

A loyal patron of the Senior Center who makes a difference (don't they all?)

The Sheridan Senior Center is one of those places that deliver benefit and impact to the cities in Sheridan County.

For example, just in the past year the center provided more than 48,137 Home Delivered Meals, served more than 54,897 Congregate Meals (in-center dining), delivered more than 3,000 hours of personal care, served 31 clients through Day Break (adult day services), provided approximately 190 hours of respite care, and has been honored to work alongside more than 450 volunteers who contribute to the Sheridan Senior Center.

There honestly isn't a single day that goes by here at the center that isn't made better by the people who grace us with their presence. One of those in particular is an "educator" who is in our midst every single day.

It's been decades since she was in a school classroom, but when she first joined the Senior Center, she took on the library, our book collection in the lobby of the center. She turned this library into a work of art ... shaping and building it into something that everyone at the center enjoys.

She used to pour coffee and deliver beverages to dining room patrons. She's forever reminiscing about grown students now passing through the Senior Center but ever sweeter; our Natalie Wright knows how to make others comfortable.

Natalie was a librarian and teacher at Sheridan High School for 30 years. She now has the pleasure of seeing her former students in the dining room and is eager to make the association.

Nearly every day Natalie stays well after the lunch hour to thank the cooks in the kitchen for the meals. She expresses her gratitude to every staff member.

Natalie has faced many losses in her life, but it's at the Senior Center that she regains her generous side and appreciation again and again. She helps us all feel thankful, and we have been her support and sanctuary.

Natalie will continue to educate all of us at the center about how we treat people, and we will continue to be blessed with Natalie's gentle, kind nature.



Center Stage

Rindy
West



According to Natalie, "I'm so thankful and I do it because I want to. Everybody who works here really helps you!"

Natalie says that after her husband passed away, she felt sorry for herself, but with the good advice of Dr. Thickman to get involved in the center, here she is today.

Now we count on Natalie to welcome new folks to join her in the dining room. She's very understanding and empathetic

toward others.

Natalie is known for being one of the people who will see newcomers to the dining room and ask them to join her table. She believes that everyone has a story and that others may benefit from it.

If you sit with Natalie, you may hear about her family's beginnings in Sheridan, where her mother and she stayed at the Sheridan Inn before settling elsewhere in the area. So, if you are interested in Sheridan Inn history, Natalie is the one to talk with.

We will never be able to thank Natalie enough for the contributions she has made to the center, but I think she knows that we are a better place because of her. So in reference to my opening prose about the impact to the cities and county we serve, it's due in part to the contributions from people like Natalie that we can celebrate, embrace and serve older adults for the betterment of our communities.

Please come join us at the center as we finish up Older Americans Month here in May. We are so eager to get to visit with you!

For more information about the center or how to contribute, don't hesitate to call me at 751-3430. I'd love to talk to you about what your dreams are for the future of the center!

We'd also love to have you join us on the Web at www.sheridanseniorcenter.org or become a fan on Facebook.

Rindy West is development director for the Sheridan Senior Center.

Center Stage is written by friends of the Senior Center for the Sheridan community. It is a collection of insights and stories related to living well at every age.