



The Center Newsletter



SEPTEMBER 2021



Generosity overcomes the challenges!

We were blessed by your support this past fiscal year. Many seniors and homebound reached out to us for help. The good news—we were able to meet those needs because of your generosity! Despite the challenges of increased food costs and the pandemic, we were able to serve 36,671 meals to our homebound seniors and 6,958 lunches at the Center. Our Senior Express transportation program made 2,737 trips for seniors and the mobility-challenged. We hosted several exercise classes and activities via zoom, conference calls, and at the Center.

As we dive into the next fiscal year we are confident that with your continued support we will meet the needs of our seniors and homebound in the Rim community. When you support the Payson Senior Center you are giving through us and into the lives of those we serve. Together we are making an impact!

*“Those who
are
happiest
are those
who do the
most for
others”*

Booker T Washington



*Sometimes you need
to have a little silly
fun! These pictures
are from our welcome
back week.
More on page 3*



Taking away hunger with Meals on Wheels

Miss O. receives meals from our Meals on Wheels program. Many seniors struggle to pay bills while on a fixed income. They may have to choose between buying food or medication. Meals on Wheels can help alleviate some of that struggle. Miss O. wrote a sweet letter (pictured below) to the Center thanking us for the meals that she receives.



Dear Payson Senior Center
Thank you so much for feeding me
Some times the only food I get all day

*It means I will have the
nutrition I need. Sure appreciate
the fact that I will not go
hungry. The meals are wonderful
— well balanced. I've even
put on a little weight since I
started Meals on Wheels this time.
Thank you very much.*

This note is from Carol expressing the impact of receiving meals on wheels and it reads:

"It means I will have the nutrition I need. Sure appreciate the fact that I will not go hungry. The meals are wonderful - well balanced. I've even put on a little weight since I started Meals on Wheels this time. Thank you very much."

According to Meals on Wheels of America, one in four seniors lives alone. Half of the seniors that live alone lack the financial resources to pay for basic needs. The Meals on Wheels program along with our Senior Transportation program helps seniors maintain independence with integrity.

Social interaction prevents isolation and depression

Activities at the Center began to trickle back in as COVID cases dwindled. Exercise classes were among the first to start back up. Many activities have been available through zoom and teleconference. Bingo and Bible Study with social distancing soon followed.

In-house meals had been served via drive-up until July 19th. To kick off our back to "in-house meals" we celebrated in a big way. The week of July 19th was a welcome-back week of fun! We hosted a different theme each day. Monday was our Senior Olympics, Tuesday was an Ice Cream Social and live Music, Wednesday was our Luau, and Thursday was our grand finale with a huge Carnival!

So many smiles and laughter filled the Center. People stated they felt that they were "back with their family" while others stated they were "home again." The Center provides a happy place filled with love and support. Socializing with friends and receiving the support to grow older gracefully is an important part of our mission. No senior should face the challenges of aging alone.

The impact of your support is measured not only in dollars but in the lives of those touched by your generosity.—THANK YOU!



We don't always say thank you but we do mean it. It's been a hard year & half and we need our friends & the Sr. Center to just be there. So thank you to all volunteers, workers etc. Everyone! We need you even if we don't always say it



The letter above reads: "we don't always say thank you but we do mean it. It's been a hard year & half and we need our friends & the Sr. Center to just be there. So thank you to all volunteers, workers etc. Everyone! We need you even if we don't always say it" - Paulette

Payson Senior Center Budget Update

The Payson Senior Center recently completed another fiscal year, ending on June 30, 2021. The Senior Center's board takes great care in creating and managing the budget for each year, doing its best to predict what the next 12 months will look like from a financial perspective based on our past budget history, the changing landscape of our services and related costs, and the improvements we intend to make in the coming year.

Our forecasts are typically pretty accurate – we can estimate fairly closely how many meals we will serve, how many transportation trips will be provided, what our costs are likely to be for food, fuel, supplies, running The Center's facility, etc. The Board monitors the budget progress throughout the year; at times there are adjustments required due to unforeseen events, but typically these modifications are few and far between.

