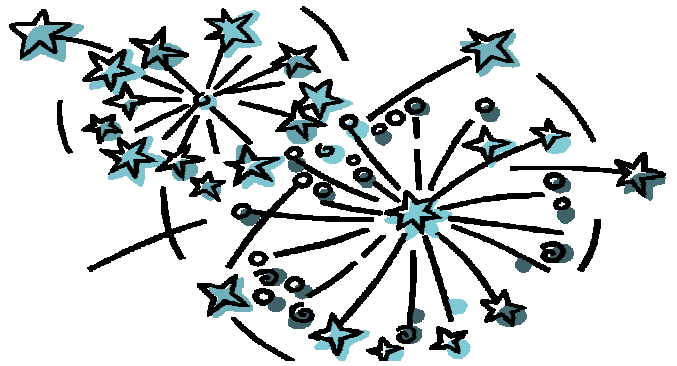


2011 Sheridan Senior Center Operation Independence Campaign



June 15, 2011

Dear Friend,

Passing through our busy dining room each day makes me really take into account how important older people are in the world. Just looking around I am humbled by, and so grateful for, the many contributions they have made to our community, the State of Wyoming and our beautiful country. I just can't imagine what our world would be like today without the knowledge, wisdom and dedication of these generations that now grace our presence.

It occurs to me that literally 365 days a year our services to older adults, elders, families and the Sheridan Area community as a whole, are just too vital to take for granted. I would like to share with you the story of one of our own.

Mary Kraft is a long-time resident of Sheridan County and started working in 1975 in senior services, as the head cook for the newly formed Senior Nutrition program. She then became the Interim Senior Programs Director, and in 1978, Mary was offered the position of Outreach Worker. This was a new position and she built this service from the ground up. She would call 3-5 older residents of our community each day who could use some support through Senior Center services and get them connected to what they needed, their financials in order, and more. She went to houses visiting the people most in need all over Sheridan County. Mary provided these invaluable outreach services for 18 interesting and rewarding years.

Mary states, "We helped start services that I now appreciate so much! They are keeping me in my home! I can't do yard work, snow shoveling and my eyesight is poor, so I utilize chore service, in-home care and when I am ill Home Delivered Meals. I ride the Sheridan Mini Bus almost every day for lunch at the Center, doctor appointments, groceries and more." Mary says, "It would be such a sad, sad situation if we ever lost these services...so many people literally depend on them! It would be really hard to survive without the Center!"

As you can see Mary has given a major portion of her life to seniors and our community. Let's make sure that we help Mary keep services she helped create for many years to come. Please support our annual **Operation Independence campaign...our goal is \$20,000**. We appreciate all donations and simply couldn't run our Meals, Day Break, In-Home, Activities, Volunteer, Family Caregiver Support or Outreach programs without them. Thank you for what you give!

All my best,

Carmen Rideout
Executive Director

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