

**Case Statement
For
Lower Valley Regional Human Services Facility**



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The **Thayne Senior Center** (TSC) was organized in July of 1998 with a mission to “Enrich the quality of life by promoting independence and vitality for seniors in our community.” During this early period, senior meals were served from a local restaurant. In October



1998, the TSC and the Town of Thayne were awarded grants to construct a new Senior Center and town hall. In December 1999, the Center began providing meals and services for seniors in the new Thayne location.

During 1999, the Center served approximately 4,800 meals; it has continued to grow, serving over 21,000 (on-site and delivered) in 2021. The population growth of

21,000 Meals served in 2021!

seniors in Star Valley and numbers of daily meals served has exceeded original expectations. The Center has outgrown its present location in seating, service area, and parking. The Director, a registered dietitian nutritionist, oversees meal preparation and assures all meals meet at least 33.3% of the federal nutritional guidelines required for senior citizens. On-site meals are served from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm Monday through Friday and every Tuesday at an extension site in Alpine, WY. Volunteers deliver hot, nutritious meals to homebound seniors who are not able to come to the dining room. Additionally, freezer meals are available for evenings and weekends, either picked up from our Thayne location or delivered to seniors’ homes.

We are committed to helping seniors remain independent and in their own homes for as long as possible. In addition to meals, transportation is available to



We are committed to helping seniors remain independent.



Lots of social activities!

medical and dental appointments, employment locations, shopping, and community events. We offer various social activities including exercise classes, themed lunches, card playing, cooking classes, various games, puzzles, adult education courses, art and craft classes, field trips, monthly Medicare updates, and educational seminars. Health services, including foot clinics, regular blood pressure clinics, and annual vaccination clinics, are offered at the Center. Nutritional counseling and a variety of home medical equipment is available at no cost to seniors.

Our Center encourages seniors to be active in the community by attending meals in the dining room and participating in various social programs. At present, TSC has a professional staff of five. Currently, over sixty volunteers serve as Board Members, drivers for home-delivered meals, transportation, class instructors, and activity leaders. This allows our volunteers to share their talents and wealth of knowledge with our clients.

The Center is proud of its contribution to the community during the Covid pandemic. In March 2020, the Director and Board members made a commitment to serve seniors in every possible way. During the pandemic period from March 2020 through September 2021, the Center provided almost 36,000 meals to the seniors in our community. The ability to provide these meals and services was made possible by the commitment of staff members and volunteers, none of whom missed a day of work during the pandemic.



Lucy – 102 and still shining!

Wyoming has become a retirement area with the number of people age 60 and over increasing by 32.7% between 2000 and 2020. Wyoming's State Plan on Aging notes between 2016 and 2020, Wyoming's senior population increased from 90,000 to 138,000. We have increased the number of meals served annually by over 400% since 1998.



As a result, the Thayne Senior Center needs to build a larger facility with room to serve the growing aging population and the entire community. The cost of the new building will be \$13 million. Land has been purchased in Thayne to construct a new building to serve the clientele. A larger space will help with meal preparation, parking, health services, social activities, food storage, and possible emergency services. Considering the impact of the Covid pandemic, it is possible that a larger building could serve seniors and the entire community as a shelter should there be future community crises.

Family and community working together!



We are a 501(3)(c) non-profit organization able to receive tax-deductible donations. The Thayne Senior Center is of great value to our valley. We ask you to join us. Help us to continue providing aid to our continually growing population of senior citizens.

Over 60 volunteers working together to serve the seniors of our valley!