

SABINE COUNCIL ON AGING, INC.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

January 24, 2008

The beginning of a new year is often the opportunity to review, reflect and make positive changes for the future. 2008 looks to be one of those years which will give us many chances to do just that. We at the Council on Aging look forward to continuing to serve the seniors of Sabine Parish with care, concern, and friendship. We also look forward to seeking every opportunity to grow by reaching out in new directions, seeking out new clients, and forming new friendships with old friends.

On this note, I'm very pleased with the Board's decision to purchase the Toledo Lion's Club building on Hwy 191 just north of Toledo Town. We are planning to work closely with area civic organizations who have used the building in the past in an effort to create a busy Community Center for our seniors. Things to look forward to in the near future are exercise classes, seminars, dances, and many other opportunities to visit and recreate with fellow seniors in the lake area. We have hired Sarah House as site manager and Jenny Clifton and Karen Lomard as activities coordinators. These ladies bring much experience to our organization and have some wonderful ideas for breathing life into the former Lion's Club building. The new staff members will be available beginning Monday, January 28th at the Toledo Center and can be reached for questions at 318-256-0059. We plan to keep the site open during the minor renovations that are planned and hope to be up and running with activities immediately.

Due to the holidays in December, our number of serving days and, therefore, our number of units served were down from our average, but still respectably high for our area. In December we served 906 Congregate meals at our meal sites and delivered 3,260 meals to Home Bound seniors. We provided 134 units of homemaker service for our seniors and 155 hours of In-Home Respite for area Caregivers. Our Area Services Coordinator has made 25 contacts for Outreach, Information & Assistance. We provided 553 units of transportation, 433 units of wellness, 845 units of recreation and 81 calls to seniors were made for Telephone Reassurance. These numbers reflect a 6% increase over last years units served, and we hope they will increase dramatically with the opening of the Toledo Center.

Our first annual Christmas Open House, which was held on December 20th, was very successful. We had many new visitors and were able to give tours of our building and share information about our services. We also had great food and lots of fun. We are making plans to make it even better next year.

On the January calendar, Judy has planned an NSU Leisure Learning Photography class, a shopping trip to Shreveport, a Valentine Party, a Medication Management seminar, a Games Day, a seminar on Addictive Disorders and an NSU Leisure Learning Debt Management class. Also, NSU computer classes are scheduled for February and March. All this in addition to our regularly scheduled activities of basic computer classes, exercise, bingo, quilting, Bible study and our monthly birthday party. A phone call (256-4140) will get you more information on all of these activities as well as any of our services.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Rigsby, Executive Director