

## **History of Senior Services Associates, Inc.**

1973- The Elders

- With funding from the United Way of Elgin incorporated as The Elders to provide an adult day center to meet the needs of patients being released from Elgin State Hospital and to serve other community seniors in need of full day care.
- Moved into a house owned by the Department of Mental Health.

1976

- Expanded the Adult Day Center into a multipurpose senior center.
- Moved to the lower level of the Masonic Temple in Elgin
- Added transportation, recreation, health, education and information and assistance programs.

1980-81

- With funding from the City of Elgin purchased, renovated and moved into the building which would become our corporate office, The Greater Elgin Senior Center, at 101 S. Grove St. Elgin.

1983

- Designated as one of the first Case Coordination Units (CCU) for the Illinois Department on Aging for the purpose of integrating frail elders into the social service system.
- As CCU for Kane County, expanded our services to all of Kane County.
- Changed our name to “The Greater Elgin Senior Center.”
- Became CCU for Kendall County and expanded case management services to all of Kendall County
- Began to provide state-mandated programs including information and referral, outreach and case management throughout Kane and Kendall counties.

1984 Senior Services Associates

- Changed our name to Senior Services Associates due to our growing service area.
- Renovated space and opened the Aurora Township Senior Center at 33 S. Stolp, Aurora.
- Assumed responsibility for the Beecher Community Senior Center in Yorkville and added transportation, information and referral, outreach and recreation to our services in Kendall County.

1987

- Appointed the CCU for McHenry County offering information and assistance, case management, and outreach.
- Opened an office in Crystal lake
- Added the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) in Kane and McHenry Counties.

1989

- Implemented the Nursing Home Ombudsman Program

1990

- Designated the Elder Abuse Program provider for Kane, Kendall and McHenry Counties
- Moved our McHenry County office from Crystal Lake to the new McHenry Township Recreation Center.

1991

- Added the Senior Homebound Volunteer Program in McHenry County
- Added a Mental Health Outreach Program in Kendall County

1993

- Opened a resale shop in Meadowdale Shopping Center in Carpentersville
- Moved our Yorkville office to the Game Farm House

1994

- Moved the Aurora Township Senior Center to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the YMCA in Aurora
- Moved our Yorkville office into an industrial park
- Moved our resale shop to much larger space in the Meadowdale Shopping Center
- Added health and wellness promotion to our programs.

1995

- Moved into new offices that had been built for us in the McHenry Township Recreation Center.
- Merged all our county newsletters into one tabloid-style newspaper, The Monthly Review, to serve all three counties.

1996

- Assumed the Senior Companion Program in McHenry County
- Received funding from the Illinois Department on Aging to implement the Choices for Care program to provide prescreening for all seniors entering a nursing home.
- Added the Neighbor to Neighbor Program in Elgin
- Added Shared Housing in McHenry County.

1997

- Added the Faith in Action program in Elgin
- Implemented the Project operation Restore Trust demonstration project which uses volunteers to educate the public on how to identify waste and fraud in Medicare and Medicaid.

1998

- Joined with 18 other CCU's in Illinois to form a new business, the Coordinated Care Alliance, which provides case management services to managed care entities.

1999

- Led in the passage of a referendum to fund social services for seniors in Kendall County
- Established the Senior Services Endowment Fund to be administered by the Aurora Foundation.
- Renovated space for a Kendall County Senior Center in Countryside Shopping Center, Yorkville
- Received funding from Hanover Township to provide Hanover Township seniors transportation to and from our adult day center
- Expanded adult day services into all of Hanover Township

2000

- Moved into our new 6000 square foot Kendall County Senior Center in Yorkville
- Doubled the size of our adult day program to 32 adults by renovating the space adjacent to the Elgin Senior Center
- Assumed county wide responsibility for the McHenry County Volunteer Resource Center.
- Assumed the home sharing program in Kane County.
- Received the Distinguished Program Award from the State of Illinois for our Senior Companion Program.

2001

- Began the initiative to upgrade our computer technology by purchasing and networking several new computers.
- Developed a new strategic plan as a guide for the next 10 years
- Developed a 30 second TV commercial
- Held our first Cheers for Years fundraiser in conjunction with the Northeastern Illinois Area Agency on Aging.

2002

- Implemented the federal Family Caregiver Program by providing assistance and respite to those caring for a loved one.
- Upgraded our computer systems to provide email and internet access to all offices.
- Received a grant from the Illinois Community Technology Fund to develop a computer program to help seniors become computer literate.

2003

- Provided leadership in the passage of the McHenry County Senior Tax Referendum
- Opened an office providing recreation and social services in the Elgin Township Senior Center.
  - Conducted a minority outreach project.
  - Received an SBC Accelerator Grant to provide computer literate training for seniors.

2004

- Completed the first of yearly mailings to all senior homes in Kane, Kendall and McHenry counties to assure that seniors know how to access services.
- Provided medication management information to all seniors in our service area.
- Completed a special outreach project in Western Kane County
- Developed plans to open a senior center in Crystal Lake.

#### 2005

- Opened a new senior center in Crystal Lake and expanded our elder abuse, case management, information and assistance staff in that area.
- Negotiated a new home for our Kendall County Senior Center in the Beecher Community Building in Yorkville
- Implemented the Medicare Part D program by providing information and assistance to more than 5000 Medicare Part D senior participants.
- For the first time held a Pie Auction fundraiser in Aurora

#### 2006

- Moved our Kendall County office into the Beecher Community Building in Yorkville.
- Transferred our Adult Day Care Program to Lutheran Home and Service
- Completed an outreach mailing to 65,000 seniors in Kane, Kendall & McHenry Counties
- Implemented the Comprehensive Assessment Program
- With the addition of new computers and other hardware completed a technology upgrade in all offices.
- Remodeled the kitchen in the Elgin Senior Center

#### 2007

- Moved the Aurora office to newly renovated facilities on Lake Street
- Purchased lap top computers for all case management staff
- Added new carpeting to all floors in the Elgin office
- Implemented the Senior Companion program in Kendall County
- Implemented the Flexible Senior Services Program in all counties
- Implemented a small home repair program in McHenry County.
- Added Self Neglect to the Elder Abuse program.

#### 2008

- Implemented the Lao outreach program in northern Kane County, Hanover Park, and Schaumburg Townships.
- Added the Senior Companion Program to northern Kane County
- Added a neighborhood development program to the Neighbor to Neighbor program.
- Implemented fall prevention and medication management programs in all offices.
- Held our first annual Fashion Show in Kendall County.

#### 2009

- \* Served as a demonstration site for a Nursing Home Diversion Grant.
- \* Received one time funding for a special Hispanic outreach program that included team building

- \* Redesigned our Website
- \* Updated our computer technology
- \* Expanded recreation services in McHenry County to Richmond and Burton Townships
- \* Expanded our special event fundraisers with the addition of two golf outings.