

Plus 60 grant aids Senior Center

MICHELLE DYER
Rock Island County Senior Center
Director

The Rock Island County Senior Center, a service of Project NOW, helps people age in place by assisting seniors to live in their home, increase their level of safety and health, and maintain independence. Currently, the Center serves 693 seniors a month through the nutrition program alone. That program includes home delivered meals, congregate meal sites and shelf stable meals. All total, the Center provides an estimated 146,600 meals a year. According to the Director of the Senior Center, Michelle Dyer, the service is donation based, and no one will be denied if they are unable to pay.

Since COVID-19, the Rock Island County Senior Center has seen an increase in meal services by 70% and so the \$6,000 Quad Cities Plus 60 Community Outreach Grant will go a long way in helping seniors get the nutrition they need to be healthy. The grant will pay for 1,263 shelf stable meals which consists of meals (canned soup, tuna,



CONTRIBUTED

Plus 60 Board member Ronald Calvert presented Community Outreach Grant funding support to Rock Island County Senior Center Director Michelle Dyer and Project NOW Executive Director Rev. Dwight Ford.

cereal bars, fruit cups, etc.) that do not require refrigeration and can be stored on the shelf. These meals will last for up to six months and

will come in handy during times of disruption of services, which could include weather, disasters, or pandemic related closures.

With the increased demand for meals in our community, the Senior Center relies on our wonderful volunteers to make it all hap-

pen. The volunteers deliver meals Monday through Friday, rain or shine, and we are always looking for more people to help throughout the year.

Project NOW will celebrate its 55th year of service in 2023. The Rock Island County Senior Center is 40 years old and is the only agency in Rock Island County which provides both door-to-door senior transportation and home delivered meals. Other services provided at the Center include Information and Assistance, SHIP Counseling, Referrals, Social Isolation, Vaccination Assistance, Caregiver Assistance, and Rural Public Transportation through the Illinois Department of Transportation.

If you are a senior, a loved one of someone who may benefit from these programs, or someone interested in volunteering, please contact 309-788-6335 for more information. You can also visit the Center at 2221 11th St. in Rock Island, email Dyer at mdyer@projectnow.org or check out our website at www.projectnow.org.