



The Source for Seniors

Kent County Senior Millage

Millage Minder

Winter 2019

QUARTERLY PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS OF THE KENT COUNTY SENIOR MILLAGE

Kent County Senior Millage

The Kent County Senior Millage (KCSM) provides support and services that help Kent County seniors live in their own homes for as long as possible.

Each year the KCSM holds an open proposal process. Proposals are reviewed by the Millage Review Committee, which is a group made up of Kent County Commissioners and Kent County residents. Agencies whose proposals are approved then make a presentation to the committee in the fall.

Funding recommendations for KCSM Services are determined by the Millage Review Committee and approved by the Kent County Board of Commissioners.

Funding for the services comes from taxes paid by Kent County homeowners. For 2019, the committee and the Commissioners approved \$11,078,000 in funding to contract 32 agencies for 53 unique services. One new service added in 2019 is *Gently-Used Mobility Equipment*, a service provided by Alternatives in Motion.

Alternatives in Motion

Alternatives in Motion provides gently-used mobility equipment - a new service available this year through KCSM. Coleen Marie Davis, Executive Director of Alternatives in Motion describes, "For people with disabilities, mobility offers a sense of freedom: freedom to

plan, freedom to achieve, freedom to dream."

Alternatives in Motion will also deliver the equipment with their "community van," so seniors won't have to be concerned about finding a way to pick it up.

Davis says the funding

they've received through KCSM will "help us keep up with the 203% increase in clients we have served in the past two years."

To receive equipment through Alternatives in Motion a one-page application needs to be completed to determine eligibility, along with a signed waiver.

It is important to be aware that there is a \$10.00 cost share per piece of equipment. Contact Alternatives in Motion to learn more about receiving gently-used mobility equipment.



Alternatives in Motion (616) 493-2620
www.alternativesinmotion.org

Recreation Therapy Program

The Stepping Stones Program through Life Therapeutic Solutions has been providing Recreation Therapy to older adults for the past 20 years. Kristine Schwab, Owner of Life Therapeutic Solutions and Certified Recreational Therapist states, “We decrease social isolation and increase an individual’s independence.” Stepping Stones works one to one with individuals who have social, emotional, cognitive and physical disabilities.



Because Recreation Therapy is not covered by insurance except auto no-fault, Schwab says, “The millage has helped us provide this essential service to older adults in our community regardless of their ability to pay.

Anyone can make a referral to the Stepping Stones program: an individual, family member, church or facility. A therapist will perform an in-home assessment and discuss treatment goals. Use the contact information below to get started.



(616) 828-5492
www.life-ts.com

Kent County Community Action

Kent County Community Action (KCCA) offers several KCSM funded services to older adults in Kent County. All services are provided in English and Spanish.



KCCA provides Outreach and Assistance to those seeking services. As a partner of RideLink, they offer transportation services. KCCA also helps homeowners and renters with their Weatherization program by providing methods to increase energy

efficiency. Last, their Meal program offers congregate and home delivered meals, featuring Latin American cuisine.

Susan Cervantes, Kent County Community Action Director, says, “KCSM has helped us greatly in offering services to low income seniors to help maintain their independence.” To learn more, contact KCCA to get connected to services.



(616) 632-7950
www.accesskent.com/Departments/CommunityAction

Millage Service Eligibility for 2019

Senior Millage services are available to Kent County residents, age 60+. Cost share/co-payment may be required for individuals whose incomes are above \$24,980 and couples with incomes above \$33,820 for 2019. 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 with “Millage Minder” in the subject line.