

Wauneta Senior Center serves entire community

Written by Wauneta Breeze

Friday, 02 March 2012 19:24 - Last Updated Friday, 02 March 2012 19:26



Sixty-five area residents gathered at the Wauneta Senior Center Sunday for their monthly Sunday dinner. The monthly Sunday dinners and pancake feeds are the senior center's main fundraising activities.

By Sheri Hink

The Wauneta Breeze

The chairs at Wauneta's Senior Center have been a little empty in recent weeks. The key to keeping the doors of the Senior Center open is maintaining a steady number of participants in the weekday meals.

"It is very important for the Senior Center to keep its doors open because this could possibly be someone's only hot and nutritious meal for the day. When people eat here I know they're getting at least one good, balanced meal a day," says Kerry Hamilton who works as the Senior Center Director.

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The senior center is run almost entirely by volunteers. The two paid staff members are Hamilton and Mary Gage who cooks the meals.

On any given weekday the senior center provides meals to 25 to 30 Waunetans, most but not all are over 60 years of age. "It's almost like one big family here," says Hamilton. However, Hamilton says there is room for more to join the senior center for meals.

She explained that the Chase County Transit will bring people down to the senior center so that they can participate in the weekday meals.

The suggested donation for weekday meals is \$4 for those over 60 and \$5 for those under 60. Many choose to pay for meals ahead by purchasing a meal ticket which prepays for 10 meals. Meal tickets can also be purchased as a gift certificate.

The senior center is only partially funded through governmental means. Much of its funding must come from meal donations and from the community.

The two main regular fundraisers for the senior center are the monthly pancake feed and Sunday dinners. February's Sunday dinner was held last weekend and boasted an attendance of around 65.

Hamilton explained that the number of participants last Sunday was slightly down from the average of 70 to 80 at a Sunday dinner event.

"All ages are welcome to join us for meals during the week or on our special monthly fundraising events, it's not just for those 60 and above," explains Hamilton.

Hamilton also shared that the senior center has two main rooms which are available for rent. The rooms can be rented for parties, showers, or other gatherings.

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How people can help

There are many ways the people of Wauneta can help support the senior center. People can come down and have a meal at the center either on weekdays or during one of the fundraising events. Volunteers are always needed and appreciated at the center. Finally, monetary donations can be made as well as donations of paper products, canned goods listed at the senior center, and other supplies. Contact the senior center for more information on how to help.