



Walhalla's "Most Wanted"

Lock Up for Lakeview was a fundraiser to assist Lakeview Assisted Living, a non-profit facility located in Walhalla that houses low-income and Medicaid clients.

Last October, several people whom the community knows and loves were "arrested" and placed in jail until they raised bail to be released. And the list included the area's most famous resident — The Clemson Tiger.

Money raised will assist Lakeview in its efforts to provide basic needs for residents, such as meals, housekeeping, and on-site assistants.

For more information on how to help Lakeview, call Maurica Hardy at 864-638-5212.

A Big Thanks Goes to...

- Anderson Leadership Class #27 and Anderson University students for painting several rooms in our Market Place Cinema Senior Center.
- Emily's in Seneca for a sponsoring a recent Spring Fashion Show at our Oconee Senior Center.
- The Zest Quest Program, an affiliate of The Youth Learning Institute of Clemson University, coordinated a coin drive with three area elementary schools. The kids raised and donated almost \$300 to help feed home-bound seniors.
- Lakeview Assisted Living: Lowe's donated cabinets valued at \$5500.00; Dixie Carpet provided and installed wood-look vinyl floor in lobby; The Walhalla and Westminster fire departments installed Christmas lights and donated cake for everyone.

Say Cheese!



Jack Roper paid us a visit and performed a magic show.



Senior center members hit the road to attend a Greenville Drive game.



Market Place Members welcome their new Senior Center Manager, Christy Burnette.



Senior Connection

A Publication of SENIOR Solutions

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www.UpstateSeniors.org

From Our President

Dear friends of SENIOR Solutions:

As you may know, May is Older American's month. This year's theme is *Older Americans: Connecting the Community*. This theme pays homage to the many ways in which older adults bring continuity to the fabric of our communities. Their shared histories, diverse experiences and wealth of knowledge have made our culture, economy, and local character what they are today. The theme also highlights the many ways technology is helping older Americans live longer, healthier and more engaged lives.

In fact, older Americans are more active in community life than ever before, thanks in part to advances in health care, education, technology and financial stability over the last several decades that have greatly increased their vitality and standard of living. Older adults are out and about giving back and making a difference in their community.

Older Americans step up to help one another as well. Across the country, seniors connect with other seniors by delivering meals, helping with home repair, assisting with shopping, and offering companionship, counseling and care. Their efforts remind us that when older adults are active and engaged in their communities, everyone benefits.

When Older Americans Month was established in 1963, only 17 million living Americans had reached their 65th birthdays. About a third of older Americans lived in poverty and there were few programs to meet their needs. The most recent statistics show that 39.6 million Americans have reached their 65th birthday. Sadly 8.9% of those older Americans are living below the poverty level, and unfortunately there are still not many programs for assistance for even meeting basic needs.

Help us celebrate Older Americans Month with your donations for assistance for the seniors we serve in the Upstate of South Carolina. With your help, we can make a difference in providing basic needs and honoring the legacy of those who have woven the fabric of our communities.

In Service,

Douglas A. Wright, President/CEO



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The Rosenwald Project: Preserving Yesterday, Investing in Tomorrow



Renovation plans include a new exercise room, a computer lab, and multi-purpose/ seminar room.

By now, you may have heard the buzz surrounding The Rosenwald Project. If you're not yet familiar with the story behind The Rosenwald Project and what it means for SENIOR Solutions, let us catch you up to speed.

The city of Seneca informed us that our Oconee Senior Center was originally a Rosenwald School — a label our organization was not entirely familiar with. However, after a little research, we found a remarkable story.

In 1912, Julius Rosenwald of Sears, Roebuck and Company, along with Booker T. Washington, began the Rosenwald School Building Program — an initiative that provided seed grants to build schools for African-Americans in the rural South. Today, there is a national effort to restore these buildings, and several grants are available to assist with renovations.

SENIOR Solutions quickly realized we had a unique opportunity to help the senior population while adding to Seneca's rich, historical heritage.

