



## **Executive Summary**

### **Portage Senior Center Mission**

*The Portage Senior Center provides programs and opportunities that promote personal growth, health, friendship and independence for adults aged 50 and over.*

### **Portage Senior Center Vision**

*We envision a community that understands and embraces the power of healthy aging to positively transform lives.*

The Portage Senior Center (PSC) was established in 1979 with funding from the local Area Agency on Aging. PSC moved to its present location in 1982, a 7,200-square-foot facility, built with Community Development Block Grant funds.

PSC, now operating as a division of the City of Portage Parks, Recreation & Senior Citizen Services Department, receives approximately 30% of its funding from the City of Portage, with the remainder raised by PSC staff, volunteers and the Friends of the Portage Senior Center (a 501(c)3). PSC receives no direct federal funding. Certain programs and services are funded by grant and/or program fees.

Active membership, open to individuals over the age of 50, currently stands at just over 1,500 members. Last year, PSC served a total of 2,232 people. Participants pay a modest membership fee (\$25 a year for City of Portage residents and \$35 a year for non-residents) for life-enrichment and other activities. About 58% of participants are from the City of Portage, and 42% from throughout Kalamazoo County and beyond.

The average member age is 72. Approximately 70% of the registered members are female, with the balance being male. While a majority of members are non-minority white, there is a diverse population represented with African Americans and Native Americans, each making up 1%, and smaller percentages (.8% or less) of Asian Americans, Hispanics and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders (based on self-reporting).

Staffing at the PSC consists of six staff members, three full-time and three part-time. The staff is assisted by more than 200 volunteers, most of whom are members, assisting with daily operations. A variety of local agencies and organizations also provide support to PSC. Since activities are too numerous to run exclusively from the current PSC facility, programs are also offered at the Portage District Library, a nearby church and other local facilities on a regular basis.

Due to growth in membership and activities, the PSC has outgrown the existing facility. Lack of parking is a common complaint from members. In addition, programming opportunities are frequently declined due to lack of space in the existing facility. In 2016, using Capital Improvement funds, a local architecture firm was hired to perform a feasibility study for the possibility of expanding the current facility or constructing a new facility. This process involved several focus-group style meetings with a sampling of current members and program participants.

The results showed that building a new facility would provide the best opportunity for expanded space and an updated facility. A proposed 32,000-square-foot facility, with an estimated cost of \$11 million is planned with a public/private funding partnership that is similar to the funding model of Center operations. A capital campaign is scheduled to kick off in 2019, with a goal of \$5.5 million dollars through support from local donors, businesses and philanthropists. The City of Portage has committed to fund the balance of construction costs.

The hope is that a newly constructed building would provide:

- Expanded programming space
- Expanded parking
- Updated technology
- Improvements in building safety and security
- Expanded fitness facilities and programs
- Community access through Portage Parks & Recreation programming

The Portage Senior Center will celebrate its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2019 and looks forward to the challenges of meeting the needs of a growing population by providing outstanding programs and services. Building a new, state-of-the-art expanded facility positions the PSC to take on a leadership position in the region, showing a commitment to providing the best services available for older adults, community wide.