Holiday Meal on Thursday, December 16!

Stay tuned for more information about how to
reserve your delicious holiday meal!



Behind the Wheel

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We Heard You! Planned Giving Survey Results Shows Support for AgeWell Services

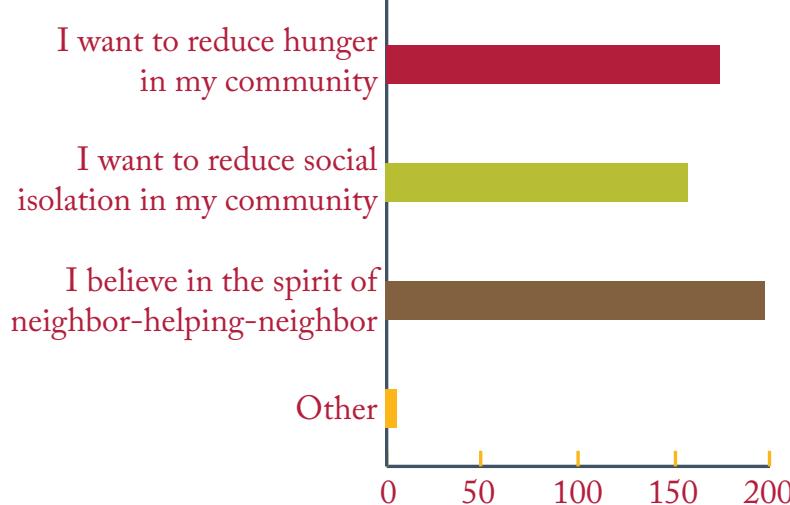
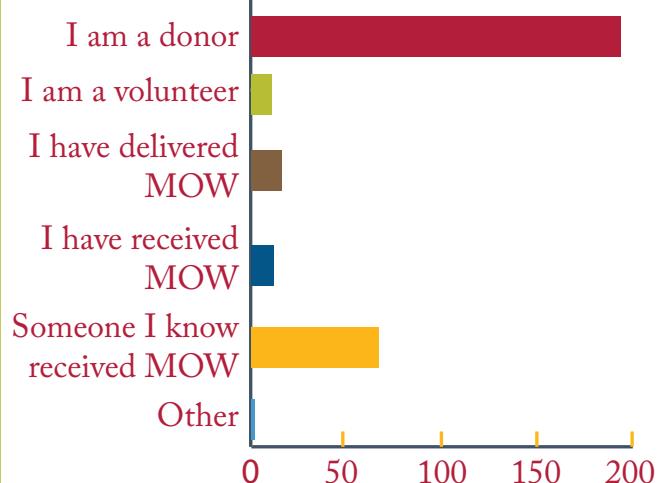
After two years of sending donors a survey about their thoughts on planned giving, we're sharing the results with you.

Planned giving is the process of making charitable gifts during your life or at your death as part of your individual financial or estate plan. This type of giving serves a dual purpose. Planned gifts help support AgeWell Services and other worthy causes, and they help individuals address their own financial needs while using specific legal and tax strategies.

More than 223 surveys were returned over the two years. In that group, 75 individuals know someone who has received home delivered meals or have received meals directly themselves.

The respondents strongly support AgeWell Services because they want to reduce hunger and social isolation among seniors and believe strongly in the power of neighbors helping neighbors. They also appreciate that all their donations are used locally, providing meals to people who live in our three-county service area.

Overwhelmingly, survey respondents didn't want to share their estate plans with AgeWell Services. Talking about end



of life decisions can be daunting and many people avoid making plans. Despite these fears, sometimes individuals feel a sense of relief when they share directions of their wishes with loved ones.

"Including AgeWell Services in their estate plan allows individuals, regardless of their financial situation, to make an impact about something they care deeply about," Advancement Director Diane Smith said.

If you are considering AgeWell Services in your estate plan or planning to direct memorial donations in your memory to AgeWell Services, please contact Diane at 231-683-2651 or via email at diane@agewellservices.org.

