

SUN Executive Committee Update

November 7, 2023

- Executive Director Update
 - As of October 18, 2023, there was one applicant for the Executive Director position.
- 2024 SUN Budget
 - At this time, there is a projected budget surplus for congregate meals of \$33,366 and budget deficit for home delivered meals of \$62,460.
- Funding Sources:
 - Campbell Funds- received \$5,000 towards home delivered meals
 - Jennie Oleson Fund
 - Asked for \$8,500 to cover mileage and supplies for Dodgeville/Ridgeway/Barneveld Site.
 - Monies are distributed in December.
 - United Fund of Iowa County
 - Plan to apply for this later this year to cover mileage and stipends for home delivered meal drivers in Iowa County.
- Annual Appeal
 - It was mailed out to past donors and new potential donors including communities within each County.
 - SUN has started to receive funds through both PayPal and the mail.
 - Meals of Wheels of America also sent out a mailer requesting donations at the same time. SUN is hopeful that donors know the difference between the National appeal and their local appeal.
- Financial Statements
 - The September financial statements were not available from Number 4 Nonprofits as of the October SUN Board Meeting.
- 2022 Deficit
 - The Board is still waiting for their official audit report before making any decisions.
 - Once the 2022 Audit Report is received, the Board will work with Numbers 4 Nonprofits as the best way to cover the deficit.
- 2022 Annual Report
 - A copy of the report is included for your review.

SENIORS UNITED FOR NUTRITION PROGRAM INC.

***Serving Iowa and
Lafayette Counties***

***ANNUAL REPORT
1/1/22 - 12/31/22***



**Seniors United
for Nutrition**

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Mission Statement

The SUN Program supports and assists seniors 60 and over by providing hot nutritious meals, home delivered or in a group setting to promote good nutrition and fellowship, reduce isolation and to provide prevention programming to assist in maintaining independence and involvement in their community.

PROGRAM PURPOSE

The SUN Program is designed to help older persons maintain or improve their nutritional status, become involved with other people, and remain self-sufficient and independent as long as possible. The nutrition program is more than just a meal; its purpose is to nourish the whole person.

The SUN Program was established to provide hot, nutritious, noon meals five days a week in a group setting; to encourage fellowship, reduce isolation and provide a planned program of outreach to elderly citizens of Iowa and Lafayette Counties.

The SUN Program also provides home-delivered meals, when necessary and appropriate, to homebound individuals unable to attend a congregate center.

The SUN Program is a private, non-profit organization, designated by GWAAR (Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources), an Area Agency on Aging, to administer federal Older Americans Act funds and State nutrition funds allocated to Iowa and Lafayette Counties. The SUN Program works closely with GWAAR, the two County Aging Units or ADRC's and other County service agencies to best provide nutrition services to older persons.

ELIGIBILITY

The SUN Program meals are available to anyone age 60 or over and their spouse, regardless of age. The participants of the SUN Program may be from any ethnic, economic and educational backgrounds. Meal cost for anyone over 60 years of age is a confidential, affordable contribution. Individuals under the age of 60 are welcome for lunch, volunteer opportunities and activities. Anyone under the age of 60 will be required to pay full cost of the meal; in 2022 this was \$11.45. A waiver for under 60 handicapped is no longer available by State mandate, a change in 2019. Staff who are under 60 pay \$5.50 per meal.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

The SUN Board of Directors is a six-member policy making board composed of three county board members from each of the two counties served by the program.

2022 SUN Program Board of Directors

Iowa County

Justin O'Brien
Dan Nankee, Chairman
Doug Richter

Lafayette County

Robert Laeser, through April
Nancy Fisker, through April, Secretary
Carol Korn, through April
Kriss Marion, begin in April, Vice Chairman
Bob Boyle, begin in April, Secretary
Rita Buchholz, begin in April

A Policy Advisory Council (PAC), consisting of at least one representative from each meal site, who is not the manager, has been developed to advise the Executive Director and the Board of Directors in matters directly related to the nutrition centers.

