



Muskegon County  
**Senior Millage**

# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

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October 1, 2022 - September 30, 2023



The money – over \$2 million – we spend on the senior millage for programs to help those over 60 is the best “bang for the buck” of taxpayer dollars I have seen anywhere. It provides a wide array of services:

- HEALTH – in-home care, vision loss counseling, dental care
- EDUCATION – health promotion
- HOUSING – small and large home repairs, lawn care
- MOBILITY – ramps for the disabled, transportation, snow removal
- LEGAL – help with senior fraud, prevention of being scammed
- NUTRITION – meals on wheels, community meals, market coupons
- SOCIAL – congregate meals, dances
- EMOTIONAL – opportunity for social activities, support groups
- RECREATIONAL – trips to local entertainment

In addition to the more centralized services, we implemented giving 25% of the total dollars to the cities, village, and townships all over the county to spend how they think it’s most needed in their area. Overall the county senior millage services reach 27% of seniors countywide, or 1 in 4. THAT’S IMPRESSIVE. When I was volunteering at the Senior Community Day at Orchard View High School in August of 2023 to inform people about the millage, I was amazed at how many seniors came up to us and said things like “I am definitely supporting the senior millage. I love the services you provide.”

I have served on the Senior Activities Committee for 5 years. We are appointed by the Muskegon County Chair and charged with advising the Commission on the expenditure of millage funds. We recommend the approval of grants and contracts to a broad spectrum of service providers and advocate for the needs of adults over 60 in Muskegon County. Actually the Senior Activities Committee is my most favorite committee. We represent both rural and urban areas and come from a variety of experiential backgrounds. The committee has learned a lot since the millage started 8 years ago and has refined our systems. Senior Resources staff has managed the service delivery and data collection since 2017 and has done it exceptionally well.

If you are interested in attending our Tuesday morning meetings (the third Tuesday of most months at 10 a.m. at Tanglewood Park), they are open to the public.

*Commissioner Marcia Hovey-Wright, 2023-24 chair  
Muskegon County Senior Activities Committee*

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## **Muskegon County Senior Activities Committee Members**

**Rachel Cereska**

**Jessica Cook**  
*County Commissioner*

**Kim Cyr**  
*County Commissioner*

**Peggy Foster**

**Marcia Hovey-Wright, Chair**  
*County Commissioner*

**Greg Scott**

**Robert Sewick**

**Linda Vines**

**Steve Warmington**

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# Muskegon County Senior Millage Dollars at Work



## AgeWell Services of West Michigan:

### Senior Center Activities

AgeWell has seen many smiling participants at the Senior Center Activities. The meal sites have done many activities such as making wreaths during the holidays, birdfeeders, BINGO, educational presentations, and so much more. Farmers Market trips have been a great way for participants to use their Project Fresh coupons and get great local fruits and vegetables. Our ziplining trip at the Muskegon Luge was one of our most popular and memorable trips. We had a 94-year-old participant even attend and said she had the time of her life.



### Congregate Meals

A participant recently said to a staff member “I don’t know what I would do without these meals, they really make my day” and went on to tell the staff member that she appreciates not just the meal but the gathering at her apartment building as well.

### Home Delivered Meals Feedback

“Thank you so much for the meals on wheels service you provided to my mom. She looked forward to her meals and seeing the drivers daily. You provide a wonderful service. Bless you for your work!”

“I would like to thank all involved in this program. It was a godsend to have this service available when my mother needed it! She enjoyed her meals. Can’t say enough good about meals on wheels!”

“Dearest AgeWell Family, words cannot express how appreciative and thankful we feel for your services. What a provision this has been for our parents and delivered to their front door with such tender loving care.”





## Fruitport Lions:

Senior Power of Produce averaged around 1,900 participants a week, reaching well over 2,000 on several occasions. We gave out \$6 a week to spend at Muskegon Farmers Market on produce. This program is well received by Muskegon County residents.



The surveys done in our 2023 season provided us with 100% positive feedback.

