



# ELDER SERVICES



# MISSION

The mission of the Elder Service Division is to provide high quality In-Home; Access; and Community Based Services for tribal elders to assure maximum health and independence.





# ELDERS SERVED JULY - DECEMBER



# CONGREGATE MEAL PROGRAMS

Lunches are served at our four meal program locations Monday – Thursday at 11:30. Homebound elders receive fresh meals throughout the week, and those that choose to do so receive frozen meals to enjoy through the weekend. There are two full time cooks, five part time cooks, one food service aide and one part time meal delivery driver that prepared, served and delivered the 24,756 meals during this timeframe.

CONGREGATE MEALS: 11,420

SAULT: 3,860

ST IGNACE: 2,368

HESSEL: 2,387

MANISTIQUE: 2,805

HOME DELIVERED MEALS: 9,024

SAULT: 4,516

ST IGNACE: 1,850

HESSEL: 1,984

MANISTIQUE: 674

FROZEN MEALS: 4,312

SAULT: 2,627

ST IGNACE: 641

HESSEL: 354

MANISTIQUE: 690

# MACKINAC ISLAND ELDERS

Tribal elders that live on Mackinac Island are sent vouchers twice per year, with one voucher that may be used per week at one of two restaurants on Mackinac Island. The restaurants mail the vouchers that are turned in back to Elder Services, and a disbursement voucher is completed to reimburse the restaurant. A total of 522 vouchers were used and mailed back to Elder Services.



# ELDER HEALTH FUND

The Elder Health Fund is a program that helps supplement any payments that an elder may need to make for dental or optical care, after all insurances are billed, for care provided at any of the Sault Tribe Health Facilities. Elders living outside of the service area may also receive assistance with purchasing durable medical equipment. The EHF application is filled out on a yearly basis, and support provided is based upon income.

## **Total Applications: 107**

Sault: 28

St Ignace: 26

Hessel: 2

Manistique: 13

Marquette: 4

Munising: 9

Escanaba: 12

Naubinway: 4

Newberry: 2

Outside the Service Area: 7

## INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

Elder Services fields a number of phone calls with inquiries about our various programs and services. Elders are also able to borrow durable medical equipment that is needed while they wait for brand new equipment to come via the PRC program. Equipment is available to them at both Nokomis-Mishomis in the Sault, and the Elder Complex in St Ignace. Elder Services can loan equipment to elders in other parts of the service area via courier as well.

Phone Contacts: 6,976

Information & Assistance: 3,921

Loan Closet: 18

Sault: 17

St Ignace: 1

# TRANSPORTATION

The transportation team is led by the Transportation Coordinator. There is one full time driver and three part time drivers that cover the seven county service area. Our Outreach Coordinators and Registered Nurse also step in to provide rides when all of the drivers are already scheduled. Elder Services also partners with community transportation, providing vouchers for bus rides if transportation is otherwise unavailable.

**Total Rides Provided: 383**

Sault: 233

St Ignace: 72

Hessel: 6

Manistique: 25

Munising: 11

Marquette: 18

Escanaba: 10

Newberry: 8

**Total Miles Traveled: 123,923**

Transportation: 57,695

Homecare: 25,977

Outreach: 26,123

Meal Delivery: 7,254

Director/Registered Nurse: 6,874

Medication Deliveries (Sault): 655

Dialysis Transportation Program (St Ignace): 82

## HEMOCARE SERVICES

Homecare is the performance of routine household tasks to maintain an adequate living environment. Services are provided by our four full time Home Health Technicians that are stationed in the Sault, St Ignace and Manistique areas.

\*\*Elder Services partners with Alger, Northwoods and Arcadia agencies to fill gaps in coverage in our service area, to ensure elder needs are being met.

### **Homecare Visits: 1,934**

Sault: 702

St Ignace: 302

Hessel: 207

Manistique: 361\*\*

Munising: 155\*\*

Marquette: 12\*\*

Escanaba: 100\*\*

Naubinway: 24

Newberry: 71\*\*

## PERSONAL CARE

Personal care is the provision of in-home assistance with activities of daily living. Services are provided by our four full time Home Health Technicians that are stationed in the Sault, St Ignace and Manistique areas.

\*\*Elder Services partners with Alger, Northwoods and Arcadia agencies to fill gaps in coverage in our service area, to ensure elder needs are being met.

- **Personal Care Visits: 293**
- Sault: 188
- St Ignace: 19
- Munising: 86\*\*

## REFERRALS & CASE MANAGEMENT

The full time Registered Nurse plays an integral role in the Elder Service Division. She manages referrals, coordinates the ramp program, creates schedules for the home care and personal care, and does follow up assessments on a regular basis, in line with industry standards. If what is needed is outside of the scope for Elder Services, the Registered Nurse will assist the Elder and family with coordination of care with other divisions within Sault Tribe, or in the community.