2021 SUN Program Policy Advisory Council Representatives

Arena -----	Vacant
Avoca-----	Home delivery only
Belmont -----	Kitty Crase, Secretary
Benton-----	Vicki Farrey, President
Blanchardville/Argyle-----	Peggy Hendrickson
Darlington -----	Terry Rasmussen
Dodgeville -----	Cheryl Bjorge
Highland -----	Home Delivery Only
Linden-----	Tom Faull
Mineral Point-----	Home Delivery Only
Shullsburg-----	Vacant

PROGRAM STAFF

The SUN Program has a staff person to fulfill the site manager's duties for each meal site. Their hours are dependent on the number of meals served, home-delivered meals and other varying needs of the respective meal site. Where meals are prepared on-site, the staff person has the combined duties of cook and site manager.

<u>Site</u>	<u>Title</u>
Arena – Candy Wilson	Cook/Manager
Avoca – Home Delivery Only, Karen Hagen	Manager
Blanchardville – Diane Kundert	Manager/Restaurant Owner
Hollandale added, home delivery only: 11/01/14	
Belmont – Kendall Krumrei	Cook/Manager
Benton – Farrah Morrissey	Cook/Manager
Darlington/Argyle – Kathy Kay	Manager
Dodgeville – Deb Schauf	Manager: 2/23 – 11/15
Highland – Home Delivery Only, Tony Kaster, Hagen	Driver, Volunteer, Manager
Linden – Eunice Naeger	Manager to 8/31
Karen Hagen, Assistant Manager 1/10/22	
Mineral Point – Home Delivery Only; Karen Hagen	Manager 9/1
Shullsburg – Paula Van Lent	Manager
Darlington/Argyle/South Wayne – Floyd Robelia	Cook/Manager
Steve Siegler	
Mike Nelson	
Food Delivery, Cooking sites – Dale Casper	
	Driver

Administrative Staff

Cecile McManus, RD	Executive Director, Dietitian
Jay Loop	Financial Officer, Office Assistant to 4/15
Kelly Haakenson	Financial Officer, Office Assistant: 3/29 – 12/16

CURRENT NUTRITION CENTER LOCATIONS AND OPENING DATES
(May have previously been at other locations)

Shullsburg (Townsend Community Center)	October 3, 1977
Highland, Sts. Anthony & Philip Catholic Church	October 3, 1977
Highland Breakfast, Betsy's Cafe	December 1, 2008
Blanchardville (Viking Café)	December 19, 1977
Blanchardville Breakfast, Viking Café	
Dodgeville (Hidden Valley Community Church)	January 23, 1978
Mineral Point (Home Delivery Only)	January 8, 1979
Darlington (Senior Center, Municipal Building)	February 5, 1979
Avoca (Home Delivery only)	December 3, 1979
Argyle (Home Delivered from Darlington)	April 28, 1980
Arena (Arena Manor)	May 18, 1983
Benton (VFW Building)	November 10, 1983
Belmont (Community Building)	May 29, 1990
Linden (Municipal Building)	March 17, 2003

Home delivery has been added for Cobb, out of Linden (new in 2018), and Ridgeway and Barneveld, out of Dodgeville. The Rewey site was closed in December of 2013. The Mineral Point congregate site was closed in December of 2013; home delivery remained in Mineral Point from Hodan Center until December 20, 2019; the Linden site then took over as provider. The South Wayne site closed on December 16, 2016; home delivery continues there from Darlington.

FOOD CONTRACTORS (catered service)

Avoca -----	Betsy's Restaurant, Highland
Blanchardville/Hollandale-----	Viking Café, Blanchardville
Darlington/Argyle/South Wayne-----	Lafayette Manor, Darlington
Dodgeville-----	Bloomfield Healthcare, Dodgeville
Highland-----	Betsy's Restaurant
Linden-----	UW-Platteville through Grant County
Mineral Point-----	UW-Platteville, Linden Site

Home delivery only has continued in Avoca on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, with meals being picked up from the Highland site. Mineral Point is home delivery only Monday through Friday; meals were picked up directly from the Linden Site. Home delivery only continues from Darlington for the Gratiot and South Wayne areas.

PROGRAM OPERATED KITCHENS (on-site cooking)

Arena at the Arena Manor	Benton at the Benton VFW
Belmont at the Community Building	Shullsburg at the Townsend Community Center

For the cooking sites, the majority of raw food is delivered to these sites monthly from the SUN food storage area. This is purchased primarily from one vendor, SYSCO, as part of a buying group, Vizient. Perishables and some groceries are purchased locally. Preparation and serving of meals are done by the SUN cook/manager or volunteers supervised by the manager, for these cooking sites.