We are also 100% volunteer-run, with help from the senior millage and many donations from surrounding cities and townships on top of Fruitport/ Shoreline Lions financial support. City of Muskegon staff work hard along with Fruitport/ Shoreline Lions to insure that Muskegon County seniors are part of a healthy Muskegon County initiative. It's been an act of love on many levels. We will open our Tuesday-only season on July 9, 2024. Our hours are 10 am to 1pm.

## Love INC:

### Ramps Program Recipients

Ila May had suffered through several falls on her steps so she was very happy to get her ramp!



Leotta could barely get up and down the steps to her home so the ramp was a huge help for her!



Wille had a leg amputated and is also blind. After we completed his ramp, he told me he wished he could see the new ramp!!

## Orchard View Senior Center:

We have had a busy year here at Orchard View. We have tried some new activities which were very popular. Our program meeting at various spots in Muskegon County went over very well.

We went to the Art Museum and MCC Planetarium. The purpose of our outings was to show the many opportunities of events in Muskegon County. Our Friday craft classes are incredibly popular. One participant has been homebound with anxiety. She tried our class and came every time. She said our center



is warm and welcoming. It gives her a sense of belonging and has made many friends here! Each of our groups (bingo, euchre, wood carving, cribbage, and bingo/craft) are truly a community. The classes provide friendship, kindness, and a sense of belonging and support to each person who walks in.

Senior millage funding enables us to draw out the best in our seniors by providing activities and classes to nourish the loneliness and isolation many face.

Featured pictures are from our Dinner dance and Spring Fling Dance. The Spring Fling pictures our seniors dancing with our Head Start children! Our dancers are transported back to when they were young when the music starts.

I count this millage as a true blessing to our community. Thank you for allowing us to be the hands to reach so many seniors!

## City of Muskegon Home Repair:

This customer had a leaking roof that caused rot in the wall, the floor and the floor joists. So much so that the floor had a significant lean. The roof has been replaced so we were able to fix the joists and lift the floor, put new insulation in the wall, new drywall on the wall and new flooring in the kitchen and bathroom. Owner is very appreciative and thankful.



## Fair Housing Center :

Fair housing services help to ensure that older adults have a safe, inclusive and welcoming place to live that supports their independence and enriches their lives. In FY2023, Fair Housing Center of West Michigan (FHCWM) provided fair housing rights information to 305 Muskegon advocates and/or seniors. Through attending meetings, outreach events, and providing 5 trainings or presentations FHCWM empowered older adults to understand, exercise and attain their fair housing rights. FHCWM also identified and eradicated instances of housing discrimination against older adults. Specifically, FHCWM referred a case of sexual harassment against a Muskegon area landlord to the U.S. Department of Justice that resulted in a settlement impacting older adults. Also, FHCWM resolved a case against a Muskegon County senior housing provider to ensure that their marketing materials were welcoming and inclusive to older adults of all races and ethnicities.

## Pioneer Resources:

Our seniors recently enjoyed a chair yoga class with Hannah. One of our newer participants stated that her sore arm felt tremendously better after this class and she's now looking into regular classes to continue improving how she feels and moves. Hannah is so good with people of varying abilities. We're thankful for our partnership with Muskegon County Senior Millage that allows us to offer events and activities to the seniors in our community, promoting health and socialization with friends.





## Total Count of Registered Participants per Program

Cumulative participants up to 9/30/2023

Category / Provider Name	Service Name	Participants
<b>Educational</b>		
Muskegon Community Health Project	Community Health Worker	361
Muskegon Community Health Project	Senior Navigator	626
Senior Resources Contracted Service	MMAP Services	3,185*
<b>Health</b>		
AgeWell Services	Health Promotions	82
Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired	Low Vision Rehabilitation	236
Christians for Health	Matter of Balance	48
Senior Resources Contracted Service	Case Coordination and Support	450
Senior Resources Contracted Service	Community Living Supports	75
Senior Resources Contracted Service	Homemaker	267
Senior Resources Contracted Service	Medication Management	33
Senior Resources Contracted Service	Personal Care	59
Senior Resources Contracted Service	Personal Emergency Response System	263
Senior Resources Contracted Service	Respite Care	35
United Way of the Lakeshore	Retired & Senior Volunteer Support	120
Volunteer for Dental	Dental Care	109
Volunteer for Dental	Dentures	35
Volunteer for Dental	Preventative Services	51
<b>Housing</b>		
City of Muskegon	Home Repair	70
City of Muskegon Heights	Major Home Repair	133
Community enCompass/Bethany Housing	Major Home Repair	30
Living Word Church	Lawn Care	264
Senior Resources Contracted Service	Outdoor Chore Services	174
Trinity Village Nonprofit Housing Corp.	Major Home Repair	60
<b>Legal</b>		
AgeWell Services	SafeSeniors - Investigative	592
AgeWell Services	SafeSeniors - Outreach	18,500*
Fair Housing Center of West Michigan	Education and Outreach	66
Fair Housing Center of West Michigan	Fair Housing Services	85
Fair Housing Center of West Michigan	Housing Enforcement Services	19
Legal Aid of Western Michigan	Legal Services	326*
The Arc Muskegon	Legacy Planning	5