### **Referrals: 71**

Sault: 51

St Ignace: 8

Hessel: 3

Manistique: 8

Newberry: 1

### **Case Management: 2,620**

Sault: 845

St Ignace: 621

Hessel: 236

Manistique: 224

Munising: 130

Marquette: 129

Escanaba: 130

Newberry: 175

Naubinway: 130

## RAMP PROGRAM

The Elder Services Ramps and Rails program provides ramps to assist the elder with safer and easier access into and out of the home. A referral is made to the Registered Nurse, who then assesses the need for the ramp. The ramps are custom built and installed by a local company owned by a Sault Tribe member. Depending on cost of materials, Elder Services is able to coordinate the installation of 4-5 ramps per year to elders throughout the service area, typically during the warmer weather months.

Ramps: 2

Sault: 2

# ELDER OUTREACH

The four full time Outreach Coordinators that cover the seven county service area assist the elders in a variety of ways. They attend the Elder Sub-Committee Meetings in their respective areas, coordinate social events, assist with program related surveys, and help to connect the elder with both tribal and non-tribal programs that will assist them in their area. And so much more.

## **Total Outreach Opportunities: 6,515**

Phone contacts made: 2,008

Home visits: 842

Emails sent: 718

Applications assistance: 322

In-person interactions: 1,954

Mailings: 661

Wellness Checks: 10

## **Total Outreach by Area: 6,277**

Sault: 1,457

St Ignace: 1,263

Hessel: 438

Munising: 674

Escanaba: 862

Newberry: 155

Naubinway: 157

Manistique: 955

Marquette: 280

Mackinac Island: 36



# ELDER SUB-COMMITTEES



# MEETING SCHEDULE AND LOCATIONS

Unit I - Sault Ste. Marie: 1st Wednesday at 12:00 p.m. - Sault Elder Building

Unit II – Hessel: 3rd Monday at 12:00 p.m. - Hessel Tribal Center

Unit II – Newberry: 3rd Friday at 10:30 a.m. - Zellar’s Restaurant

Unit II – Naubinway: Last Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. - Naubinway Pavilion (No Meetings Jan/Feb/March)

Unit 3 - St. Ignace: 2nd Thursday at 12:00 p.m. – St. Ignace Elder Complex

Unit 4 – Manistique: 2nd Wednesday 12:00 p.m. - Manistique Tribal Center

Unit 4 – Escanaba: 2nd Wednesday 4:00 p.m. – Escanaba Community Center

Unit 5 – Munising: 1st Thursday at 11:00 a.m. - Munising Tribal Health Center

Unit 5 – Marquette: 1st Thursday 5:00 p.m. – Marquette Community Center

Elder Advisory Council (EAC): 3rd Friday 1:00 p.m. - Newberry Tribal Center (March to October)

## ELDER SUB-COMMITTEE MEETINGS

There are nine elder sub-committees that meet each month across the service area. Meals are served at each meeting, either prepared by the Cooks in the Elder Meal Programs, or provided by a variety of caterers across the service area, and one group meets at a restaurant.

### **Meeting Participants: 1,834**

Sault: 247

St Ignace: 238

Hessel: 144

Manistique: 257

Munising: 203

Marquette: 194

Escanaba: 263

Naubinway: 146

Newberry: 142

## ELDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Elder Advisory Committee is comprised of members of each sub-committee, and also meets once per month to discuss what is going on in their areas, as well as bring back information to their community. The Elder Advisory Committee also coordinates the Elder Advisory Committee scholarship. This annual scholarship is awarded to graduating seniors that plan to continue their education at a trade school, college or university. Each sub-committee contributes funds toward the scholarship on an annual basis. One or more of the members of the Elder Advisory Committee reviews the scholarships and selects the winner.



# GRANT FUNDING



## GRANT I: TITLE VI ELDER NUTRITION MEAL PROGRAM (CC 2724)

The main focus of this grant is to provide an opportunity for tribal elders to access healthy meals, nutrition screening and education, and provide a social outlet for elders to remain engaged in their communities.

This grant is on an April through March calendar, and the grant is awarded for a three year cycle. Elder Services recently reapplied for this grant and received notification of continuing funding for the elder meal programs.

GRANT 2: NUTRITION SERVICES  
INCENTIVE PROGRAM NSIP (CC 2721)

This grant is a supplement to the Older Americans Act funding provided through the Title VI grant. Funds in this grant are used exclusively to purchase food for meal sites.

This grant is also on an April through March cycle, and was also renewed for another three years.