The fiscal year that ended on June 30, 2021 was anything but predictable. The pandemic basically changed our budget operating model from one of stable predictability to one of never-ending changes. As with everything else in our world, things were constantly in flux – being fully closed, being partially open, transitioning towards being fully open, but never being sure what changes might be coming in the next day, the next week, or the next months. We also were not able to rely on whether our supply chain would provide us with the food and supplies we need, or at what prices they may be available. As you are likely experiencing in your personal budget, everything we need now costs significantly more than it did in prior years.

The Board recently approved and adopted the operating budget for the fiscal year of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. This budget includes some of the harsh realities of the cost of our operations – our food expense is budgeted to be 67% higher than two years ago, and our food service supply expense is budgeted to be 47% higher (these increases are due to a combination of serving more meals and everything being much more expensive to purchase). Because we do not pass along these price increases to our donation-based programs, we need to fund these increases by raising more money - our target fundraising goal for this year is 60% higher than it was two years ago.

While the past 18 months have reminded us that we can't always predict the future in our budgets, it has also reminded us that there is one constant we can rely on – the support of our members, donors, staff, and volunteers. We have been able to navigate the past 18 months because all of you have stepped up to continue to make us successful, and as we look to the next 12 months we know that we will continue to be able to provide our programs and services to our Seniors because of what you do. We are all eternally grateful for your unwavering support and we could not do this without you!



Treasure boxes are made with love

Bruce is a wonderful volunteer who dedicates his time, talents, and passion to the Center. He hand-crafts these beautiful treasure boxes with one hundred percent of the proceeds benefiting the Payson Senior Center. His creations can be found at our fine resale store, Trinkets & Treasures. Every Saturday, Bruce sets up a tent and sells these boxes at the Farmer's Market in Payson. The founders of the Payson Farmer's market give Bruce a space free of charge.

A Note from Bruce: *"I am fortunate to have the opportunity to help in a small way our Senior Center here. Their efforts, and it is "their" efforts, have provided services for countless Senior individuals, past and present, here in Payson. From their tireless work to provide "Meals on Wheels" for so many; in addition to making available a location with activities that many look forward to on a daily basis, they work unflinching to assure our Seniors these opportunities. It is because of the great efforts on the part of these people, that I willingly donate what small assistance I can. They thank me, BUT it is really myself, and others, that should be thanking them."*

Volunteers are needed to help deliver Meals on Wheels one day a week. Meals are delivered Monday—Thursday, 8:30 AM –11:00AM. If you are interested in learning more about this program please call Donna at 928-474-4876.



Trinkets & Treasures netted \$149,000 last fiscal year. These funds were used to help support the Meals on Wheels and Senior Transportation programs. We thank you for donating items, shopping, and volunteering to make this possible.

Trinkets & Treasures
A FINE RESALE SHOP

Please call the store for furniture donation pick up at 928-474-3205.

Senior Center continues to serve those in need



This article was published in the Payson Roundup on December 30, 1997. The Payson Senior Center has been feeding and serving local homebound and seniors since 1985.

This article talks about the support from the community: "The generous donations of Payson and surrounding patrons have been very instrumental in easing the financial burden of our Senior Center."

We are thankful for each person that takes the time and makes the sacrifice to support the Center. The seniors in our community need your support! We appreciate you.



HERE IS MY DONATION OF \$ _____

I want to help provide for the critically needed meals and transportation programs!

Please make checks payable to Payson Senior Center & mail or drop off at The Center 514 W. Main St. OR complete the Visa or MasterCard information below and mail or drop off at The Center.

YOU MAY ALSO DONATE SECURELY ONLINE: www.PaysonSeniorCenter.org

Card Number _____

Expiration Date _____

CCV# _____

Name on Card _____

Billing Zip Code _____

Please fill out the following information for your tax receipt:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

EMAIL (optional): _____

A RECEIPT FOR YOUR RECORDS WILL BE MAILED TO YOU

Here is my gift of

- \$25
 \$50
 \$100
 \$250
 \$1,000
 Other