Progress through Partnerships

For almost forty years, Colonie Senior Service Centers has concentrated on the success of our programs and services and how they truly benefit older adults. Since mid-March, utilizing robust and creative resources, CSSC has continually ensured seniors throughout the community received the support they needed to stay safe and remembered. However, our organizational re-engineering was not done singlehandedly.

So, how did we do this? — By working together and working with others. There are so many in the community to thank and recognize for their willingness to setup and partner. We want to list those who were extraordinary in their efforts.

Thank you to:

- The Albany County Office for the Aging for allowing and supporting the “Grab & Go” lunch initiative for five months (from mid-March until August 14). CSSC has delivered well over 33,000 meals in that time-frame;
- Mazzone Hospitality for partnering with us to plan, cook and assemble all those wonderful “Grab & Go” meals that benefited so many in the community;
- The Regional Food Bank for partnering with us to do monthly grocery drops to hundreds of senior households; totaling approximately 20,000 lbs. (10 tons) of fresh product and produce;
- Price Chopper for donating hundreds of reusable shopping bags for seniors as part of our grocery drop;
- BlueShield of Northeastern New York and the Town of Colonie Senior Resources Department for assisting with our grocery drop in August and to CDPHP for their commitment to help drop in September;
- The Community Foundation for the Greater Capital Region and the United Way of the Greater Capital Region for all the monetary support through their joint Capital Region Community COVID-19 Response Fund. We have accomplished so much with your support;
- The organizers of Freihofer’s Run for Women who assisted us both through supporting the Community Foundation’s COVID Fund and electronically telling our story;
- Humanities New York for a Community Conversation Grant and to Fardin Sanai, Vice President for University Advancement and Executive Director of the University at Albany Foundation, for being our guest speaker;
- The incredibly talented Chef Kyle MacPherson and Chef Joan Porambo for assisting CSSC with our upcoming August 21 public pop-up, drive-through barbeque at BLC. We look forward to an incredible community event;
- High school students Sara and John Mahoney (children of George and Kathy Mahoney) who have volunteered weekly to help deliver both lunches and groceries;
- Trish Mahoney, Karen Brown, Sue Moyle, Jerry Thompson, Linda Marowitz, Frank Fournier, and Yvonne Livingston and all the beautiful individuals at The Beltrone Living Center, Sheehy Manor and King Thiel Senior Community, volunteers extraordinaire, who have never said “no” in assisting CSSC over the past several months;

CSSC is committed to partnering, especially now more than ever, during these unprecedented times. Thank you to all our fabulous partners. Honestly, we would need a book to thank everyone. Many hands really do make lighter work.
Message from the Executive Director

For every season there is a reason.

Happy August!

As a kid, I loved August; swimming in the pool, trips to Monroe and Grafton State Parks, chasing the ice cream truck, hanging out with friends until the street lights went on, getting ready for a new school year... As an adult, the month represented when we, as a young family, would travel to Martha’s Vineyard to grab some culture and soak up the surf and sun.

This year, it is so different. No one is going anywhere; no baseball, no large family gatherings, no Tanglewood, no summer theater, no summer concerts... there is truly a sense of loss. The other day, I heard someone say “grief postponed is grief denied”. This loss of normalcy is, in a way, grieving. Many of the seniors we interact with at CSSC tell us this. There is a true sense of loss and uncertainty.

So, although, we are not able to have “normal” typical summer, we still do have summer. Beautiful hot August with thunderstorms and muggy nights and time this year to appreciate it. For instance, living through this pandemic has me frequently calling/texting family members and friends just to check in, doing puzzles like they are going out of style, playing board games that sat unused for years, taking time to create a meal just for the enjoyment of it, swimming in the pool until I can only see the stars above and looking forward to going to the farmer’s markets with a sincere renewed appreciation for local producers.

This pandemic will pass and hopefully, we will all be a little kinder, more patient and appreciative.

Please stay well. We are thinking of you.

Kindest regards,

– Diane Conroy-LaCivita

CSSC Now Offering Beautiful Home Delivered Gift Baskets

Remember the special someone with a one-of-a-kind basket which will include local produce and products including honey, cheese and granola along with activity/coloring books, playing cards and other goodies.

CSSC is working with such local companies as Bee & Ewe Farm, R & G Cheesemakers and Our Daily Eats to design beautiful gift baskets that will impress the recipient as well as impress sender for their uniqueness and value. The wonderful thing about buying one of our baskets is you are also supporting local businesses, farmers and producers. The basket will be delivered directly to the person’s home by CSSC staff.

Any occasion: birthdays, anniversaries and just to let someone know you are thinking of them. All price points.