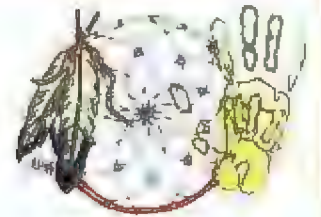
GRANTS 3 & 4: UPPER PENINSULA AREA  
AGENCY ON AGING – UPCAP (CC 3551 &  
3553)

The main focus of these multi year grants (2025 – 2027) are to provide Homemaker Aid and Personal Care services in the outlying areas of our service area by contracting with agencies in other counties. Tribal elders in Delta, Schoolcraft, Alger, Marquette and Luce counties all benefit from services provided by these grants.

Both of these grants are on target and are on an October through September cycle.



# UPCOMING & ONGOING PROJECTS



CONTINUE TO SUPPORT PROGRAM  
OPPORTUNITIES THROUGHOUT THE  
SERVICE AREA

Goal: Enhance Social and Recreational Activities

Tactics:

- Promote, encourage and engage elders in events.
- Support Elder Services team members in acquiring chauffeurs licenses to utilize mobility buses for larger group outings.
- Support Elder Services team members in flexing days and schedules in order to accommodate assisting with transportation to a variety of outings.

## INTRODUCE MORE CONGREGATE MEAL OPPORTUNITIES

### Goal: Improve Access to Healthcare

- Tactic: Offer additional opportunities for elders to access a nutritious meal outside of the once a month meeting and meal.
- Tactic: Establish meal vouchers for Newberry and Naubinway elders for local restaurants, similar to the Mackinac Island meal program.
- Tactic: Bring on additional caterers, and coordinate with already established caterers to provide additional meals for elders at the community centers in Escanaba, Marquette and Munising.

OFFER OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUPPLEMENTAL  
INSURANCE & ESTATE PLANNING  
EDUCATION

Goal: Ensure Financial Security

Tactics:

- Invite insurance agents to visit Elder Sub-Committee meetings to educate elder groups on the importance of having a supplemental plan.
- Invite attorney from Michigan Indian Legal Services to Elder Sub-Committee meetings to educate elder groups on the various estate planning options available to them.

## PLAN ELDER PICNICS & HOLIDAY PARTIES

Goal: Enhance Social and Recreational Activities

Tactic: Promote, encourage and engage elders in social event planning.

Goal: Promote Cultural Preservation

Tactic: Support elder groups in incorporating culture into social events

Tactic: Invite Cultural Coordinators to be involved in planning



# FACILITY UPDATES



# NOKOMIS-MISHOMIS GAMIK UPGRADES

We said goodbye to our cute little red building, and are loving the new roof, fresh paint and sidewalk in front of our entrance.





# ELDER SERVICES SCRAPBOOK





# GARDENING PROJECTS & FOOD SOVEREIGNTY



**Many of the various elder groups, in partnership with other entities, had opportunities to get their hands dirty with a variety of gardening projects in 2025.**

The Unit 4 Escanaba Elders, with support from the Unit 4 Board of Directors Hampton and Barbeau, started preparing space for a garden on the grounds of their Community Center.



The Unit 2 Hessel Elders, in partnership with the EUPISD/SNAP-Ed program have a combination of apple, cherry and plum trees planted near the Hessel Tribal Center. Elders will be able to enjoy the fresh fruit. This fall, they were able to enjoy some tasty plums.



Unit 4 Manistique elders, with the support of Facilities team members, planted and maintained a garden behind the Tribal Health Center.



Chairman Lowes, Directors McRorie and Payment, along with volunteers planted an elder garden near Nokomis-Mishomis. Leftover plants were given to the elders to plant in their home gardens. Volunteers maintained and harvested vegetables throughout the summer and fall for Unit I elders to enjoy.



In partnership with the EUPISD and SNAP-Ed, tenants of the Elder Complex in Unit 3 were able to have access to fresh vegetables in raised garden beds near their apartments.





# ELDER PICNIC SEASON



Unit 4 Escanaba Elders had a picnic at their Community Center. Steaks were purchased by Elder Services, and elders brought a dish to pass. Elders enjoyed a variety of door prizes provided by Elder Services and their Elder Sub-Committee.





Unit 2 Hessel Elders enjoyed steaks on the grill and potluck picnic at the Hessel Tribal Center.



Unit 4 Manistique enjoyed a picnic on the grounds of their Tribal Center. Elder Services team members prepared the entire meal. Elders enjoyed a wild BINGO game, and music by the 906 Band.



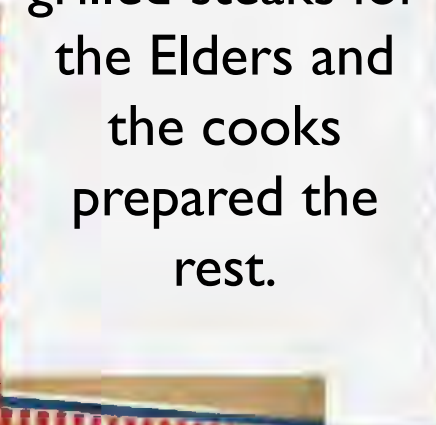


Unit 5 Marquette combined their picnic with a Community Open House at their new center. It was a beautiful day to celebrate their new space to gather.



