

Senior Companion Program Newsletter

December 2023

Dear Friends,

What an incredible year it has been! As we launch ahead into another holiday season, it is important to take a moment to reflect on all the good things that made 2023 special, while also looking ahead toward 2024 with excitement for all the good that is yet to come.

Our senior, multigenerational and sports & fitness centers continue to serve as community hubs for friends, families, and neighbors to access services and programs, fitness and exercise services, receive support, and gather to share meals, exchange knowledge, and create new memories together. We are incredibly grateful for all of our center members, volunteers, and staff who help to fill our centers with life, joy, and camaraderie.

Coming up in 2024, we hope to build on our existing services and programs to enhance the lives of youth and older adults in our community by remaining focused on our Strategic Plan. This work will incorporate publicized community forums, as we review everything from operational efficiencies to targeted facility improvements. We will also be hosting a series of focus groups throughout the year for our members to share their thoughts and learn how to help us advocate for the needs of our growing older adult population and youth in our community.

Of course, City General Obligations Bonds are another key part of ensuring the Department of Senior Affairs remain operational, so we would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for your strong show of support in last month's election as well as in future elections. Funding will support particular projects, including Highland Senior Center, Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center, and general renovations and repairs needed at all of our centers!

From all of us at the Department of Senior Affairs, we hope that you have a Happy Holidays and wonderful New Year!

Warmest regards, Anna Sanchez, Director





Program Hours

Monday-Friday: 8am-5pm Saturday & Sunday: Closed

Senior Companion Program Staff

Viridiana Rodriguez-Flores, Program Supervisor Lisa Casman, Case Manager Jenna Stanton, Office Assistant

Contact Information

714 Seventh St SW Albuquerque, NM, 87102 (505) 764-1007

<u>Special Dates ජී</u> <u>Announcements</u>

12/04: In-Service Adult Protective Services Presentation 12/04: Holiday Donation Drive Pick Up 12/14: Submit Timesheets 12/28: Submit Timesheets 12/25: Holiday - CLOSED, No Clients 1/01: Holiday - CLOSED, No Clients



The Senior Companion program focuses on providing assistance and companionship to older adults who have difficulty with daily living tasks. AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers keep seniors independent longer and provide respite to family caregivers, while enhancing their own health and longevity as they serve their community.

Monthly In-Service

Please join us for our mandatory monthly in-service at Barelas Senior Center, Frank Morales from the NM Aging and Long-Term Services Department will be here to address any questions you may have about Adult Protective Services and how to address a situation that requires their services. Lunch will be provided.



Monday, December 4, 2023 9:00am - 12:00am Lead/Coal Room

Political and Religious Participation

A reminder that these activities are not allowed and will not be paid. Please refer to page 23 in the SCP Handbook. Please call the office if you have any questions or concerns.



Political activities:

"Senior Companion volunteers shall not take part in any political or electoral activities with their clients". This includes assisting with voter registration, gathering information about candidates, providing transportation to voting site, etc.

Religious activities:

"Senior Companion volunteers shall not give religious instruction, discuss personal religious beliefs, preach, sing religious songs or pray out loud, participate in religious education classes, take the client to a religious house of worship..."

Holiday Donation Drive Pick-up

The Department of Senior Affairs has been collecting new items for their Annual Senior Holiday Donation Drive to share with homebound seniors this holiday season!



Timesheets

Friendly reminder to submit your timesheets on time to get processed in a timely manner.

> Thursday, Dec 14, 2023 Thursday, Dec 28, 2023

It is very important that your timesheet is signed by you and the station supervisor (if applicable).