TOTAL MEALS SERVED – 2022

Site	Congregate	Home Delivered/ Take-Out	Total	Unduplicated Persons Served		
				Cong.-H.D	Actual	
Argyle	0	6256	6256	63	63	
Belmont	183	3451	3634	26	46	61
Benton	1162	2713	3875	56	61	112
Blanchardville	1530	1321	2851	40	12	56
Blanchardville Breakfast (Above)		0		(20)	0	(20)
Darlington	1426	*41	1467	71	3	74
Shullsburg	307	3569	3876	17	28	45
Lafayette	4608	17,351	21,959			359
*Take-out						
Arena	1411	3169	4580	41	45	69
Avoca	0	2534	2534	20		20
Dodgeville	794	11,766	12,550	41	124	158
Highland		1532	1532		16	16
Highland Breakfast	0	0	0	0		0
Hollandale (Blanchardville)	0	1187	1187		11	11
Linden	255	2161	2416	13	26	33
Mineral Point	0	4178	4178		32	32
TOTAL Iowa	2460	26,527	28,987			333
TOTAL Both Counties	7068	43,878	50,946		Total: 692	

Official data entered into SAMS, State data system, is **50,938: Lafayette 21,959; Iowa 28,979.** This is the data base where number of meals is entered by SUN. The reason for the difference is unknown, but most likely an error in data entry.

TOTAL MEALS SERVED: COMPARISON

2009	43,825
2010	43,393
2011	41,269
2012	40,925
2013	36,502
2014	36,861
2015	39,720
2016	43,775
2017	46,410
2018	49,780
2019	47,123
2020	50,704
2021	53,957
2022	50,938

AGE GROUPS SERVED

In 2022, 333 unduplicated participants were served in Iowa County and 359 in Lafayette County for both congregate and home delivery, for a total of 692, by SAMS records. This is up from 2021.

COVID: on March 20 of 2020, all congregate sites were closed due to COVID. Some congregates became take-outs or home delivery; both were recorded as home delivery. All new rosters were set up by GWAAR. By our records, there were 832 unduplicated in 2020, up about 60 from 2019.

GWAAR states that those numbers are hard to calculate with the changes in reporting. Because of the increase in meals served, the larger number of unduplicated participants makes more sense. In 2021, all congregate sites were open as of the end of May. Sites opened gradually, to allow the director to work with each site, and to learn from each opening.

The age groups break down as follows:

	<u>Iowa County</u>		<u>Lafayette County</u>	
	<u>Congregate</u>	<u>Home Delivery</u>	<u>Congregate</u>	<u>Home Delivery</u>
Under 60	7%	4%	5 %	4%
Age 60 – 69	14	16	15.5	14
Age 70 – 79	48	25	37	28
Age 80 – 89	21	37	31	35
Age 90 -- 99	10	18	10	18
Age over 100	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1.5</u>	<u>1</u>
	100%	100%	100%	100.0%

HOME DELIVERED MEALS PROGRAM

The home delivered meals program served 467 unduplicated persons with an average of 183 meals a day. Many individuals served were able to remain independent in their homes for a longer period of time due to the receipt of the meals. This was especially important during the months of COVID. In many cases, the anticipation of a daily visitor, in the form of the “Meals on Wheels” volunteer, brightens their day. In every case, it is a health check, an important added benefit. The staff of the nutrition program works closely with the county health departments, social services and county aging units (ADRC’s) to provide coordinated services of all programs for the homebound elderly. Discharge nurses and social workers at the local hospitals and nursing homes refer participants as well. SUN also works closely with Inclusa and My Choice Wisconsin (both Family Care) and the IRIS Program, for home delivery participants. These participants are assessed by the ADRC; if a meal is required, Family Care and IRIS paid \$11.76 per meal; our full cost is \$11.45; however extra money was added from ARPA funds. The total from Family Care/IRIS was \$36,410 or 6.0% of SUN’s total income. This is 1.3% higher than 2021. All meals are requested by the participants, family members, or referrals above.

The site managers do the home assessments at their sites. The director/dietitian completed home assessments, which are required of all home delivery participants, in Highland, where there is no paid manager, and Avoca and Mineral Point, which is home delivery only. She also helped in Dodgeville. During the assessment, nutrition education and counseling are done as needed.