Category / Provider Name	Service Name	Participants
<b>Mobility</b>		
AgeWell Services	Senior Transportation Program	595
Disability Network of West Michigan	Transportation	66
Living Word Church	Snow Removal	334
Love INC	Ramps	50
Ravenna Township	Grocery Trip	41
<b>Nutritional</b>		
AgeWell Services	Congregate Meals	506
AgeWell Services	Home Delivered Meals	1,145
Casnovia Township	Monthly Luncheon	236
Fruitport Lions Club	Senior Power of Produce	5,282
Muskegon YMCA	Veggie Van	806
Senior Resources Contracted Service	Home Delivered Meals	37
Senior Resources Contracted Service	Nutritional Supplements	27
<b>Social, Recreational, &amp; Emotional</b>		
AgeWell Services	Senior Center Activities	1,278
Arts Council of White Lake-Nuveen Center	Spark! Program	28
Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired	Support Groups	45
Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired	Vision Loss Counseling	144
Egelston Township/VFW Post 7729	Monthly Dinner	771
Orchard View Community Education	Senior Center Activities	287
Pioneer Resources	Eastern Muskegon County Recreation	255
Pioneer Resources	Northern Muskegon County Recreation	167
Ravenna Township	Community Luncheon	236
Senior Resources Contracted Service	Adult Day Services	6
White Lake Senior Center	Senior Center Activities	104
<b>Total Count</b>		<b>38,805*</b>

\*Counts are not unduplicated for MMAP, Legal Services, and SafeSeniors Outreach; therefore, the total count is not unduplicated.

<b>Muskegon County Senior Millage Reimbursed Amounts by Category</b>			
Educational	\$ 81,760	Mobility	\$ 299,212
Health	\$ 403,812	Nutritional	\$ 411,555
Housing	\$ 419,023	Social, Recreational, & Emotional	\$ 323,579
Legal	\$ 176,374	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,115,316</b>

Over 6,000 participants received services through the millage in FY23.



## Unique Participant Count by Municipality

Total participant count as of 9/30/2023

Municipality	Community	Participant Count	*Senior Population	Percentage of Seniors
Blue Lake	Township	54	675	8%
Casnovia	Township	210	598	35%
Casnovia	Village	16	76	21%
Cedar Creek	Township	171	952	18%
Dalton	Township	396	2,157	18%
Egelston	Township	756	2,445	31%
Fruitland	Township	246	1,994	12%
Fruitport	Township	587	3,918	15%
Fruitport	Village	124	341	36%
Holton	Township	104	698	15%
Laketon	Township	500	2,415	21%
Lakewood Club	Village	48	253	19%
Montague	City	186	745	25%
Montague	Township	67	527	13%
Moorland	Township	74	374	20%
Muskegon	City	4,638	8,355	56%
Muskegon	Township	1,228	4,636	26%
Muskegon Heights	City	645	2,312	28%
North Muskegon	City	246	1,289	19%
Norton Shores	City	1,321	7,679	17%
Ravenna	Township	97	570	17%
Ravenna	Village	207	265	78%
Roosevelt Park	City	202	976	21%
Sullivan	Township	111	742	15%
White River	Township	51	585	9%
Whitehall	City	270	962	28%
Whitehall	Township	85	607	14%
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>12,640</b>	<b>47,146</b>	<b>27%</b>

\*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Population Survey Estimates (April 2021) - pending final report publication March 2022



# Municipal Services & Activities Report

Note: This report from Muskegon County is unaudited, and separate from the grants process administered by Senior Resources of West Michigan.