Through grants and private donations, SENIOR Solutions has acquired over \$350,000 to renovate our building, largely in part to three major grants, including: The Alice Rosenwald Foundation for \$2,500; Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation/National Trust for Historic Preservation for \$40,000; a Permanent Improvement Project (PIP) grant from the Lieutenant Governor's Office on Aging for \$300,000. Plans for our building include rewiring throughout, new air units, a new roof, and renovating an entire wing that now sits unoccupied. This additional space will allow us to add more activities throughout the day.

And because we're asking so much help from the community, we are giving back having produced a short documentary that tells the Rosenwald story on a national and local level. Oconee County Schools even used the video in their classrooms for Black History Month in February. If you haven't seen the film, log on to our website for highlights.

Recent Happenings

- We moved our Horizon Adult Day Care clients from our Greenville Street location in Anderson to our Market Place Cinema location. The new wing provides a much-better atmosphere for our clients. The new location uses lots of natural lighting and offers an open, more inviting feel. It features all-new leather recliners and sofas as well as several flat-screen TVs. The kitchen has stainless steel appliances and ample space to enjoy meals.
- September 4th: SENIOR Solutions began offering transportation to those with disabilities at Clemson football games. We received one letter stating: "I wanted to let you know how much I appreciate the bus from lot 10 to the stadium. I was afraid I might have to give up my tickets because the hill has become such an obstacle. Thanks."
- We reduced the age to join our senior centers. It's now 55.
- Several members of our SENIOR Solutions' family, including Board Members Lee Luff and Phil Ashley and center member Emmitt Fullington, went to Washington, DC as part of Upstate Honor Flight.
- Our First-Annual Golf Classic was held at Cross Creek Planation in Seneca.
- 7th Annual Upstate SENIOR Expo brought in more than 100 vendors and nearly 1,500 attendees.



Our recent trip to the Billy Graham Library proved to be an inspirational one. The facility was very impressive! We followed our tour of the library with lunch and a play at the NarroWay Theatre.



Anderson Leadership Class #27 helped us spruce up our Market Place Cinema Senior Center.



The Oconee Senior Center recently held a mystery dinner fundraiser. The night featured great Italian food and a performance by the Upstate's Show-Offs theatre group.



Our First-Annual Golf Classic was held at Cross Creek Planation in Seneca.

Donors

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Mr. James Bryan K. Ballentine
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Zest Quest Program



Q&A with Dustin Cummings: Vice President of Senior Nutritional Operations

Dustin Cummings has been with SENIOR Solutions for three years as Director of Home Delivered Meals, but was recently appointed to oversee our new Dine In program.

How do you describe Dine In and what separates it from other traditional meal delivery programs?
First, Dine In gives the customer a choice, which is not typical in this industry. Our service allows seniors — or anyone for that matter — to select which frozen meals they want from an actual menu. Our hope was to create an easy formula that delivered quality food that goes beyond the industry's status-quo. And so far, we seem to be on the right track. Since December, we've increased our total meal count by 304 and added 29 clients.

Where is Dine In available?

We began our focus in Greenville, primarily because we added a large freezer in this location that can accommodate the quantity of meals we handle. And we recently started serving Anderson, Oconee and Pickens as well.

Who did you partner with to provide meals?

We chose Golden Cuisine. Of all the people we talked with, they seemed most committed and shared SENIOR Solutions' vision. And quite frankly, their meals tasted the best. People at our office were called to a taste-testing several times throughout the process, and we all agreed they had the best variety and quality of food.



"Dine In" is a new and improved home-delivered meals program from SENIOR Solutions.

With Dine In, it's all about choice.

- You choose how entrees are delivered — hot and ready to eat, or frozen for future use.
- You choose which frozen meals you want delivered with an easy-to-use, menu-style order form.
- Most of all, you choose to take control of your health by ordering our nutritious — and delicious — meals.

Our Dine In staff is waiting to serve you.

Call 1-888-516-4788

Do You "Like" Us — Prove It!

The best way to stay up-to-date with events, news and happenings at SENIOR Solutions is by following us on Facebook. If you have a Facebook account, be sure to add us to your "Like" list, and invite your other Facebook friends to join us as well. We can be found at "Senior Solutions SC" on Facebook. Also, be sure and check out our newly designed website at www.UpstateSeniors.org.