The Nutrition Program has been instrumental in keeping seniors in their own homes and independent longer, providing significant savings in health care costs. If someone were to receive a meal for \$5.50, every day SUN is open for a year (250 days), this would equal \$1375, about half a day in a hospital or one week in a nursing home. There are savings on medications as well.

CONTRIBUTIONS

<u>Participant Donations</u>	<u>Iowa County (average)</u>	<u>Lafayette County (average)</u>
2009	\$3.31	\$3.34
2010	3.59	3.61
2011	3.83	3.66
2012	3.80	3.63
2013	4.15	3.90
2014	4.03	4.12
2015	3.99	3.98
2016	4.05	3.96
2017	4.26	4.29
2018	3.74	4.08
2019	4.21	4.45
2020	3.75	4.33
2021	3.68	4.25
2022	3.74	4.73

For Iowa County, the average donation increased by \$.06/meal, and for Lafayette County, increased by \$.48/meal. The total number of meals served decreased in 2022 from 2021; 3019 **less meals were served**. This reflects the continued need for our service during and after COVID, although lessening: seniors were unable or unwilling to go shopping due to fear of contracting the virus; family couldn't visit in many cases. The value of the SUN meal continues to be evident to those using the program; even though lower, the average donation remains high compared to most counties in Wisconsin. SUN cannot discontinue home delivered meals once they begin, if the person is eligible. SUN continues to send all home delivery participants a donation statement, begun in 2013, for more confidentiality, and financial security.

There is no grocery store in the majority of the communities we serve: these are Avoca, Arena, Belmont, Benton, Highland, and Linden. This makes it especially difficult to obtain a variety of fresh, healthy foods, such as fresh produce, dairy, meats and seafood. Besides the social benefits of the congregate sites, the SUN Program becomes a necessity for many seniors to obtain a balanced, nutritious meal; that is especially true for the home bound and those living in rural areas.

<u>MEAL PARTICIPANTS' CONTRIBUTIONS</u>		<u>COUNTY LEVY CONTRIBUTIONS</u>	
<u>TO TOTAL MEAL COST</u>		<u>IOWA</u>	<u>LAFAYETTE</u>
2009	39.0%		
2010	42.0		
2011	36.0		
2012	34.5		
2013	32.2	\$10,640	\$23,360
2014	36.5	20,640	28,360
2015	33.7	20,640	36,360
2016	36.2	20,640	36,360
2017	34.5	20,640	36,360
2018	36.0	20,640	36,360
2019	35.0	34,640	36,360
2020	32.0	34,640	36,360
2021	33.2	34,640	36,360
2022	30.6	44,640	66,360

Federal regulations prohibit the SUN Program from collecting a fee or charging for services. Participants are asked to donate for the meals, as they are able. The suggested donation for 2022 for

congregates was \$5.50 and for home delivery, \$6.50, as of April 1. Because of stipends and mileage paid to delivery drivers, and the cost of disposables, it was decided that there should be a difference between congregate and home delivery suggested donations. The County levy increased for both counties: \$44,640 for Iowa, and \$66,360 for Lafayette.

IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS:

In the majority of communities, city councils, village boards, churches, community groups and even a restaurant, provide buildings without charge for nutrition center locations and sometimes, financial support for purchasing equipment, utilities or general upkeep expenses. These are the communities of Belmont, Blanchardville, Darlington, Dodgeville, Highland, Linden, Shullsburg.

For congregate and home delivery, time donated by our volunteers came to 9,586 hours, by both seniors and non-seniors, a slight decrease from 2021. Some of the tasks performed by volunteers at the site include: managing the site (Blanchardville), assistance with cooking, food transportation, setting tables, serving food, clean-up after meals, counting money, and set-up for special occasions. Time is donated by PAC (Policy Advisory Council) representatives quarterly for their meetings, and the Board of Directors, who meet monthly. PAC meetings were canceled after the February meeting in 2020 due to COVID, and resumed in June of 2021.

Volunteers organize activities that are held before or after the meal, that encourage participants to come and socialize, and to make the environment more inviting. For home delivery, all but one site's drivers volunteer their time delivering meals, but are paid a stipend or mileage; some donate this. Many drivers help put together meals at the site, for home delivery.

