# AGING RESOURCES

## VOLUNTEER RESOURCE EDUCATION & SERVICES NAVIGATION OUTREACH

## 2020 Annual Report

A look back at 2020 and the programs that fulfill our mission: Helping Older Adults Stay Independent!

Our Mission Statement: Aging Resources of Douglas County connects older people to vital services, information, and resources that promote aging with independence and dignity. We believe that the voice of every senior should be heard and respected, and that the whole community should join together to support older adults in their golden years. ...and our staff



KARIE ERICKSON EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Kelsey Thiessen





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PATRICK SANDOVAL BOOMERS LEADING CHANGE



BARB MURLOWSKI ADMIN SUPPORT

## Greetings, from Aging Resources

As I write this, it is the summer of 2021 and I think most of us are relieved to have 2020 in the rearview mirror. What a challenging year, and one I hope we never have to repeat. In response to these challenges, ARDC swiftly learned to tailor our services in order to meet our members' needs while still keeping people safe, remaining true to our mission even during a global pandemic.

We are incredibly thankful to our community for coming together and extending helping hands during this past year. Partnerships old and new became greater. Volunteers masked up and braved doctor office trips because members still needed to receive care. Donors gave generous contributions to help during the most brutal months, and older residents sent heartfelt thank-you cards expressing their gratitude.

I am proud of our staff, volunteers, and community for stepping up to care for our older residents. This outpouring of support gives us all a renewed sense of hope for the future. If we can thrive during a pandemic, imagine what is possible during a good year!

We are looking forward to serving even more older residents as we move forward.

Karie A. Erickson Executive Director

Jeanne Hayes Board Chair

#### PANDEMIC RESPONSE SERVICES



#### **Emergency Emporium**

In the early stages of the pandemic we were overwhelmed by the generosity of our supporters, who eagerly donated household and pantry essentials, which were quickly becoming difficult to find or order. The Aging Resources office was converted into an Emergency Emporium for our members in need, and our little lending library was stocked with masks, gloves, & hand sanitizer that remained freely available to community throughout the pandemic.



#### **Food Delivery**

To address continuing food insecurity challenges posed by the pandemic, we initiated a new grocery distribution service. We were honored to work with our friends at SECOR Cares, Help & Hope, and the Parker Senior Center. Together, we are reaching the older folks who need assistance during this time.

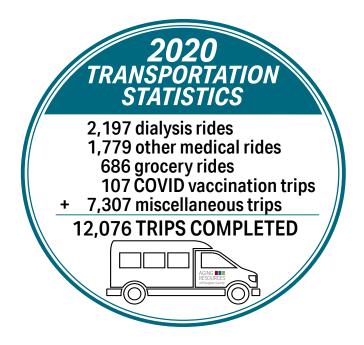
Thank You!

### To all you wonderful people

Yesterday's delivery of food-goodies was a surprise!! I wanted to say thank you again for your extra special thoughtfulness; but it was the volunteers waving at me from the car, when I opened the door and saw all the packages that brought me to tears. My children are there for me but you hardly know me and yet there you are - so special! I think a lot of the elderly are on the edge of tears as they worry about loved ones, friends, and neighbors, and lots of the time alone — especially now.

Again, thank you so much and keep safe. Much love, Florence H., Member

#### **CONTINUING PROGRAM SERVICES**



#### Transportation

Transportation continues to be our most requested supportive service. We are proud to have completed a record number of rides in 2020 despite Covid. We are grateful to our volunteers and staff drivers, who stepped up to ensure members continued access to the essential transportation they needed.

Our partners at Castle Rock Senior Center held several vaccination clinics, and ARDC provided the rides. Working together, we reached seniors from all over the county who needed help getting to these appointments.



Good Work!

#### **Virtual Companionship**

As social distancing requirements made in-person companionship difficult, Aging Resources transitioned to a virtual companionship model that assisted member's continued connection to their volunteers, friends, and family. Through our virtual companionship

program, we distributed 150 Echo Show devices and 67 iPads. Volunteers conducted 581 companionship visits in 2020!



#### **Companion Story:**

New volunteer Cindi H. was assigned a companion on March 2, 2020. They connected by phone because Cindi was travelling on business. Little did

> Cindi know that COVID would prevent her from actually meeting her Companion face-toface. When the initial shutdowns occurred and the grocery stores had low inventory, Cindi and her husband went to four different grocery stores to help find the food items her companion

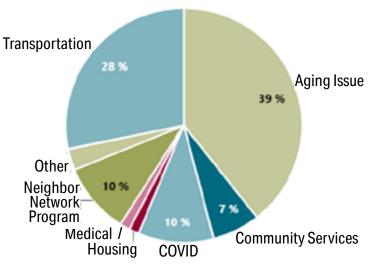
needed. Cindi delivered groceries and nice surprises like flowers to her companion's front door. They continue to connect and build their relationship in our new virtual program.

#### **Resource Navigation**

#### TOTAL CALLS in 2020: 6,112

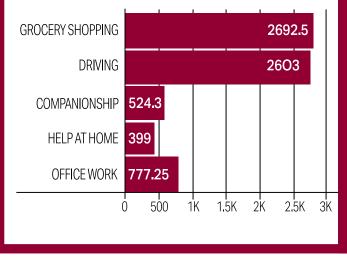
Aging Resources is proud to be your onestop aging center. Our operators are here five days a week to answer questions and identify solutions.

Don't know who to call? Call us at 303-814-4300.



#### Volunteer Thanks

In 2020, you demonstrated your commitment as never before. In spite of unimaginable challenges, you still gave 5,176 hours of your time. According to the Independent Sector valuation of volunteer time, your contributions are equivalent to \$163,143. In our moment of greatest need, you were there for us and our older residents – we could not be more grateful!



#### **VOLUNTEER HOURS**

#### To my dear volunteers:

I am truly grateful to ALL of the volunteers at Aging Resources! It took me a long time to reach out for help after my husband passed away. I was totally dependent on my closest friend and her husband out of fear, anxiety and self-isolation. Along came Aging Resources with the kindest, most caring and helpful people. All VOLUNTEERS!

When I finally reached out for help, to my surprise, I found circle of genuine caring people. All of my situations have been resolved by you, the volunteers! During this difficult time with the COVID pandemic each of you have been so brave and giving to continue to volunteer your valuable time. I was able to get my vaccine shot due to Aging Resources and a volunteer taking me to receive it!

#### Stay safe, and take care... Jan L., Member

Thank you to our Major Contributors...

CoBank **Douglas County Community Foundation Douglas County Government Douglas County Senior Foundation El Pomar Foundation** Fred and Jean Allegretti Foundation Home Care Assistance Jake Meuli Jenna Thornbloom LivWell Care LLC Louis Fiechtner Martha Kohlmeyer Mike Surratt NextFifty Initiative Paula & Jeremy Conger **Phillip Lewis Regina Machulec** Roger and Sharon Hill Rose Community Foundation Rotary Club of Parker Scheffel Family Foundation

...and a special note of gratitude to our Board

> Jeanne Hayes, Chair Linda Vias, Treasurer Jan Berger Erica Hollander Amy Pulley Juliana Young

Helping Older People Stay Independent

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