Municipality	Service Category	Distribution
<b>Blue Lake Township</b>		<b>\$11,396</b>
For use of the Viking Athletic Complex for seniors that desire to remain active while doing so indoors in a safe environmental at no cost. Activities include walking, pickle ball, chair volleyball, tai chi, indoor gold, and more.	Senior Center Activities Health/Social	\$11,396
<b>Casnovia Township</b>		<b>\$11,071</b>
Snow plow services	Mobility	\$ 1,000
Building repairs	Safety	\$ 1,500
Food access support services with Gene's Family Market (transportation, shopping, etc.)	Nutrition	\$ 1,000
Other expenditures as approved by Board	Various	\$ 7,571
<b>Casnovia Village</b>		<b>\$ 4,462</b>
Blood Pressure Screenings	Health	\$ 1,800
Christmas Tree Lighting Event	Social	\$ 750
Yard maintenance – leaf pickup and brush pick-up	Housing	\$ 600
Snow removal	Mobility	\$ 537
ADA – Village Hall Toilet replacement	Health	\$ 775
<b>Cedar Creek Township</b>		<b>\$14,636</b>
Purchase outdoor exercise equipment	Health	\$ 7,936
Fresh Picked Apples for Seniors	Nutrition	\$ 1,000
Halloween Cookie Contest	Social	\$ 300
Food Bags for Seniors	Nutrition	\$ 5,200
<b>Dalton Township</b>		<b>\$28,732</b>
Snowplow and shoveling services for Seniors	Mobility	\$15,400
<b>Egelston Township</b>		<b>\$32,101</b>
Congregate meals and socialization	Nutrition/Social	
Emergency address signs	Safety	
Lock Boxes	Safety	
Smoke Alarms and Carbon Monoxide Detectors	Safety	
Snow plowing	Mobility	
Leaf Removal	Housing	
<b>Fruitland Township</b>		<b>\$26,825</b>
For use of White Lake Senior Center for coffee circles, games, in-house classes, blood pressure tests, flu clinics, tax preparation services and transportation to area activities and other social activities.	Health/Social	\$ 5,000
SafeSeniors activities/outreach/prevention	Education/Legal	\$ 5,000
Need based vouchers (max. \$56 allowance); e.g. Muskegon or Montague Farmers Market, Fruitland Township Ecology Station, White River Light Station.	Nutrition/Housing	\$15,000
Senior Open House event with information from local resources and organizations	Educational	\$ 1,875

Continued on page 10



## Municipal Services & Activities Report, *continued*

Municipality	Service Category	Distribution
<b>Fruitport Village</b>		<b>\$ 7,489</b>
Senior citizen passenger drop off/pick up area with accessible sidewalk for special events in partnership with Fruitport Lions Club	Mobility/Social	\$ 7,489
<b>Fruitport Charter Township</b>		<b>\$49,331</b>
Agewell Services: Meals and fitness activities	Nutrition/Social	\$15,000
Agewell Services: SafeSeniors program	Education/Legal	\$15,000
Living Word Church: Yard Maintenance and Snow Program	Housing	\$15,911
Senior Produce – Muskegon Farmers Market	Nutrition	Balance
<b>Holton Township</b>		<b>\$11,665</b>
Snow plowing	Mobility	\$11,665
<b>Laketon Township</b>		<b>\$31,750</b>
Yard waste dump cards for yard clean-up	Housing	
Senior Produce – Muskegon Farmers Market	Nutrition	
AgeWell Services: SafeSeniors Program	Educational/Legal	
<b>Lakewood Club Village</b>		<b>\$ 6,459</b>
ADA compliant Port A Jon and accessories to be placed in Fox Lake Park	Social	\$ 6,459
<b>Montague City</b>		<b>\$12,215</b>
White Lake Senior Center: VAC vouchers	Health/Social	\$ 8,000
White Lake Senior Center operational support	Health/Social	\$ 3,275
Senior Center enrichment trips	Social	\$ 940
<b>Montague Township</b>		<b>\$ 9,665</b>
Improve Township park with construction of paved walkways	Health/Mobility	
White Lake Senior Center: VAC vouchers	Health/Social	
<b>Moorland Township</b>		<b>\$ 7,875</b>
Senior Holiday Meals	Nutrition	
Need based prescription co-pay, propane, medical balls, back taxes, etc.	Various	
<b>Muskegon City</b>		<b>\$101,234</b>
Senior Power of Produce – Farmers Market	Nutrition	\$19,700
Major Home Repair	Housing	\$81,234
Senior Fresh	Nutrition	\$ 300
<b>Muskegon Charter Township</b>		<b>\$57,730</b>
AgeWell Services: SafeSeniors Program	Educational/Legal	\$45,000
Orchard View Community Education to support programs for seniors: entertainment, food assistance, etc.	Nutrition/Social	\$10,000
Social Activity & Informational Workshop	Educational/Social	\$ 2,730
<b>Muskegon Heights City</b>		<b>\$30,545</b>
Utility bill assistance (water, gas, electric, etc.)	Housing	
Senior Power of Produce Program support	Nutrition	
Support the City's Smart Neighborhoods Program to support safety for seniors	Safety	

