



121 E Second Street, Whitefish, MT 59937 – 862-4923 – whitefishcommunitycenter@montanasky.net
www.whitefishcommunitycenter.org

Whitefish Community Center Report

Jan 2010 through Dec 2010

2010 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 including “Balancing Act” taught by a licensed Physical Therapist from the Whitefish Sport Center were well attended. A new wellness class, “Yoga for Healthy Aging”, was added to our schedule in 2010. We also added to our programming our free monthly “History of Whitefish” series in conjunction with the Stumptown Historical Society. These sessions, facilitated by Walter Sayre, cover a new topic each month about stories & memories of days gone by in Whitefish. We celebrated member’s birthdays and weekly card games & line dancing lessons, round out our activity offerings for seniors. The Center also served as a classroom for 3 FVCC Continuing Education classes in the Spring: Sing & Learn Spanish, Preserving your Family Heritage and Fly Casting Techniques. Starting in November we began offering a low cost monthly Arts/Crafts class, taught by Jennifer Griffith.

The Board of Directors also made it “official” changing our name from the Whitefish Golden Agers to the Whitefish Community Center, as our goal is to make the Center a gathering place for the whole community. We offer free refreshments and Wi-Fi for the public from 9:30 am-11:00 am. The North Valley Toastmasters hold their bi-weekly meetings at the Center and our free tax return preparation is offered to all community members from Feb-Apr each year and in 2010 it helped 88 community members navigate the complex world of filing Federal & State tax returns.

Our Building & Maintenance committee was extremely busy in 2010. A generous grant from Flathead Electric’s Round Up for Safety campaign allowed us to purchase and install motion detector lighting all-around the Center for increased safety & security. We also took on the overdue task of painting the exterior of the building, with half of the funds of this project being provided by a grant from the Plum Creek Foundation. We also incurred some unexpected maintenance expenses, when replacing the floor in our restrooms, plumbing problems were discovered and what we thought would be a simple floor replacement turned into a whole lot more.

As a small non-profit, fundraising is never far from our minds. Keeping the Center “in the black” is always a challenge. We continued our joint fundraising effort with the Humane Society of NW Montana bringing back the “Fashion for Compassion” fundraiser in May 2010, featured models of all ages – human and K-9! We also held our annual Oktoberfest celebration which continues to be one of the top fundraisers for the Center. Also on the fundraising front, we conducted a new direct mail fundraising campaign which helped the coffers of the Center. In addition to county grants and site rental revenue, the Community Center received some generous donations from area businesses and individuals in 2010 and in-kind donations for printing our newsletter, coffee for the Center & credit at Nelson’s Hardware has not gone unappreciated. The Plum Creek Foundation and Round Up for Safety grants helped to improve our building in many ways.

Of course, all of our activities, programs and fundraising would not 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.

In summary, 2010 brought several new programs to the Center - here is what 2010 looks like by the numbers from Jan through Dec 2010:

4159 Lunches served at the Center	163 Free tax returns prepared
5486 Meals-On-Wheels delivered	3880 Volunteer hours worked
204 Community Center members	10 hours of health & social activities offered each week (avg)

Unfortunately, financially, our 2010 operating budget went into the red by approximately (\$1335) – with some unexpected maintenance issues and a shortfall of grant funding, we are reaching out the community to help us make up this deficit, to keep the Center providing the much needed programs to our senior population and as a resource for the whole community.

Thank you for your support!

Whitefish Community Center Board of Directors

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Sarah Stewart (Treasurer)	Steve Tuhy (Secretary)
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