Unit 2 Hessel Elders grilled steaks and brought a dish to pass for their picnic. They also enjoyed several BINGO games.





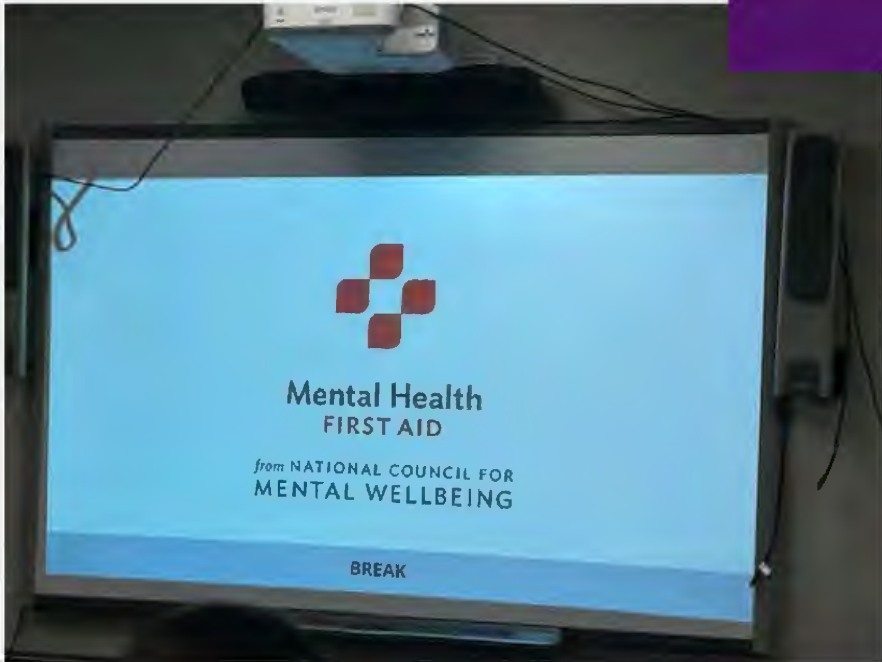
Unit I had a Carnival themed picnic. The BOD bought and grilled steaks for the Elders and the cooks prepared the rest.



# TEAM MEMBER EDUCATION



Elder Services participated in a variety of trainings, including an Alzheimer's Association Conference, Mental Health First Aid, and a Nutrition and Wellness Summit.





# ELDER OUTINGS



Sault Tribe Elders enjoyed a number of outings in the mobility buses, thanks to Elder Services team members and Directors with chauffeurs licenses.

Unit 1 Elders enjoyed a color tour to the Cut River Bridge in the fall.

Unit 2 Naubinway Elders enjoyed dinner in Escanaba and a concert in Hannahville.

Unit 3 Elders enjoyed a color tour through the tunnel of trees in the fall, a visit to Legs Inn, a visit to the Elk Ranch in Gaylord, and a trip to the Holiday Lights Parade.

Unit 4 Manistique Elders visited the UP State Fair in Escanaba.





# CULTURE AND COMMUNITY





# HONOR & REMEMBER





Carrie Bennett from the EUPISD shared 13 Moons teachings with elders in Units 1, 2 and 3. The elders enjoyed learning and tasting.



## Unit I Elders enjoyed learning how to make Dream Catchers with Jackie Robinson





# HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS





Elders celebrated  
the 4<sup>th</sup> of July in  
Manistique and the  
Sault





Unit 3 Elders enjoyed a delicious Christmas in July feast!



Unit I  
enjoyed a  
Christmas in  
July themed  
BINGO



Unit I Elders had a Halloween Party and played BINGO. It was so great to see everyone in their costumes!



# Unit I Thanksgiving Dinner



# Unit III Thanksgiving Dinner



# Unit V Munising Thanksgiving Dinner





# ELDER CHRISTMAS PARTIES



# Units I, II, & III Elder Christmas Party



# Unit II Newberry Elder Holiday Party



# Unit IV Escanaba Elder Christmas Party



# Unit IV Manistique Elder Christmas Party



# Unit 5 Marquette Elder Christmas Party



# Unit V Munising Elder Christmas Party





MIIGWETCH TO THE ELDER SERVICES TEAM FOR ALL THEY DO TO CARE FOR THE ELDERS! WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE SUPPORT FROM SAULT TRIBE TO BE ABLE TO OFFER ALL OF THESE SERVICES.