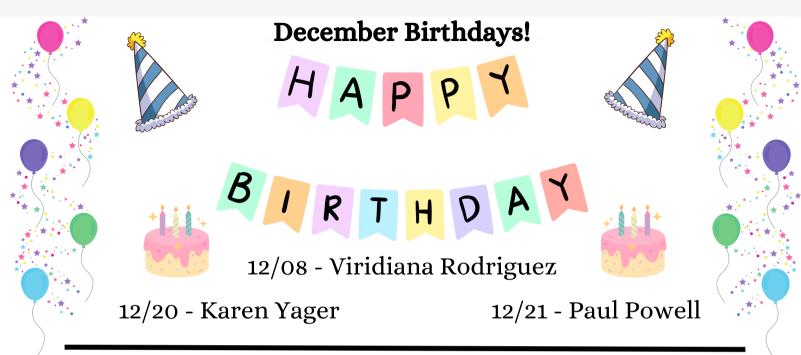


Station Supervisor Signature



olunteer Signature

SCP News and Deadlines



SCP Winter Recognition



A Day of Recognition Railrunner Trip to Santa Fe

A big thank you to all of our wonderful Senior Companion Volunteers who donate their time to help the community around them. We were able to recognize all their beautiful efforts with a lunch trip to Santa Fe. Our volunteers enjoyed lunch at Saveur Bistro, received grocery gift cards to Smith's, and strolled through the Santa Fe Plaza.

Additional Opportunities

SCP will be having additional training and volunteer opportunities every month. These opportunities will be paid, and mileage reimbursement will be available. The monthly newsletter will contain all the information about upcoming events. Please remember to indicate attendance in timesheet and mileage log.

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December 2023

The Department of Senior Affairs Senior Meal Program is proud to be part of the New Mexico Grown state initiative to provide locally sourced fruits, vegetables, beans, and chile, ensuring our seniors a healthy meal.



<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>
27	28	29	30	1
 Rotisserie chicken Rosemary potatoes Corn w/ red peppers Dinner roll w/ margarine Grapes 1% milk 	 Carne adovada/red chile Flour tortilla Pinto beans Spanish rice Pineapple 1% milk 	 Beef tip w/elbow macaroni Roasted carrots Sliced beets Vanilla pudding 1% milk 	 Pasta primavera w/ alfredo sauce Northwest blend vege- tables Breadstick Peaches 1% milk 	 Breaded cod fish w/ tartar sauce Steamed red potatoes Peas Orange 1% milk
4	5	6	7	8
 Salisbury steak w/green chile gravy Corn Mashed potatoes Dinner roll w/ margarine Yogurt 1% milk 	 Turkey tetrazzini Brussel sprouts Peach cobbler Breadstick 1% milk 	 Baked tilapia w/lemon and tartar sauce Rice pilaf Green beans Vanilla pudding 1% milk 	 Chicken parmesan w/ mozzarella Carrots Breadstick Pineapple 1% milk 	 Diced pork w/gravy Sweet potatoes Oriental blend vegetables Dinner roll w/margarine Jell-O 1% milk
11	12	13	14	15
 Pork egg rolls Butter noodle Brussel sprouts Fortune cookies Sweet & Sour sauce 1% milk 	 Cheese omelet w/ pepper, onions, spinach Stewed tomatoes Hash browns Pineapple 1% milk 	 Chicken tamales w/ green chile Pinto beans Calabacitas Chocolate pudding 1% milk 	 Spaghetti w/meat sauce Green beans Breadstick Apple sauce 1% milk 	 Baked salmon w/lemon sauce White rice Sliced beets Dinner roll w/margarine Orange 1% milk
18	19	20	21	22
 Breaded pollock Brown rice Corn w/red peppers Vanilla pudding 1% milk 	 Turkey and brown rice w/gravy Green beans Cauliflower Orange 1% milk 	 Baked chicken Mashed potato Broccoli Mixed fruit 1% milk 	 Sloppy joe, hamburger bun Roasted green and red bell peppers Rosemary potato Peaches 1% milk 	 Ham w/pineapple glaze Mashed potato Mixed vegetables Cherry cobbler Dinner roll w/ margarine 1% milk
25	26	27	28	29
CLOSED Happy Holidays	 Cheeseburger Baked beans Normandy blend vegetables Chocolate chip cookie 1% milk 	 Green chile chicken tamale Pinto beans Calabacitas Yogurt 1% milk 	 Macaroni w/ham & broccoli Spinach Peach cobbler Dinner roll w/ margarine 1% milk 	 Baked cod fish w/tartar sauce Rice pilaf Carrots JellO 1% milk