Contributions of usable items are accepted in all nutrition centers to help reduce program costs. These items include such things as: coffee, tea, fresh produce from local gardens (increasing each year; mainly for the cooking sites), snacks, bingo prizes, paper products such as paper towels, napkins, place mats, plastic bags, and decorations for special occasions. Many do not report the value to the managers or the SUN office; this is especially true of the fresh garden produce. And some want to remain anonymous.

In all, at a value of \$17.50 per hour, \$167,755 worth of volunteer time was donated to SUN. (This rate is recommended by our auditors.)

Additionally, donated rent and utilities for 2022 amounted to \$52,400. Iowa County gives the SUN Program office and food storage space including utilities, computer and copy service as in-kind valued at \$9150/year; SUN pays Iowa County \$2400/year rent for this space, making the final in-kind value of \$6750. SUN does pay Iowa County for copies and paper. The ADRC's of Iowa and Lafayette Counties include menus, the Director's column, and other information on the nutrition program in their monthly newsletters; for Iowa County this is worth \$4800 per year, and for Lafayette, \$6000. Adding together all volunteer hours, rent, utilities, administration, and newsletter space, the total value amounts to \$237,705, an incredible value for the SUN Program!!

Besides the SUN staff, the volunteers are the heart of our program. All twelve sites and the office, depend on the support and hours given by the volunteers. As noted above, thousands of dollars are saved by the tremendous generosity of volunteers and the communities where the sites are located.

A Volunteer Appreciation event was held in October at the Darlington Country Club. This included bingo, a volunteer program with speaker Dottie Ivens, and dinner. This is always a favorite day for staff and volunteers. Sites are closed that day. The Director recognized the volunteer of the year, and each manager introduced their volunteers. The Board recognized the staff and all volunteers for their dedication and hard work during the year.

SITE FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

Rent is paid in three locations: Arena, Benton and Iowa County. Rent and phone for the Benton VFW comes to \$3600/year; the Village of Benton donated \$2500 toward that. As SUN is a private non-profit organization, it also pays rent of \$200 to Iowa County each month for space in the Health & Human Services Building in Dodgeville. In Arena, \$50/month was paid in rent, to help cover utilities, as it is a cooking site.

Phone bills were paid by SUN in three locations: Arena, Benton, and Dodgeville. The SUN office takes calls for all sites, but especially for those sites with no manager: Mineral Point, Avoca and Highland.

SOURCES OF INCOME:

Fundraising & Donations:

Site participants at some nutrition centers hold fund-raising activities throughout the year. COVID stopped everything on March 20, 2020 which continued into 2021 and officially until May of 2022. In 2007, SUN participants, staff and others, created a cook book of family favorites, with 2000 printed. About 500 remain; these continue to be sold. The Benton site manager, who administers the SUN Facebook page, advertised these before the holidays, and around 25 were sold. Belmont's annual soup supper in October had to be canceled, due to COVID and did not resume in 2021 or 2022. The Belmont senior group organizes this, and gives a donation to SUN. The decision remains with each site for use of funds raised at that site. Larger donations were \$3000 from City of Dodgeville, \$2500 from the City of Benton, \$1800 from Village of Argyle (\$150/month). The Benton State Bank and other businesses in Benton donated to cover the cost of food for the Community Thanksgiving meal, prepared by the Benton site manager. All donations for the meal were donated to SUN, around \$800.

Annual Appeal:

For the ninth year, SUN did an Annual Appeal for Donations. Donation letters were sent to businesses, individuals, churches and organizations, the beginning of December, with emphasis on previous donors. SUN collected a total of \$5895 by the end of 2022. The total donated was \$9230 from 64 donors. This was up from 2021. A thank you with names and location, was published in the News & Views (Iowa) and Upper Horizon (Lafayette), with updates, in 2022 & 2023. One Board member again helped with composing and designing the Appeal letter, which made it possible for all production and mailing to be done in-house.

Local Grants:

Grants were applied for, some received from the Community Foundation of Southern Wisconsin: Blanchardville/Hollandale: An application was made for Thermal Bag, Trays; no grant awarded for the first time since applications began.

Mineral Point: An application was made, but no grant awarded. They stated they had other priorities.

Shullsburg: \$400, for reimbursement for one case of reusable trays, and delivery coolers.
Benton: \$400 toward the purchase of a case of reusable trays and digital thermometers.
 The DUWI grant was not available in 2022.