Call for details, (518) 459-2857 ext. 305

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CSSC DRIVE-THRU POP-UP BBQ

Looking for something to do on a Friday night in August while supporting local farmers and producers? Join Chef Kyle MacPherson and Chef Joan Porumbo, last year’s Chefs in Motion Chef Competition Winners, on Friday, August 21 from 4 to 6 p.m. for a one-of-a-kind summer barbeque to benefit Colonie Senior Service Centers’ Adult Day Program Bright Horizons.

The cost is $13 per dinner and the menu will include: barbequed local chicken, roasted street corn salad, Allie B’s famous macaroni & cheese (voted best mac and cheese in the area), and homemade berry crumble made with local fruit. (Yummy!)

Customers, all you will have to do is drive-thru the parking lot at The Beltrone Living Center, place your order and pick up! You will not have to leave the comfort of your car.

Pre-ordering is strongly suggested. To place an order call (518) 459-2857 ext. 303.
When asked how she reflects on her military service 75 years later, she said, “For me, it was where they subsequently raised five children (one girl and four boys).

Rosemarie served in WAC for approximately 18 months and returned to Washington, D.C. She worked with a unit of American, British and Japanese linguists translating, searching and prioritizing Japanese documents for secret military and cultural information to assist the war effort. She remembers how some of her fellow WACs really struggled with language and grammar in the secretarial arena, and how some of the older WACs, who were still wearing the flat shoes they were used to, had a hard time. The oldest in her unit was 27, and she was the young one, a 22-year-old Staff Sergeant. She served in WAC for approximately 18 months and returned to the Capital Region in 1946. That same year she married James Conlon and moved to Colonie where they subsequently raised five children (one girl and four boys).

When asked how she reflects on her military service 75 years later, she said, “For me, it was a wonderful experience. I enjoyed it. You just had to put your foot down and “tough it out.”

Rosemarie, thank you for your service to our nation and our freedom.

Colonie Senior Service Centers, Inc (CSSC) seeks nominations for the Colonie Senior Spirit Award through the end of August, for those who have made an outstanding contribution to seniors and their families in our community, based on the criteria of CSSC’s Founders. Nomination Criteria 1. Nominations must be an outstanding individual or organization located in the Capital Region who have made an outstanding contribution to seniors and their families.

2. Nominations must be one of the following criteria, that is based on the Founders of Colonie Senior Service Centers:

   a. Transportation Award
   Presented to an individual or organization that provides transportation services to seniors.  

   b. Senior Housing Award
   Presented to an individual or organization providing housing solutions for seniors.

   c. Senior Dining Award
   Presented to an individual or organization providing meals and beverages to seniors.

   d. Health & Wellness Award
   Presented to an individual or organization that provide health services and support for seniors.

   e. Senior Volunteer Award
   Presented to an individual or organization that provide volunteer services for seniors.

   f. Senior Employment Award
   Presented to an individual or organization that provide employment services for seniors.

   g. Senior Education Award
   Presented to an individual or organization that provide educational services for seniors.

   h. Senior Media Award
   Presented to an individual or organization that promote senior information.

   i. Senior Economic Development Award
   Presented to an individual or organization that promote economic development for seniors.

   j. Senior Legislative Award
   Presented to an individual or organization that promote legislative for seniors.

   k. Senior Legislative Award
   Presented to an individual or organization that promote legislative for seniors.

   l. Senior Legislative Award
   Presented to an individual or organization that promote legislative for seniors.

   m. Senior Legislative Award
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   n. Senior Legislative Award
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CSSC Mission Statement
The mission of Colonie Senior Service Centers, Inc. (CSSC) is to provide comprehensive services to those in our community who are in or approaching their mature years, and to provide support and services to their families and caregivers. Through these services, CSSC strives to ensure the physical, mental, emotional and financial well-being of our participants, improve the quality of life, and to enhance the structure and stability of our community as a whole.

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Albany, NY 12205

Thank You!
Thank you to these individuals and organizations that have supported Colonie Senior Service Centers, Inc., and our work in supporting seniors and their families during these uncertain times.

- Diane Arbitrio  
- Bee & Ewe Farms  
- BlueShied of Northeastern New York  
- Mary Brundige  
- The Community Foundation for the Greater Capital Region  
- Helen Duncan  
- Marion Ferraro  
- The Barry Alan Gold Memorial Fund  
- Goldstein Auto Group  
- Christine and Craig Homer  
- Key Bank Foundation  
- Carmel Meerman  
- Marjorie Morelli  
- Nexamp, Inc.  
- Joseph Park  
- Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York  
- United Way of the Greater Capital Region

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Colonie Senior Service Centers, Inc. was established in 1981 as a duly authorized 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation.