

HISTORY:

With funding from the United Way of Elgin in 1973 The Elders, which would later become Senior Services Associates, was incorporated to provide adult day care services in Elgin. Over the last 37 years Senior Services has grown from an agency providing adult day care services in Elgin to 25 seniors in its first year to an agency that served over 26,000 in Kane, Kendall and McHenry counties, Hanover Township, and other communities in 2010.

KANE COUNTY:

With support from the United Way of Elgin and free rent from Elgin State Hospital, we began services as an adult day care program in a small house across from the hospital in 1973. In 1976 federal money for a senior center became available through the Area Agency on Aging. This enabled us to move into larger facilities in the Masonic Temple and to add transportation, recreation, information and assistance and safe senior programs. As our space needs grew, we approached the City of Elgin looking for a permanent home. In 1981 the City of Elgin provided \$180,000 to purchase our current site at 101 S. Grove. This art deco building which serves as our home office has been the site of many wonderful recreation events while at the same time housing our business office and case managers serving northern Kane County. In 1983 a major change occurred resulting in the expansion of our services to all of Kane and Kendall Counties and a change in our name to Senior Services Associates. At that time The Illinois Department on Aging designated us the case coordination unit for Kane and Kendall counties. This designation opened the door to considerable expansion since our Case Coordination Unit carried with it the “one stop shop of social services for seniors” concept. Growth in Kane County included 1) the opening in 1984 of our first office in Aurora, 2) the addition in 1989 of the Nursing Home Ombudsman program which now serves over 60 licensed facilities, 3) the addition in 1990 of the elder abuse and neglect program, 4) moving the Aurora office in 1994 to larger space in the YMCA, 5) the addition in 1996 of the Choices for Care program which provides prescreening for all seniors entering a nursing home, 6) the addition in 1996 and 1997 of Faith In Action and Neighbor to Neighbor volunteer programs in Elgin, 7) the addition in 1997 of the Senior Medicare Patrol program which uses volunteers to educate seniors to prevent, detect and report healthcare fraud., 8) the forming of a new business with 18 other CCUs in 1998 to provide case management services to managed care organizations. 8) the expansion of the adult day care program in 1999 to Hanover Township, 9) the addition in 2002 of the federal Family Caregiver Program which provides information and assistance to caregivers, as well as respite, funding assistance for small items, and assistance to grandparents raising grandchildren, 10) the addition in 2004 of a medication management program, 11) the addition in 2005 of a program assisting seniors to apply for Medicare Part D, 12) the move of our Aurora offices in 2007 to newly renovated space in Northgate Shopping Center, 13) the addition in 2007 of the flexible senior services program which provides seniors with funding to remain living independently 14) the addition in 2008 of a senior companion program in northern Kane County matching volunteers with isolated & lonely seniors, 15) the addition in 2008 of healthy aging

programs including fall prevention and medication management, 16) the addition in 2008 of a Lao outreach program in northern Kane County, and Hanover Township, 17) the addition in 2010 of Community Connection Center services which allowed us to add recreation, education, and evidence based programs to the Aurora office, and expand those in Elgin. 18) the addition in 2010 of the Veterans Assistance Program which assists veterans of all ages in securing services to help them live independently, and 18) the addition in 2010 of the Money Follows the Person program which assists nursing home residents in moving back to the community.

77% of funding for Kane county is provided from state and federal resources.

KENDALL COUNTY:

Senior Services Associates (SSA) expanded services into Kendall County in 1983 when The Illinois Department on Aging designated SSA the Case Coordination Unit in Kendall County. As such assumed the role of the “one stop shop” of social services for senior citizens in Kendall County. We opened a small office in the Beecher Community Building in Yorkville and began providing case management, outreach and information and assistance. In 1984 we expanded by negotiating the transfer of transportation and recreation programs from Fox Valley Older Adult Services to SSA. We then grew as the rest of Senior Services did with the addition of 1) the Nursing Home Ombudsman program in 1989, 2) the elder abuse and neglect program in 1990, 3) the Choices for Care Program in 1994, 4) the Senior Medicare Patrol program in 1997, 5) the renovation of 6000 sq. ft. of space in Countryside Shopping Center in Yorkville for a Kendall County Senior Center in 1999, 6) the Family Caregiver Program in 2002, 7) the medication management program in 2004, 8) the Medicare Part D program in 2005, 8) the senior companion program in 2007, 9) the flexible senior companion program in 2007, 9) and the fall prevention program in 2009.

With the demolition of the Countryside Shopping Center in 2006, we had to find a new home for our senior center. The City of Yorkville invited us to use the Beecher Community Building. After renovating the space in the Perkins Room in 2006, we moved in and are delighted with our expanded space. In 2010 we signed another five year lease and look forward to making this our home in Kendall County.

2010 brought several changes to Kendall County. With the opening of the new Kendall Area Transit service Senior Services took our buses off the road for the first time since 1994. While we continue to register seniors for transportation services, rides are only given for group recreation events. Another challenge was posed in January when the Salvation Army decided to terminate services in the Beecher Building. SSA assumed the service and now has its first congregate meal program. Additional services added in 2010 include the Veterans Assistance Program and Money Follows the Person. Both programs focus on enabling veterans of all ages and seniors to live independently at home.

There are many sources of support in Kendall County. Most notable is the local funding provided through an initiative we led in 1999 to pass a referendum in Kendall County to fund social services for seniors. Without this funding Kendall County's service growth would have been severely restricted. While federal and state dollars provide 65% of our funding 35% must be raised locally. Of this amount the tax referendum provides \$117500 or 69%

MCHEMRY COUNTY:

In 1987 the Illinois Department on Aging designated Senior Services Associates (SSA) the Case Coordination Unit (CCU) in McHenry County. As such they would be the "one stop shop" of social services for senior citizens. Since we were taking over services from another agency that had served as Case Coordination in McHenry County, we took over the space they were vacating in a shopping mall in Crystal Lake. In addition to case management, information and assistance and outreach services which came as part of the we also assumed responsibility for the Retired Senior Volunteer Program which is a federal program currently funded under the Corporation for National & Community Service. This program which placed volunteers in both Kane and McHenry counties brought us the opportunity to engage with up to 100 non profit sites that needed volunteers. Through the years this program has served as the impetus to start an extensive volunteer transportation program, home repair and other special projects. The Nursing Home Ombudsman program, elder abuse program, Choices for Care, Senior Medicare Patrol, Family Caregiver Program, medication management, flexible senior services, Medicare Part D, fall prevention, and other programs were added during the same years they were added in Kane and Kendall counties.

In 1996 the senior companion program was transferred to Senior Services from Big Brothers and Big Sisters. Through this program isolated seniors are matched with a volunteer who visits them each week. Modeled on this program, SSA started similar programs in Kane and Kendall Counties.

In 1990 as a result of a partnership with McHenry Township Senior Services was able to move into new offices in the McHenry Township Recreation Center. The space was expanded several years later allowing us to accommodate our growing needs. In 2005 with funding from the passage of the McHenry County Senior Tax referendum we opened another senior center in Crystal Lake.

In 2003 Senior Services played a lead role in the passage of the senior tax referendum in McHenry County. Its passage has had a profound impact on our ability to provide services for seniors. It allowed us to open a senior center in Crystal Lake in 2005 and to add several case worker staff as well as activity coordinators in both the McHenry and Crystal Lake offices. As a result we were able to provide extensive recreation, health and education programs as well as social services. A small home repair program was implemented in 2008, and recreation services were expanded to Richmond and Burton townships in 2009.

2010 brought further expansion of recreation services to Marengo and Riley townships. The Veterans Assistance Program was implemented with 13 veterans referred from the VA hospitals for help so they could live at home. The Money Follows the Person program was implemented to assist seniors who wanted to go home from nursing homes.

56% of funding in McHenry County is from federal and state resources. Senior referendum funding provides \$470,000 or 59% of the local share.