

## **Taylorsville Senior Center**

### Highlights June – December 2014

Provided by:

Jené Mortensen, Active Aging Assistant Program Manager

#### **Building Expansion**

Grand Re-Opening/Anniversary Celebration was held on Friday, September 26<sup>th</sup>. We had a great turn out thanks to the current participants that were very excited for the new space, but we also had a lot of Taylorsville residents that were not current members of the center attend because they read about the event in the Taylorsville Journal.

The expansion has allowed us to increase classes including a new fitness class, several craft classes, and educational classes. The space has also provided more room for the new ping pong table, new location for pool tables, and new exercise equipment. Participants love the new equipment and space.

Through the expansion and increase in marketing we have seen an impact on new participants to the center. From January through the day before the Grand Re-Opening Ceremony, we had 71 new participants sign up. Since the grand re-opening in September, we've had 59 new participants sign up!

#### **Participation Numbers to show how things are going**

*Recreation Participants Average: 364*

*Rides One Way Average: 379*

*November Meal Participants: 225*

*November Meals Served: 1159*

*Total Volunteer Hours for 2014: 8,507*

#### **National Accreditation**

Salt Lake County Aging and Adult Services is in the process of having all the senior centers they operate receive National Accreditation from the National Council on Aging and National Institute of Senior Centers. Taylorsville Senior Center is almost complete the process and is waiting to have a peer reviewer come visit the center to finish the process. The Peer Reviewer we have been assigned is Dianne Stone, who is the Director of the Senior and Disabled Center in Newington Connecticut. Dianne will fly to Utah and spend a day and a half reviewing the Taylorsville Senior Center, our programming and operations, and meet with participants and committee members to discuss the facility. After Dianne's visit, she will make a recommendation to the Accreditation Board for our accreditation. Through this process, accreditation committees were able to make recommendations they would like to see at the center, and the peer reviewer will also make recommendations. Upon completion of the Peer Reviewers visit, we will present to you the recommendations that have been made to us regarding the Taylorsville Senior Center. Through the Accreditation process, we are able to

showcase the wonderful work we do, but also learn what participants would like, and learn some best practices from other Senior Centers across the county.

### **Holiday Meals:**

On Tuesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, Taylorsville Senior Center had a Thanksgiving Holiday meal for lunch. We had a huge turnout...so big we had to drive to another center to get more food to accommodate everyone! We served 164 meals that day!

For December, we will have another holiday meal on Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, from 11:30 – 12:30. We welcome you to attend the event. Since we were so popular for the Thanksgiving meal, we have been encouraging participants to help us with a head count and to let us know if they'll be joining us for the December meal. As of today, we have 189 people signed up for the meal.

### **Festival of Trees POW Tree**

We currently have on display the Festival of Tree that was donated to the City last year on display in our great room. The tree is a reminder of those that are not able to celebrate the season with their families because the sacrifice they made for the rest of us. It's a beautiful tree that we are grateful the City asked us to display.

### **Sudanese Refugees**

Salt Lake County is in the process of trying to coordinate programming, particularly English as a Second Language classes for senior Sudanese Refugees that live in the Taylorsville area. Two of the challenges that we're currently facing is that the refugees need afternoon or evening hours available, as well as transportation. Becky Kapp, the Division Director of Salt Lake County Aging and Adult Services would like to have a conversation about how we might be able to work together to provide programming that meets the needs of the group.

### **New Manager Selected**

A new manager for the Taylorsville Senior Center has been selected. Pauline McBride will begin as the Taylorsville Senior Center Manager in February. Pauline has been the Center Program Assistant at the Sunday Anderson Westside Senior Center for the past 2 years. She also has experience in the private sector working with seniors. Pauline is currently out on maternity until February 16<sup>th</sup>. I have been fortunate enough to be the acting manager since July and will be leaving for maternity leave at the end of the month. While both myself and Pauline are out on maternity leave, former center manager and current manager of the Midvale Senior Center, Ken Donarski, will be an interim manager until Pauline returns to work.