

2024 Report to the
Service Delivery Committee of the
Commission on Aging
SOCIAL PROGRAMMING
FOR FIVE COUNTY-OWNED
SENIOR CENTERS





Please share a success from the first half of 2024.

This spring SOA partnered with Dr. Andrew Steward from UWM to pilot his new Aging Together peer support program designed to reduce ageism and enhance social connectedness among older adults. The initial pilot classes of Aging Together were held at Washington Park and McGovern Park Senior Centers and were so successful that we developed a waitlist and Dr. Steward will offer the class a second time to meet the demands of participants. We are currently working to bring the class to all five senior centers in 2025.

Read participant testimonials on the next pages to learn about their experience with the Aging Together program.



Please share a success from the first half of 2024.

- *“Overall it went well. I actually enjoyed going there every week. I had never been to this senior center before. I liked meeting new people and hearing new perspectives. I liked the fact that it was a diverse group of people, and for the most part we respected everyone's abilities. We had some high functioning and some laid back people. The maturity of the people that were there made a big difference in the success of the group. When we got to talking about different things and the things we've been through, we ended up having a lot of things in common at the end of the day, despite having different backgrounds and identities, it was like ‘Wow, I'm not the only one dealing with the current scenario!’”*
- *“It [the program] should be broadcasted for Seniors everywhere, from ‘the hood’ to ‘up North.’...I didn't even go to the center on those days previously, but I did go and each day I attended I enjoyed it. Even though this was a free class, I wouldn't mind going to pay tuition to hear the class.”*
- *“I'm more cognizant now that I'm going through what a lot of aging people are going through. I had never really thought about it before. I had never considered what happens as I get older.”*



Please share a success from the first half of 2024.

- *“I really enjoyed being in the class. I was a little iffy when I first came in here wondering ‘Is this the right class for me,’ but being in here and being around other peers...and learning more about other people and what you might have experienced as well as what I have experienced, I really enjoyed that, and what I liked most about the class, was there was no wrong way to say things and no wrong answer.”*
- *“I appreciated the continuity. I even am doing things with people outside the center since then.”*
- *“The group discussions have given me ideas and encouragement to try new things...I feel like there’s a real positive feeling in this group, a real ‘I can do’ group feeling in here, like ‘yes, I can get this done.’ And hearing from other people’s experiences, having similar challenges...That helped me to see that I’m not in it alone...I think I’ve become a little more flexible; when things don’t turn out...I would get kind of sad or upset, but now I just try to think of the positives, that what I’m doing is important...So I think I’ve become a little more flexible, so I’ll just like exercise at a different time or find something else to do.”*



Please share a challenge from the first half of 2024.

SOA staff rely heavily on volunteers to help run programming in all five senior centers. Our volunteers help in all areas, including as class instructors, receptionists, gift shop attendants, custodians, and general administrative support. In the first half of 2024, 248 volunteers logged 18,504 hours of service in the centers.

Center managers currently oversee all aspects of volunteer management within their centers, but ideally, we would like to secure funding to hire a full-time Volunteer Coordinator who can centrally oversee recruitment, retention and training of the entire volunteer team.



SOA Volunteers hard at work...



Report on Mid-year 2024 Performance Objectives

	Goal/Actual
Host programs/workshops throughout 2024 that encompass the Eight Dimensions of Wellness	90/72 (80% of goal)
Community outreach events in an effort to connect seniors to community resources	400/227 (56.7% of goal)
Create and disburse publications to participants and the community at large to promote the senior centers and its activities	20/15 (75% of goal)
Collaborate or partner with new organizations across the 5 senior centers	10/13 (130% of goal)
Increase the number of unduplicated participants by 4% as compared to previous year-end statistics.	5,617/3,564 (63.4% of goal)
Host evidence-based classes across the 5 senior centers	5/7 (140% of goal)



Report on Mid-year 2024 Performance Objectives

	Goal/Actual
By December 2024, at least 85% of participants surveyed who engaged in at least one form of SOA's technology program will indicate they feel more comfortable using modern technology and have a sense of connection.	Survey to be administered in Fall of 2024
By December 2024, at least 85% of participants surveyed will state that SOA provides relevant and quality outdoor, virtual and in-person programming.	
By December 2024, at least 85% of participants surveyed who have received some form of SOA's communications via newsletters, wellness calls, informational flyers, monthly magazines, social media, or email will state that they feel more informed about community resources and more connected to their senior center activities and programs.	
By December 2024, at least 85% of participants surveyed will state that SOA program activities help them combat isolation and maintain connection with other participants.	



Funding Summary

- Total Agency Budget :
\$1,739,070
- ADS funding amount, and
percentage of agency budget:
\$905,002 / 52%
- Contract spending to date:
\$454,185



Please share one service improvement or planned change for the second half of 2024.

Earlier this spring we partnered with Maxwell Farms to offer canning workshops at McGovern Park Senior Center. Participants at the center were instantly hooked and the workshops have been steadily increasing in attendance. They love learning from the farmers on how to grow and preserve fresh fruits and vegetables.

These popular workshops have been highlighted by WTMJ 4 and we are working to bring them to all five senior centers in the second half of 2024.

