

Kent County Senior Millage

Millage Winter 2020 Minder

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS OF THE KENT COUNTY SENIOR MILLAGE

2020 Kent County Senior Millage

The Kent County Senior Millage (KCSM) provides vital services for older adults in Kent County giving them the resources they need to stay living in their own homes for as long as possible. Kent County residents approved a renewal and increase to the millage in August 2014 and it is currently in an 8-year millage cycle. For 2020 there is over \$12 million in place to positively impact seniors lives. For this Winter 2020 edition of Millage Minder, we have highlighted the four new KCSM programs for the year; you can learn more about each of them below.

Sheldon House at Cherry Health

Cherry Health has been a KCSM partner for a number of years, providing key health support to seniors. As part of 2020 KCSM funding, their Sheldon House will have an expanded reach to those who are 60+ and have a mental illness. As Tara VanDyke, Clubhouse Manager, explained, "The mission of Sheldon House is to offer a place to belong for people whose lives are impacted by mental illness. Not only a place to belong, but a place to recover and find hope." Sheldon House is based on a proven and evidence-based international model where environmental therapy and social practices are emphasized. The individual with mental illness becomes an integral part of the Sheldon House community where they can focus on

skill recovery and development, receive employment supports, regain a sense of purpose, and make strong friendships. The funding from the KCSM will allow Kent County older adults with mental illness to be eligible even if the individual does not have targeted case management and/or Medicaid. If you are interested in learning more, Sheldon House is open for tours and you'll find their information below.



(616) 776-2135
www.cherryhealth.org

Moxie Professional Organizing and Coaching

Moxie Life Organizing provides professional organizing and coaching services. All services are geared towards minimizing health and safety risks in homes and/or lifting housing complaints. Some of these services include decluttering/downsizing possessions, organizing and cleaning residential spaces, and coaching individuals on how to best organize and maintain their homes. This is vital as many older adults are unable to properly care for their homes due to declining health and it is common for them to accumulate items if they have lived in one place for many years. "KCSM funding has expanded our ability to provide

services to the older population who may not have funds to receive our services. We can reach those who are at risk in their housing and have health/safety risks in their homes," shared co-owners, Susie Marsh and Kate Wert. Call Moxie for more information or a phone consultation.

moxie
LIFE ORGANIZING

(616) 777-7347
www.moxielifeorganizing.com

The Alzheimer's Association- Community Health Worker Dementia Support Program

The Alzheimer's Association provides many programs and services to individuals living with dementia and their caregivers, including a 24/7 information and referral helpline, education programs, support groups, social engagement services, and care counseling. For 2020, they are adding a new Community Health Worker Dementia Support Program to their lineup through the KCSM. This program involves recruiting and training volunteers throughout the community to help increase awareness about dementia. These volunteers will be highly trained and provide culturally competent support groups and education programs to Kent County residents.

“Through the generous support of the Senior Millage, we are able to recruit and train volunteers

to help us provide even more services, such as education programs and support groups, to the diverse communities throughout the area. With more people trained to offer these programs, we can increase the awareness and knowledge of dementia and provide more support to older adults living in Kent County,” shared Melaine Baird, VP of Programs. Interested in further information? You can find their contact details below.

alzheimer's  association®

THE BRAINS BEHIND SAVING YOURS:

(800) 272-3900

www.alz.org/gmc

The Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired-Support Group

Through the Kent County Senior Millage, the Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ABVI) has been able to provide care for older adults experiencing permanent vision loss.

ABVI offers a wide range of services including vision evaluation and treatment plans, training on low vision aids, technologies, and assistive devices, in-home, follow-up rehabilitation, and support groups. These types of supports help clients increase their confidence and ability to live more independently. As part of KCSM funding for 2020 ABVI is adding an additional support group to their lineup to serve a larger clientele.

Cheri Fox emphasizes the importance of these

groups, “Support groups help to overcome the painful feelings of isolation, depression, and anxiety that vision loss can cause with the goal to provide encouragement, information, education, and support to those experiencing vision loss as well as their families.” Currently, three support groups are offered within the Kent community, reach out to ABVI to learn more.

ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND
& VISUALLY IMPAIRED



(616) 458-1187

www.abvimichigan.org

Millage Service Eligibility

Senior Millage services are available to Kent County residents, age 60+. Some cost share/copayment may be required for individuals whose incomes are above \$25,520 and couples with incomes above \$34,480 for 2020. 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 a year by Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan.



The Source for Seniors

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www.aaawm.org

If you would like to start receiving the Millage Minder by email, write WendyI@aaawm.org with “Millage Minder” in the subject line.