Thank You for a Great Year

Greetings from Senior Community Services!

During the 2018 fiscal year, SCS sustained its leadership role in providing robust community-based programs and in-home services to meet the varied needs of Delaware County seniors. SCS enhances the lives of older county residents, preserving their dignity, and providing them with choices, so they can age successfully and independently.

We are grateful to SCS’ committed board, hard-working staff, loyal volunteers and generous donors who together created an outstanding record of achievement during 2017-2018 by:

- Sustaining service to more than 23,000 Delco seniors;
- Renewing national accreditation of all four senior centers for five years;
- Achieving strong financial results, despite a challenging environment for nonprofits;
- Staging a successful 40th anniversary gala that celebrated our history of service;
- Launching new initiatives, including a meal choice program and readiness for Community Health Choices.

SCS has partnered with many people over the last 40 years. Your support has helped SCS change the lives of thousands of older adults in ways both simple and profound. The personal touch behind a home-delivered meal, shared laughter over a game of billiards or in an exercise class, and greater savings on health care after counseling from an APPRISE volunteer are just some examples of how SCS makes life better for seniors throughout the county.

Many thanks to you for your role in making SCS a dynamic, comprehensive and, most importantly, positive force in the lives of our older neighbors throughout Delaware County.

Best regards,

Arthur Weisfeld,
Executive Director

Asher Kemp, Jr.
Board President

2017-2018 At a Glance

Senior Community Services (SCS) served more than 23,000 Delaware County residents aged 55+, nearly 1 in 5 of the county’s older adult population. SCS also serves an additional 1,300 people in other Greater Philadelphia locations. SCS delivers:

Social Engagement + Lifelong Learning

Nearly 8,000 older adults made 79,245 visits to SCS’ Chester, Friendship Circle, Good Neighbor and Schoolhouse Centers.

1,067 brain fitness activities took place through the Cognitive Stimulation Program.

894 older adults participated in Center Without Walls programs in Aston, Brookhaven, Concord and Springfield.

Healthy Meals

SCS delivered 120,573 meals through Senior Suppers, Delaware County’s oldest and largest meal-delivery service for frail elderly people.

SCS’ centers served 24,371 hot lunches, deli lunches and Southern Grill meals to more than 1,100 unique individuals.

Essential Services for Independent Living

Nearly 10,000 seniors received health insurance counseling through the APPRISE Program.

1,722 homebound seniors received support services through SCS Care Managers.

642 handyman, transportation and chore services benefited 362 Aging at Home members.

169 caregivers received guidance and financial support through the Caregiver Support Program.

Volunteer Service

Nearly 400 individuals provided 54,572 volunteer hours dedicated to delivering SCS programming to their friends and neighbors.
ENHANCING Lives

Hospitality Team Brings Life to Friendship Circle

Friendship Circle’s Hospitality Team is courteous and welcoming to new and returning members. Led by Donna Schumacher, the team includes Gloria Brown-Wade, Maryellen Coleman, Ida Fazzi, Helen Grande, Joanne McGoarty, Rita Moore, and Simsy Wilson. They help Friendship Circle increase daily attendance, renew relationships with disconnected members, and host special events. Members send greeting cards to ailing members, celebrate birthdays, engage local political leaders, run bake sales and so much more. These women embody how women everywhere are coming together to create positive change.

Volunteering Enhances Seniors’ Lives

“Volunteering gives me something to do every day. It keeps me feeling young and active, and it keeps my mind sharp. I learn something new every day,” said Grace Brown Johnson, current president of Chester Senior Center’s advisory council. Grace has been part of the Chester center since the 1980s and an advisory council member for 20 years.

Good Neighbor’s Southern Grill: A Cultural Tradition

“Lorraine Gans was one of a kind… no one else in the world was like her. Under Lorraine, Southern Grill flourished and became very popular because it was culturally based and connected people to their roots,” said Janie Strong, advisory council member and former director of Good Neighbor Center. Today, Bonnie McCall and Tanya Trotman keep alive the Southern Grill luncheon tradition that Lorraine began 15 years ago. Even members whose schedules or health issues prevent them from coming daily make an extra effort to get to the center on Thursdays to enjoy fried chicken, barbecue spareribs, fried fish, and other comfort foods.

