



# Kent County Senior Millage

# Millage Minder

Summer 2018

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS OF THE KENT COUNTY SENIOR MILLAGE

### Vision Counseling

Studies report that we receive about 80% of our external information through our eyes. The experience of vision loss can have a personal, social and emotional impact on one's life. The Kent County Senior Millage (KCSM) funds vision counseling, so older adults



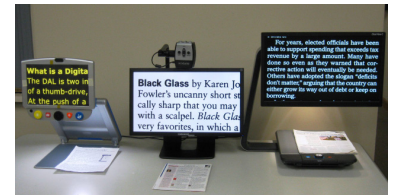
experiencing vision loss can learn new skills for coping with challenges associated with vision loss, as well as support for the emotional impact vision loss can have.

The Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ABVI) offers

Vision Rehabilitation & Counseling services for seniors experiencing vision loss. Richard Stevens, Executive Director of ABVI explains, "Many tasks the individual once knew how to do well must be re-taught, adapting for vision loss. Vision rehabilitation helps reduce the burdens of vision loss and improves the quality

of live for those challenged by severe vision loss." The KCSM makes this service affordable for many seniors in the community. Stevens states, "Over 41% of our clients reported household incomes under

\$20,000." The services provided through the KCSM are intended to assist an older adult to remain living in



their own home. "95% of our clients," Stevens says, "reported experiencing improvements in their skills for independent living, financial management and recreation." If you or your loved one is a Kent County resident, age 60+ and experiencing vision problems, contact ABVI.

**ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND & VISUALLY IMPAIRED**



(616) 458-1187 | [www.abvimichigan.org](http://www.abvimichigan.org)

### Fan & Air Conditioner Program

Summer has arrived and so has the KCSM funded Fan & Air Conditioner Program administered by Senior Neighbors. Studies show that older adults do not adjust well to sudden temperature changes and medical conditions and medications can exacerbate



the effects of extreme heat. This program helps older adults overcome the dangers that summer can bring. Tom Oosterbaan, Client

Services Director at Senior Neighbors, states "Millage funding provides the fans and air conditioners vital to vulnerable seniors who otherwise would not be able to afford these items." To qualify for an air conditioner, a person must be

an income eligible, Kent County resident, age 60+ with a doctor's note or prescription describing the medical need for an air conditioner.

Fans are available for no charge to any Kent County Senior who needs one, but client donations are encouraged, and can be picked up at Senior Neighbors. Individuals wanting a fan must have personal identification with them to receive the fan. Contact Senior Neighbors for more information.

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(616) 459-6019 | [www.seniorneighbors.org](http://www.seniorneighbors.org)

# Adult Day Services

Are you caring for an adult with a functional impairment? Adult Day services is a KCSM funded service that provides support to caregivers by offering them time to themselves, while their loved one receives cognitive stimulation, socialization,



exercise and personal care in a safe environment.

Day programs are staffed by registered and licensed nursing staff, social workers and activities professionals.

Kendra Shumaker, Owner and Operator of SarahCare - Knapp's Corner and SarahCare - Metro Village, says, "Adult Day centers offer a place where a person's loved one can be during the day, get meals, be attended by nursing staff, receive showers and still be home for supper and to sleep

in their own bed." This helps relieve a great deal of caregiver stress and it is good for the participant to be able to socialize, develop new friendships, and stay active. Shumaker explains, "Many families have reported that their loved one's cognition has actually improved after attending Adult Day centers."

Adults Day programs make it possible for individuals in cognitive decline to stay in their homes longer. KCSM funds three Adult Day centers in Kent County. *SarahCare - Knapp's Corner* and *SarahCare - Metro Village*. These centers are open Monday - Friday 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. *SarahCare - Metro Village* is also open Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Hope Network Behavior Health Services operates the *Side by Side Adult Day Program*. They are open Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.



If you're interested in learning more about Adult Day services, contact the programs directly.

**SarahCare**  
Experienced Care, Delivered with Love!

SarahCare Knapp's Corner  
(616) 364-6800

SarahCare Metro Village  
(616) 530-6700

[www.sarahcare.com](http://www.sarahcare.com)

**HOPE NETWORK**

Side by Side Program

(616) 235-2910 | [www.hopenetwork.org](http://www.hopenetwork.org)

## Millage Service Eligibility for 2018

Senior Millage services are available to Kent County residents, age 60+.

Cost share/co-payment may be required for individuals whose incomes are above \$24,280 and couples with incomes above \$32,920 for 2018. Cost share fees are based on income and assets. Fees may vary depending on the service type. For more information, contact the organization providing services.

Millage Minder is published three times per year by Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan. For more information contact:



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*If you would like to start receiving the Millage Minder by email, write [WendyI@aaawm.org](mailto:WendyI@aaawm.org) with "Millage Minder" in the subject line.*