

# 2020 Paul H. Kusuda Special Projects Fund Grant Final Report:

## Colonial Club Senior Activity Center

### Amount Awarded: \$6,799.50

*Submitted by Melody Riedel, Director of Operations & Services, 2/18/21*

When Colonial Club applied for this grant, our purpose for this grant was to soften the blow of an unexpected cut of \$19,000 in funding from United Way. We want to continue to provide services for the communities we serve. Since nearly the beginning of our history, our service area has always gone beyond the city limits of Sun Prairie. This includes the City and Town of Sun Prairie, the Town and Village of Cottage Grove, Marshall, Bristol, Burke, York, and Medina.

The overall goal of the case management program is to provide information/referrals and advocacy in the areas of services, benefits, activities, volunteer opportunities, and other resources. Participants will have a confidential, one-on-one meeting with a caring case manager.

Our steps to continue providing case management services are:

- Maintain our current level of case management hours
- Look for additional avenues to increase the funding for the program, through other grants, donations or fundraising events
- Reach out to our service area jurisdiction communities to share information about this program. This will include attending local health fairs, information sharing with police, fire and EMS, information to clinics, food pantries, Joining Forces for Families, and other local organizations.

In February of last year, these steps and goals seemed very manageable until we closed down due to the pandemic in March. Still we thought, surely this will only last a few months at the most! Well that being said, here we are almost one year later and things have not improved to reopening to the way we used to be. Throughout this year we needed to rethink on how we were going to accomplish every detail of our organization services and activities. We were able to maintain or bring back all of our services including meals, supportive home care, adult day center, and case management.

The steps we had laid out to continue to provide these services initially seemed very straightforward and we actually attained all of those steps:

- We exceeded our goal of maintaining hours and we increased our hours of service and increased the number of clients served last year. In 2019, we served 266 clients and provided 2,321.25 hours of service. In 2020, we served 326 clients and offered 3,069.5 hours of service.
- Because of the pandemic, the grants, donations, and events were unusually different. We were able to increase our funding through grants and donations. The community came together and rallied around our non-profit agency and supported all of the hard work we were accomplishing with our older adults. They realized the importance of our dedicated staff and hard work we were doing. However, our events did suffer. Although we held a few fundraising events, they did not bring in the dollars we had anticipated they would at the beginning of the year. We did ask for additional funding from all of our municipalities and all of them increased their funding to the Colonial Club for 2021.
- Reaching out to our community partners was even more important as the year went on, as the pandemic went on. Our case managers continued to share information and tried to become involved in community related events. Here is a list of activities we accomplished:
  - ✓ A case manager is participating in the SING (Senior Industry Networking Group) group.
  - ✓ In Deerfield, we provided an overview and materials to Deerfield Community Center, Deerfield Lutheran Church, Sheriff's Department about case management services and Colonial Club service and programs.

- ✓ In Marshall, we provided an overview and materials to the Marshall Police Department and mobile home park office staff as many low-income older adults reside there.
- ✓ In Sun Prairie, we connected with the Sunshine Place and received referrals from them. We received client assistance via Joining Forces for Families, Home Mission Fund and the CAC Housing program. We also worked closely with the Sun Prairie Emergency Food Pantry. We were able to obtain food/household supplies on very short notice to older adults in urgent need.
- ✓ Some of our other ideas of attending health fairs and reaching out more to the churches in the area individually did not happen due to the pandemic. However, a staff member is connected with a community group that involves the churches and many of the other agencies listed above and continued that connection throughout the year.
- ✓ The greatest resource of case management is the case manager themselves. They are the vehicle that provides caring, knowledgeable, accurate, and up-to-date information to seniors in need.
- ✓ It is vital to our community that people know who we are and where we are, especially when the older adults need assistance.

We utilized all of the \$6,799.50 grant in our personnel costs.