“I get to meet more people than I ever thought I would. Listening to others really helps you put things in perspective,” Margaret Johnson said, when asked how volunteering enhances her own life. Margaret initially joined the Chester center to take exercise classes, but a decade later, she spends time working in the center office and on the “Keeping in Touch” program.

Grace and Margaret demonstrate the true power and benefit of volunteering; having a purpose, being needed, and belonging to something bigger than oneself are truly life-enhancing.

Cognitive Stimulation Builds Brain Fitness

For more than 20 years, SCS’ Cognitive Stimulation Program (CSP) has provided brain fitness kits to senior communities, adult residences, assisted living and nursing homes, adult day care and senior centers, in four states, carrying on the pioneering work of Horizons Unlimited.

In 2018, SCS sustained relationships with all of its longtime members; two new senior communities qualified for free use of brain fitness kits. SCS replaced and refurnished more than 75% of the kits and also developed a new kit focused on the 1970s.

SCS appreciates Kevin McGuinness, Linda Pomenti and Richard Guzik, three volunteers who help the CSP, as well as the activity/recreation departments, directors, and staff who use the brain fitness kits with their residents/members.

Above (l to r) Grace Brown Johnson, Margaret Johnson

SCS promotes active aging to enhance the lives of older Delaware County residents. All forms of socialization – communal exercise, lifelong learning, playing games, performing service – contribute to better physical and mental health. Evidence shows that active seniors live longer, happier and more productive lives than socially isolated seniors. More than 90% of the older adults SCS serves agree that senior centers and other programs improve their quality of life and foster positive relationships.
Hearing Discovery Center Assists People Experiencing Hearing Loss

SCS’ Hearing Discovery Center partners with local hearing professionals to help seniors identify hearing issues before they become too severe and incapacitating. During 2017-2018, two local professionals – Anthony Napoletano of Lansdowne Hearing and Dr. Lilianna Piccinini of PA Center for Hearing and Balance – provided seniors with information on how to recognize hearing loss, obtain hearing aids, and maintain them for top performance. Both experts also conducted hearing screenings at SCS senior centers free of charge. Many seniors remark that the Hearing Discovery Center helped them feel “heard” when they needed help.

Case Managers and Center Directors Team Up to Meet the Needs of Older Adults

SCS’ long term care managers adhere to a code of conduct that calls for every older adult to receive compassionate, person-centered care. Trindy Grundy, Director of Long Term Care, takes great pride in the praise she hears from consumers for her care managers and their exemplary dedication.

Care managers work with senior center directors, program managers and other community partners (such as faith-based and mission-driven service providers) to ensure that SCS’ meal-delivery system effectively and efficiently meets the needs of seniors. When meal-delivery clients are unresponsive to delivery personnel, care managers take immediate action to get assistance, often saving lives.

With training that complements their passion for helping seniors enjoy independent, meaningful living, SCS care managers and center directors work together to preserve the dignity of seniors throughout Delaware County.

It Takes a Village: Helping Carlos Joya

“You’ve changed my life,” said Carlos Joya, one of Schoolhouse Center’s home-delivered meal clients.

When Schoolhouse Center director Kim McDaniel followed up on a referral by inviting Joya to visit Schoolhouse, he was very receptive to the opportunity to socialize with peers. Joya has no family nearby, and his severely impaired vision prevents him from preparing his own meals, cleaning his home, and making regular shopping trips. McDaniel knew she needed to coordinate additional services for him with Danielle Wiegand, his care manager.

Wiegand and McDaniel worked together to arrange for Blind and Visual Services to provide Joya with mobility training, found a pharmacy that would deliver his medications, and coordinated with an interpreter to ensure he understands medication directions.

At the Schoolhouse Center holiday party in December, McDaniel saw Joya dancing with a friend. “Carlos, when is the last time you danced?” McDaniel asked him.

“A long time because of my vision,” he said with a smile, “coming to Schoolhouse has changed my life!”

Above right, Kim McDaniel, Carlos Joya and Danielle Wiegand share a laugh at Schoolhouse Center.
Providing Choices

Older adults and their caregivers often face a bewildering array of decisions with regard to caregiving, health insurance, financial planning and other issues. SCS offers classes, workshops, counseling and other assistance so that seniors gain knowledge and build confidence. These activities help people navigate these issues more effectively, make good decisions, and even save money!

