



## Women Leaders in Philanthropy

OAK PARK-RIVER FOREST COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Senior Services Receives Community Foundation Grant to Help Older Adult Residents with Technology Access**

Senior Services of Oak Park and River Forest Townships is pleased to announce the receipt of \$12,700 in the form of a grant for a new program called “Creating Connectedness.” Funds for the Creating Connectedness Program were received from Women Leaders in Philanthropy, a giving group of the Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation. The grant will be used to purchase computer tablets and Wi-Fi capacity for older adult residents to enable them to participate more fully in community programs and activities during 2020 and 2021. Program participants from the following projects are currently eligible for devices:

- Memory Café – partnership with Oak Park and River Forest Libraries
- Great Neighbors – partnership with Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly and Arbor West Neighbors
- Foster Grandparent Program – partnership with Collaboration for Early Childhood

Pamela Mahn, Director of Senior Services, explained that due to COVID-19, in-person programming at the Townships has been postponed or cancelled, and the result is that many older adult residents are unable to access technology effectively. Ms. Mahn adds, “While we have supplemented the delivery of services to include telephone and virtual programs, we have recognized a gap in the number of older adults who have the technology, service, and/or hands-on knowledge to navigate programming held in the virtual world.” She continues, “COVID-19 has presented special challenges for older adults to shelter in place and the necessity to discontinue the important social networks, programs, and services that they have utilized to benefit their physical and mental health.”

Lynne Palmore, 2020 Chair of Women Leaders in Philanthropy, agrees. “COVID-19 has generated increased isolation within the general population and particularly among the seniors in our community, who are at greater risk from the disease. Our group, Women Leaders in Philanthropy, is pleased to be able to help our seniors stay connected and engaged as they try to stay healthy physically and emotionally.”

Oak Park and River Forest Townships Senior Services offers a broad continuum of supportive services in order to promote independence of older adults in the communities of Oak Park and River Forest. Revenue for Senior Services includes funds from local, state and federal agencies as well as fees and donations from program participants. With the goal of enhancing seniors' quality of life while promoting independence, self-esteem and dignity, the Township Senior Services Center is the central facility for Oak Park residents.

Find out more about Township services, our program partners, volunteer opportunities, and upcoming events at <http://www.oakparktownship.org> or call 708-383-8060 for Senior Services and 708-383-8005 for general Township information.

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