Tribute Gifts Honor Love Ones, Their Lives and Their Accomplishments; Teach the Value of Philanthropy

AgeWell Services Advancement Director Diane Szewczyk-Smith was in her 30s when her father passed away after a brief hospitalization. In lieu of flowers, her mother and her siblings chose to support a foundation that Diane helped create in Hastings, Michigan, where she worked. Diane was pleased that this foundation would receive donations in his memory.

With such a small staff, she saw every gift made by family and friends. Two years later, when her mother also passed away, Diane and her siblings again urged memorial donations to the same charity.

"I was astounded by the generosity of our family, my Mom's friends and her business connections," Diane explained. "It helped me decide that I wanted to do this work for my career."

When Diane lost her husband, Rick, earlier this year, she knew that gifts in his memory to AgeWell Services would be just one more way he supported her career and believed in the work she does.

"Directing donations in memory of a loved one is personally and emotionally important to me," she said. "Rick would have been very touched to see the generosity from our family and friends."

Tribute gifts also can be used for happier occasions – honoring someone's accomplishment or a major life event.

For your friend who has everything, or a teenager who doesn't need yet another techno-trinket, a gift to AgeWell Services in their honor helps instill the spirit of philanthropy. A special birthday, a religious event such as a first communion or a bar mitzvah or a graduation are all great reasons to make a donation in someone's honor.

For every donation in memory or in honor, the Advancement Team will prepare a letter informing the individual of the gift in their honor or to the family members of the person being memorialized. We won't, however, disclose the amount of the gift. The donor also will receive a gift receipt thank you.

Most tribute gifts can be made online using a credit card or a bank account. Simply complete the special instructions section with your wishes at this link: <https://agewellservices.org/support-agewell-services/>. Or, if you prefer to send a check, a PDF form is available on the same page under the "Tribute Donations" section.

AgeWell Services Wish List

Every gift to AgeWell Services makes a difference in a senior's life. If you want to see more tangible results of your giving, please consider funding something on our Wish List.

- Provide a single round-trip to transport a senior door-to-door to a critical medical appointment. \$25
- Feed a homebound senior for one month. \$140
- Feed a homebound senior for a year. \$1,680
- Make a monthly payment on our last recently purchased Meals on Wheels transport van. \$340 or \$6,964 will pay off this van.
- Replace the walk-in cooler condenser unit that refrigerates all produce for salads and sandwich menus used for the 1,600 meals delivered each day to seniors. \$9,270



Letter from the Director



Dear Friends:

AgeWell Services of West Michigan continues to pay close attention to the needs of older adults in the three counties we serve through six programs. It is impressive to see that our donors selected reducing hunger and social isolation as their top reasons for giving back to the organization because it shows we share the same purpose. Together, we champion the mission of “providing vital connections to keep you nourished, active and living independently.”

Your financial investments make a difference in the future sustainability of our operations. Our donors fund important wish list items, eliminating current barriers that make a future impact. Many years ago, our Board of Directors created an Endowment Fund at the Community Foundation for Muskegon County to help plan for inevitable rainy days. All of our local Community Foundations in Oceana, Muskegon and Ottawa serve as “dream makers and wish givers,” connecting passions to amazing missions. We are so grateful for these partnerships.

Some people perceive planned gifts as complicated or that a great deal of wealth is needed to make a legacy through Tribute Gifts. Simple acts like naming an organization as a beneficiary to a life insurance policy or considering memorial gifts upon your death is something everyone can do. Many use the “+1” theory of naming an organization as an additional beneficiary in trusts, wills, and estates by including the agency as a beneficiary equally with their children.

It is not difficult to decide who you would want to support, but it is difficult to talk about our end of time. However, this is the best way to protect your assets and wishes in a way you have the power to choose how you leave your legacy. Don’t leave your legacy up to someone else; West Michigan is full of amazing Elder Law attorneys who can help.

If you chose to name AgeWell Services in a Tribute Gift, we are always here to walk you through the process as well as help identify how you would like your gift known, dedicated and directed. You don’t have to do it alone.

Thank you for trusting us to be part of your family’s important life events!

Best,

Kris Collee
Executive Director

“Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree.” Martin Luther

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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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