# Municipal Services & Activities Report

Municipality	Service Category	Distribution
<b>Muskegon Heights City, <i>continued</i></b>		
Unmet needs/gaps (costs not covered by other programs due to funding restrictions or program requirements)	Housing	
<b>North Muskegon City</b>		<b>\$18,578</b>
Plowing sidewalks along Ruddiman Dr. for senior safety/transportation/walking	Health/Mobility	\$10,720
Senior Power of Produce (City of Muskegon)	Nutrition/Social	\$ 2,000
Annual expense for information and referral system to inform senior residents of emergency situations (Nixle Emergency Phone and Text Notification System)	Educational/Safety	\$ 2,000
Senior Snowbird Luncheon (Congregate Meals)	Nutrition	\$ 2,000
Administrative Costs	Miscellaneous	\$ 1,858
<b>Norton Shores City</b>		<b>\$93,326</b>
AgeWell Services: SafeSeniors Program	Educational/Legal	\$93,326
<b>Ravenna Township</b>		<b>\$10,716</b>
Senior Footcare Program	Health	\$10,716
<b>Ravenna Village</b>		<b>\$ 6,600</b>
Senior Footcare Program	Health	\$ 6,600
<b>Roosevelt Park City</b>		<b>\$15,489</b>
AgeWell Services: SafeSeniors Program	Educational/Legal	\$ 3,640
Senior Luncheons	Nutrition/Social	\$ 1,500
Senior Power of Produce (City of Muskegon)	Nutrition/Social	\$ 4,500
Senior Activities in the Park	Social	\$ 1,000
Emergency Sewer Backup Mitigation	Housing	\$ 1,700
Residential Lock Box System	Safety	\$ 1,100
Senior Newsletter/Calendar of Events	Social	\$ 500
Administrative Costs	Miscellaneous	\$ 1,549
<b>Sullivan Township</b>		<b>\$12,780</b>
Township Hall upgrade to provide access to the upstairs for Seniors, provide covered external ramp, and access to restrooms.	Mobility	\$12,780
<b>White River Township</b>		<b>\$10,343</b>
Viking Athletic Center for senior memberships	Health/Social	\$ 8,000
White Lake Senior Center for memberships	Health/Social	\$ 1,000
AgeWell Services: SafeSeniors Program	Educational/Legal	\$ 1,343
<b>Whitehall City</b>		<b>\$14,753</b>
White Lake Area Community Education Center	Educational/Social	\$12,209
White Lake Senior Center	Health/Social	\$ 2,544
<b>Whitehall Township</b>		<b>\$10,600</b>
White Lake Senior Center for memberships	Health/Social	\$ 4,000
Farmers Market coupons	Nutrition	\$ 6,600

# SeniorResources

*Our Name. Our Focus.*



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Senior Resources of West Michigan is the grants administrator for the Muskegon County Senior Millage. Muskegon County is the fiduciary of the senior millage, and the county commissioners have ultimate authority over the millage funds.



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