

## **2021 Paul H. Kasuda Grant Award Stoughton Area Senior Center Final Project Report**

In February of 2021 we requested \$1,800 through the Paul H. Kasuda Fund Grant to purchase three laptops for our case managers serving the City of Stoughton. We felt it would improve our outreach to clients by assisting them more efficiently at off-site visits. We are grateful to have received the grant. The funds have helped off-set the full cost (\$2,550) of purchasing the three laptops, and using them has enhanced our case management services. While the laptops are not used for every visit, they do give us the potential to serve all of our case managed clients which is currently 197 individuals.

Our staff have gone through many changes since we received notice of receiving this grant. In early Spring when vaccination rates were high, our staff transitioned back to working in the office and case managers slowly started scheduling in-person visits. During this time our case managers also began learning to use our new PERKS database system. The PERKS program allows us to house our client files electronically and it transfers the logged client service hours to the County's required intake and service plans, 600, 610, and WIMCR reports. The case managers did a phenomenal job with providing services within another "new norm", all while keeping up with our old database and adjusting to a new one while the developer helped us "work out the bugs."

In late Summer our City's IT Director purchased three Hewlett Packard laptops, with licensing of needed programs. The cost of each amounted to \$850. Each laptop allows the case managers access to the internet, our City network, Zoom and other virtual programs, and our new PERKS program. In addition, because the Senior Center already has one hotspot device, our case managers have the ability to have the same access at locations without WiFi connection. Having these tools has saved them an immense amount of time when making home visits. Tasks like completing online applications that usually take multiple visits to complete for clients without internet can now potentially be done at one visit; Medicare Part D Plan Finders can take half the time when case managers can simply turn their screen for approval; service eligibilities and referral information can be searched on the spot rather than having to make a return call to the client.

Once more, we extend our gratitude for your generous funding and continued support of our and the other Dane County focal point's case management services. The funding this grant provided has, and will continue, to enhance our staff's ability to assist our older adult population.