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Older Adults Celebrate Independence Thanks to Senior Millage Programs

KALAMAZOO, Mich. – As we celebrate Independence Day, it's important to recognize the independence that older adults are able to maintain every day because of the Kalamazoo County Senior Millage. Last year, nearly 10,000 seniors benefited from programs funded by this crucial initiative, which is expected to see increased demand as the County population continues to age.

Administered through the Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department's Area Agency on Aging Region 3A Division, the Senior Millage generates millions of dollars to fund services that provide education, safety, dignity, independence, and healthy living programs for Kalamazoo County's older adults aged 60 and above. These services are easily accessible by calling 269-373-5173.

"By 2029, one in four residents will be 60 or older, looking for similar services to help them age in place as active members of their community," said Don Saldia, Manager of the Area Agency on Aging Region 3A Division. "The Senior Millage funded programs have had a significant impact, providing vital support to thousands of older adults in Kalamazoo County, including supporting informal and unpaid caregivers helping an older adult. These programs keep seniors in their homes for as long as possible with the support they need."

Since it was first approved in 2019, the funding provided over:

- 9,500 hours of social work assistance per year
- 180,000 home-delivered meals
- 5,000 prescription medications not covered by insurance
- 120 older adult veterans assisted
- 46,400 miles of assisted transportation
- 7,100 referrals to community support & services
- 95,000 hours of in-home supportive care
- 74,500 hours of adult day respite services

The Area Agency on Aging Region 3A is one of 16 Area Agencies on Aging in the State of Michigan that support older adults who want to age in their homes. Services are funded by the Older Americans Act, state grants, and the Kalamazoo County Senior Millage.

For more information about the **Kalamazoo County Senior Millage** and how it's enhanced the quality of life for older adults in our community, please visit www.kalcounty.com/seniormillage.

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