



2009 Annual Report

2009 was a busy year at the Whitefish Community Center. Established senior programs, such as daily lunches at the Center and Meals-On-Wheels deliveries continued and our senior health and exercise programs such as toe nail clinics, blood pressure checks and senior exercise classes were well attended. A new exercise class, "Balancing Act", taught by a licensed Physical Therapist from the Whitefish Sport Center was added to our schedule in 2009. Each month we celebrated member's birthdays and weekly card games & line dancing lessons, rounded out our activity offerings for seniors.

The Board of Directors also worked to have the Community Center live up to its name – as not just a "senior center" - but as a place for the Community to gather and hold events. During 2009, working with FVCC, North Valley Hospital and Immanuel Lutheran Communities, a 7 week free lecture series "Caring for Aging Family Members" was held at the Center during Sept & October. Area experts in a variety of aging issues, lectured each week to community members about the ins and outs of taking care of aging friends and family for a higher quality of life. In August 2009, we started offering free refreshments and Wi-Fi for the whole community from 9:30 am-11:00 am. The Community Center also "broke into cyberspace" by launching a new website: www.whitefishcommunitycenter.org in November 2009. It is updated often with new event happenings, the latest newsletter issues, information about renting the community center and Golden Agers activities. The North Valley Toastmasters also started holding their bi-weekly meetings at the Center in December, 2009. Another program, growing in popularity, is our free tax return preparation offered to all community members from Feb-Apr each year.

Of course, none of this would happen without our wonderful 50+ volunteers who do just about everything you can imagine to help our organization – from maintenance, meal prep and delivery, leading exercise programs, raising money to shoveling snow – they are a tremendous asset to our cause. And, our two dedicated employees, Maura & Marianne continue to be integral parts of our success.

As a non-profit, fundraising is never far from our minds. Keeping the Center "in the black" is always a challenge. A new fundraiser was conducted in May of 2009. Volunteers worked with the Humane Society to bring a wonderful fashion show to Whitefish. "Fashion for Compassion" featured models of all ages – human and K-9! The show was such a success that it is on the fundraising docket for 2010. We also held our annual Oktoberfest celebration which continues to be a top fundraiser for the Center. In addition to county grants and site rental revenue, the Golden Agers received some generous donations from area businesses and individuals in 2009 and in-kind donations for printing our newsletter and coffee for the Center.

In summary, 2009, brought several new programs to the Center and paved the way for even more community programming in 2010 – here is what 2009 looked like by the numbers:

3593 Lunches served at the Center	170 Free tax returns prepared
4911 Meals On Wheels delivered	4420 Volunteer hours worked
188 Golden Agers members	10 hours of health & social activities offered each week (avg)

Financially, 2009 was pretty much of a “break-even” year – All of our current and new programs were conducted within our small operating budget of about \$30,800 – all possible due to generous time and money donations by our involved and dedicated community members. Of course, we would like to see that \$ figure increase, as this gives us the ability to increase our community outreach.

Plans for 2010

The Whitefish Community Center Board of Directors has plans for new & improved program offerings in 2010 as well as some much needed building upkeep:

- A goal of increasing the number of free tax returns completed for seniors to approximately 200 (a 15%+ increase from 2010).
- Working with FVCC to host Continuing Education Classes at the Center – In the Winter/Spring of 2010, four classes will be offered through FVCC: Sing & Learn Spanish, Preserving your Family Heritage, Choosing Colors and Fly Casting Techniques.
- New programs at the Center in conjunction with the Stumptown Historical Society.
- Increased offerings to community & non-profit groups who need a place to meet Mondays-Fridays.
- Increase membership.
- Strip and wax the floor of the Community Center giving it a much needed “facelift.”

The Whitefish Community Center is always looking for monetary and in-kind donations, volunteers to donate their time to improve our program offerings and new members, (we’re not just for “Golden Agers” - for \$10/year we’re the best deal in-town! Members get discounts on classes and special events.) If you would like to make a difference in your community please do not hesitate to contact us.