

March 2021

Dear Friend,

We have all said and heard it many times, what a year 2020 was! As I reflect on this past year, I think of what it meant to all of us and the range of emotions we saw and felt. Always on my mind is the sadness, sacrifice, and fear far too many of us endured. I recall constantly wondering if we were doing enough, if we were reaching everyone. And the overwhelming feeling of sadness felt walking into our empty Center missing participants and worrying about everyone's wellbeing.

Yet when I think back, I also recall all the ways our Center and every one of us has shown brightly through an exceedingly difficult and uncertain time. Without missing a beat, we were all checking in on one another and community businesses and partners stepped up with meals, groceries, computers, and services for our Center to bring together and distribute with the help of an incredible group of volunteers. A smile and laugh in our parking lot meant so much more. And so did the tears. The trust and love we felt for one another to be there, to listen and support through the highs and lows, was overwhelming in the most unique and amazing way. It was a year that tested us all, and in all the traditional and non-traditional ways a senior center supports a community, we were there.

I'm proud to say we never lost sight of what an honor it is to be in a position to shift on a moment's notice, to make a positive and needed impact on our community and participant's lives, and to show no matter what none of us are alone. And as fortunate as we are, we also acknowledge limitations we face due to funding, a common concern for independent non-profits such as ours. Our 2020 budget was over 35% due to unavoidable yet necessary COVID response efforts. Thankfully, we are surrounded by a wonderful community and have been able to cover some COVID expenses with grants and other financial aid. Yet while expenses increased, we lost rental and fundraising income due to COVID restrictions.

As we review the following list of the many ways we responded to our unprecedented year, we ask that you consider donating what you comfortably can to ensure we are able to continue responding with the same level of effectiveness, while preparing to reopen our Center as soon as possible. Our priority is to safely bring programming, services, and participants back to our Center in all the ways everyone knows, loves, and depends on.





Our Center's COVID Response includes:

- Within a week of having to close our center's doors in March 2020, we created the Support Buddies program in collaboration with HANDS VT to check-in on over 600 homebound participants and community members. This new program also shopped for and delivered groceries to vulnerable homebound community members.
- We created Vermont's first senior center reopening plan (approved by the Department of Health) in June 2020. We were the first senior center in Vermont to open and remain open all summer and fall.
- We developed a variety of online programs and activities through partnerships and creative program planning at our Center.
- In July 2020, we partnered with UVM Home, Health, and Hospice to offer foot care to over 60 senior community members who were suddenly without this important service due to other programs discontinuing.
- In October 2020, we partnered with UVM Health Network to become the first official telehealth site in Burlington.
- We created the Center's first Tech Program for participants needing computers and or technical training to offer more opportunities for connectiveness and access to health care.
- We distributed over 160 Thanksgiving Day meals to community members age 50+
- We kept our tradition of celebrating our participants age 90+ with a video tribute and dinner "drive-in movie style" honoring our 18 90+ guests of honor.
- We expanded our gardening program and participated in the City's "Plants for the People" program.
- We partnered with North End Food Pantry to create a new, safer food distribution space.

And as we optimistically begin 2021, we have already introduced vaccine registration assistance and all new AARP drop-off tax aide procedures in addition to all the above.

With a great deal of gratitude, we thank you for supporting our Center so we can continue enhancing the lives and wellbeing of our older community members.

Gratefully,

Beth Hammond, Executive Director
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Please return this sheet with your donation, thank you!

Name: _____ ☐ I would like to give anonymously

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

I would like to donate:

☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$500 ☐ Other \$ _____

Make checks payable to: Heineberg Community Senior Center (HCSC) or provide the following credit card information:

Credit Card Number: _____

Exp Date: _____ Amount: _____ Billing Zip Code: _____ CVV: _____

If you do not already receive the Center's newsletter and you do not have an email address,
would you like us to mail you a copy every month? ____ Yes ____ No

Your support makes a difference, thank you!

Heineberg Community Senior Center www.heinebergcsc.org **Donate today online!**

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We are an independent 501(c)3 non-profit. Our federal ID is 03-0224108