A local foundation that wishes to remain anonymous, gave a grant of \$13,000 to the Dodgeville site, to be used for a new computer, monitor and keyboard for the director, and home delivery supplies including reusable trays, disposable trays, and mileage reimbursement for volunteer drivers. This is especially significant since only \$8000 was asked for.
 All grants were written by the Director.

All local income, local grants and fundraisers, including the Annual Appeal, equaled **\$46,554 for 2022**, a slight increase from 2021 of .5%.

GOVERNMENT GRANTS:

Special COVID Donations & Grants:

SUN received funding from the American Rescue Plan Act or ARPA of \$ 30,000 from Iowa County, paid in 2022. These funds were used for specific items, mainly mileage and equipment for the Iowa County sites. Specific ARPA funds for SUN, scheduled for 2022 and 2023, were not paid in 2022, but delayed to 2023.

Emergency Food and Shelter, Lafayette County: payment of \$3082, covering one phase of \$6164 Grant. This can be used for food only, \$2/meal. GWAAR funds are government grants also. Iowa County gave SUN \$30,000 of their ARPA funds, to be used for items specified by the Director, and approved by the Iowa County Board.

State & Federal Allocations (GWAAR):

					<u>NSIP Funds</u>	
	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Received</u>	<u>Iowa</u>	<u>Lafayette</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Received</u>
2022	\$214,000	\$227,567	126,478	101,089	2022	\$43,783
2021	185,495	253,529	106,276	147,253	2021	43,783
2020	164,260	302,922			2020	31,045
2019	163,700	180,495			2019	30,300
2018	156,480	164,256			2018	22,550
2017	156,480	152,332			2017	24,500
2016	150,904	156,483				
2015	150,867	150,904				
2014	140,982	151,813				
2013	159,893	171,158				
2012	172,999	171,156				
2011	172,152	177,148				
2010	164,320	171,212				
2009	168,863	142,163				

CONGREGATE ACTIVITIES

The following are SUN's usual activities offered at congregate sites.

We are "More than a Meal". Besides the healthy meals, the SUN dining center can become the focal point for socialization, fellowship, celebrations, inspiration, and educational and fun activities. For many people, the social programs are as important as the meal.

Blood Pressure Readings, Foot Care

This has resumed in Linden only, which is scheduled by the participants with the provider.

Nutrition Education, Food Safety, Health

Various presentations of information at all meal sites are given by the Director, a registered dietitian. The UW-Extension nutrition educator in Iowa County, Donna Peterson, provided group educational presentations for Dodgeville, Linden, and Arena. Donna also worked in Lafayette County. Placemats, posters and hand-outs provide health and nutrition information for congregate participants. In the Fall, the health department provides posters and handouts on vaccines, which are distributed to the sites by SUN. The Director/Dietitian tries to visit every site for nutrition education during March, National Nutrition Month, including a food demo and tasting. She also was doing Lunch & Learn at the Dodgeville site, along with the ADRC and other presenters, on the second Tuesday of every month, before COVID. Programs of eight weeks each were offered: Stepping Up Your Nutrition in Dodgeville and Stepping On in Benton. Some series were offered virtually, which reached more people as anyone could participate.

Nutrition information is included most months in the director's column in both county aging newsletters, the News & Views (Iowa) and Upper Horizon (Lafayette), and is sent out to the sites and to most households in both counties, totaling around 14,500. Nutrition information is included at least four times/year in financial donation letters sent monthly to home delivery participants. The UW Extension Nutrition Educator did quarterly nutrition education sessions, of several weeks each, in Arena and Dodgeville in Iowa County, and Benton and Darlington in Lafayette County. These were based on the Seniors Eating Well series.

EDUCATIONAL & RECREATIONAL

Aging Unit Directors hold public hearings as needed, on proposed aging programs and changes in the aging program funding, pertinent to their programs.

Benefit Specialists from the ADRC of both counties visit nutrition centers several times throughout the year to provide assistance in applying for or solving problems with Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, etc. The meal site provides a convenient, comfortable location for the seniors to gather and get the information they need. Volunteers from AARP assist seniors with tax preparation at the Health & Human Services Building, Dodgeville, and the Municipal building in Darlington.

