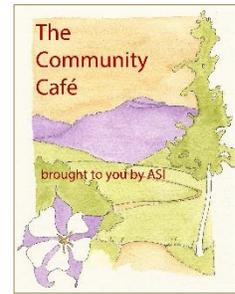


PRESS RELEASE

For release: May 16, 2021
Pagosa Springs, CO



NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITY CAFÉ

Malnutrition among Adults 60 and Better is an Underfunded and Ongoing Problem

As our community has grown, ASI has been working hard to keep up with the demand for meals and supplemental food in our area. Funding and staffing levels do not always match need, here or elsewhere in the country. The [New York Times](#) reported on April 10th that “in Charlotte, N.C., and nine surrounding counties, for example, the waiting list for Meals on Wheels averaged about 1,200 people.”

In our County, so far we have been able to keep up and have not wait listed Meals on Wheels requests. But this is not a given – funding always lags behind demand. The demand for meals in our service area has nearly doubled in the last year, with little sign of letting up. Program funding directly supports our neighbors, co-workers, and our community as a whole.

Covid relief packages send nutrition program funds into our area. These funds are not ‘extra’ monies – instead, they make up for funding shortfalls that have been growing year-on-year since 2014 here in Pagosa and Archuleta County. Even with foundation funding and private donors, without the emergency covid funding, we would not have been able to meet area need last year or this year.

To ensure that we’re serving as many people as possible, ASI works in close cooperation with local and regional services agencies, funding partners, and community advisors. These partners help us to identify underserved areas. We then adjust our outreach and work to secure funding, staff, volunteers, and delivery options to expand into those areas.

Our SIMPLE Nutrition is an example of expansion to meet need. SIMPLE Nutrition was piloted in 2015-2016. It provides targeted, supplemental nutrition, support, and counseling – key support that eligible adults 60 and better in our community can receive in addition to Meals on Wheels and congregate meals. This program has been very successful, providing good nutrition beyond the mid-day meal and through the weekends for eligible adults 60 and better.

Our website provides information about ASI programs here in Pagosa Springs, as well as resources for wellness and aging. You can also use our website to make reservations with The Community Café for take-out and Meals on Wheels at: <http://www.psseniors.org/>.

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