Caregiver Academy Provides Comfort and Knowledge

SCS presented its fifth Caregiver Academy in 2018. Sponsored by Delaware County LINK and the Aging and Disability Resources Center, Caregiver Academy meets the needs of caregivers and care receivers. Six informative workshops, offered free of charge, feature experts in caregiving who address such topics as balancing caregiving with the demands of one’s personal life and career, communicating with other family caregivers, estate planning, and end of life planning. Care receivers engage in activities that offer their caregivers a respite.

Registrants receive “caregiver tools,” such as books, CDs, and journals, which reinforce the subject matter covered in the workshops and encourage caregivers to incorporate what they have learned into their daily routines.

Legal Seminars Help Seniors Make Informed Choices

SCS’ Center Without Walls (CWW) program provides Delaware County’s older adults with classes and seminars about financial, legal and health issues that affect seniors. Many organizations and individuals give lifelong learners over the age of 50 the benefit of their time, expertise, and perspective.

Two of SCS’ most popular presenters are Robert and Dana Breslin, attorneys who have been associated with the agency since it was established in 1977. Hundreds of CWW participants have received legal advice and useful information at their workshops.

“Bob and I have always liked the educational components of SCS. I feel if the correct information is given out on any topic or warning, seniors will not be scammed. A little bit of prevention goes a long way,” said Dana.

Mrs. Winfred’s APPRISE Story: Better Care for Less Money

Mrs. Winfred lived most of her life in the south, but she moved north to join her sister in Chester after experiencing poor health in retirement. While Mrs. Winfred continued to receive Social Security income, she wasn’t aware that her interstate move made her eligible to change her health insurance provider.

Mrs. Winfred’s sister arranged for her to meet an APPRISE counselor at the Chester Senior Center during the 2018 Medicare open enrollment period. Upon completing a plan comparison, Mrs. Winfred enrolled her in a Medicare plan with a low monthly premium, as well as lower deductibles and out-of-pocket costs than her previous plan. The counselor also helped Mrs. Winfred transfer her prescriptions to a different pharmacy with no copays. She and her sister were delighted by the savings they achieved.

Post-academy feedback from participants is positive and encouraging. Caregivers find a great deal of value in the program and suggest new topics to cover. SCS has earned a national reputation for the Caregiver Academy; program director Debbie Templeton has been invited to make a presentation about the program at the American Society on Aging Conference in April 2019.
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Financial Report

Statement of Financial Position, June 30, 2018 and 2017

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<th>2018</th>
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Total Revenue: $3,576,872

- COSA $2,566,415 72%
- Grants $362,083 10%
- United Way $156,553 4%
- Municipalities $147,407 4%
- Other $105,063 3%
- Management Contracts $102,819 3%
- Individual Giving $77,231 2%
- Program Income $59,301 2%

1 includes Foundation and Corporate Grants
2 includes Aging at Home Pilot Project, Impact Partner allocation and Donor Choice contributions

Total Expenses: $3,416,596

- Care Management $1,238,797 36%
- Senior Centers $896,164 26%
- Administration/Fundraising $547,485 16%
- Caregiver Support Services $497,446 15%
- Other Programs/Services $104,525 3%
- Aging at Home $97,087 3%
- Housing Support Services $35,092 1%

1 includes Center for Lifelong Learning and Center Without Walls
2 includes $113,834 depreciation/amortization
3 includes APPRISE Health Insurance Counseling and Cognitive Stimulation programs
Thank You to Our Donors

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Comast
Comforcare Senior Services
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Crozer Keystone Health System
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Delmar Pharmacy
Delta Sigma Theta
Dixon’s Lounge
Enterprise Holdings Foundation Fuel Your Tank Program
Gentle Hearts Home Care
Giant Food Stores
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Mercy Fitzgerald Hospital
Mercy LIFE
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Open Systems Healthcare
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Sweet Home Primary Care
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Vanguard Matching Gift Program
Victoria’s Home Care
Wawa Foundation
White Star Tours

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The Community’s Foundation
Delaware County Medical Society Public Health Fund, Inc.
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