A Senior Social has been held in Darlington, at the new Highway Department building, sponsored by the Lafayette County ADRC. This was resumed in 2022, after cancellation in 2020 and 2021. A SUN meal is served to around 80 people by the Darlington SUN site staff and volunteers. In Dodgeville, the ADRC hosts a Wellness Fair and Expo in September, at the dining site. The Director/Dietitian staffs a booth to promote the program and healthy eating, with creative ways to use foods that are required in the meal pattern. The ADRC held an event in cars for 2022 instead.

Since 2015, the Senior Citizen Group of Dodgeville has met at the Hidden Valley Church, the SUN site. This continued to positively impact the congregate numbers there, with an active, social group participating in cards, Lunch and Learn, exercise classes, and a monthly birthday party with live music and guests from other communities. All were canceled in March 2020 due to COVID. Cards have resumed; SUN has encouraged the seniors to meet and have lunch at the site monthly as before. Most nutrition centers celebrate special holidays, participants' birthdays, site anniversaries and hold volunteer appreciation parties. Belmont holds an annual appreciation lunch for all of the Village staff and their volunteers, who are very supportive of SUN. Benton holds a Village

appreciation day, inviting Village employees, the Village Board, school and bank officials. The manager/cook in Benton has been doing outreach to the community to make more people aware of SUN, including a booth for Music in the Park, and handing out brochures at the Labor Day celebration. She has prepared, and with volunteers, served Thanksgiving Dinner to the community at a local church, which is paid for by local donations. Any dinner donations go to SUN. **The Thanksgiving dinner resumed in 2021 and 2022.** She has also volunteered to administer SUN's Facebook page, and added a donation button to the page.

Before COVID: Playing cards, bingo, book and magazine exchanges, exercise classes and music were on-going activities at sites where there is interest. Arena played cards and Dominoes. In Blanchardville, cards were played every Thursday, before and after lunch at the Viking Café (site). Shullsburg has had a successful birthday party each month, with cards, bingo, and sometimes a guest speaker, with up to 30+ people in attendance.

Resumed after COVID: The Senior Center in Darlington was very active! An exercise class met weekly, as well as a knitting group, a rug making group, a Wii group (virtual sports), cards, bingo, and live music. Monthly pasty days are big at Belmont, Benton and Shullsburg. Liver & onions day is big in Arena! Benton holds a monthly bingo party that has grown in attendance.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

There were no public hearings specifically for the SUN Program in 2022. No sites changed.

LOCATION: On December 7, 2010, the SUN Program moved from the Courthouse to the new Health & Human Services Building at 303 W. Chapel Street, Dodgeville. This space was designed for the senior nutrition program: excellent food storage, a walk-in cooler and freezer, with the office space right off the food storage and delivery area. This is safer and more efficient and helps SUN meet State and federal food safety and sanitation codes.

The freezer and cooler have allowed SUN to make larger purchases of food, as needed. Donations can be received of locally grown garden produce. They are also used by other departments in the HHS Building, such as Social Services for their annual Christmas Project, UW Extension, the Morale Committee for special employee meals, the ADRC for meetings, SUN staff and regional trainings, and any event requested.. SUN thanks Iowa County for the space.

COVID RECAP. (Note: the following paragraph appeared in the 2020 Annual Report:

“The COVID pandemic seriously affected the SUN Program. We serve the elderly, the most vulnerable population. National and county health department recommendations changed daily as the virus spread. SUN continued to serve all who needed us, even COVID positive participants, with home delivered meals. A few volunteers tested positive as well, and stepped back; the majority stayed healthy and continued to serve. No staff were infected. It is believed their training in sanitation and food safety is a factor. There was much stress and fear in the beginning. The restaurant locations in Highland and Blanchardville reopened in June 2020 when the State of Wisconsin allowed that. The breakfast program in Highland did not resume until early 2021. Seniors slowly are coming back to the Viking Café in Blanchardville. Special recognition goes to the Benton and Dodgeville site managers, who requested to open on a pilot basis, in July of 2020; the mental health of the seniors was a factor. The Director notified GWAAR, and proceeded. Both had limited seating, for regulars. Special guidelines were developed; participants followed them. There have been no positive cases at these sites. No other congregate sites reopened in 2020.”

The above still describes much of SUN's situation until May of 2021. All sites opened by June and have remained open all through 2022. While total counts are up, it is mostly home delivered. Staff and volunteers are to be commended! Congregate site attendance is still a challenge.