



**South Park Senior Citizens is growing our Board as we grow our community impact - join us!**

### **An Introduction to SPSC**

Since the mid-1970's, SPSC has been working to support seniors (aged 55+) and people with disabilities. Our vision is for King County seniors to have access to services, and the cultural community needed to lead vibrant, healthy, and independent lives. SPSC promotes healthy aging by creating a space of belonging that provides culturally responsive support services including sustainable access to nutritious meals, social services, physical activities, continued learning, and social engagement. The diversity of our seniors contributes to the richness of SPSC's culture. At SPSC, our community is represented by over 90% being immigrants and refugees from Vietnam, Cambodia, and Latin America; the majority are navigating cultural and language barriers, with some not able to read or write, and some remaining undocumented. SPSC touched the lives of 580 Seniors in 2023, and as we look for a new and larger home for our Center, it is our aim to grow to serve 1,200 Seniors annually in the coming years.

At SPSC, our work is designed to offset quality of life disparities burdening our seniors. Decades of systemic racism, xenophobia, and discrimination have created serious socio-economic repercussions and negative health outcomes for our seniors:

- Over 80% are living at, or below, the poverty line. Many have monthly incomes of just \$800-\$1,200 to pay for food, rent, utilities, transportation and medical care.
- 67% of the BIPOC seniors we serve are nutritionally at risk and experiencing moderate to poor health as an impact of poor nutrition.
- Most are deeply intimidated by complicated health systems, avoid pursuing medical care, and live with untreated, severe health issues.
- Many have unprocessed trauma related to difficult childhoods, war, genocide, refugee camps, the immigration process, and the challenges of everyday life as an immigrant in the USA.
- Our seniors also face social isolation, inactivity, loneliness, and depression due to limited availability of social and wellness activities that accommodate seniors of diverse backgrounds.

*SPSC is honored to support and empower seniors to lead their best lives possible; all of our services are provided at no-cost to seniors, their families, and their caregivers.*

SPSC is the only Senior Center in the greater Seattle area serving dinner to seniors; we are providing urgent food aid, but in a dignified, communal, fine-dining setting. In 2023, we served over 11,000 culturally significant meals that reflect our seniors' diverse cultural backgrounds. Our dinners also create the opportunities for social connection and community where everyone is visible and valued.

In 2023, our multilingual social services team offered our seniors more than 1,900 hours of support that helped them stay housed, seek medical care, remain employed, and take care of all life aspects necessary for independent living.

SPSC offers enrichment programs that contribute to our seniors' physical, mental, and social wellness. Each week, SPSC hosts Zumba classes, EnhancedFitness, cultural dancing, game nights, book clubs, karaoke, and other activities. We also connect seniors to in-house foot care and specialized medical care through our collaborative partnerships with fellow providers. SPSC's services and enrichment activities all contribute to our seniors' ability to age in place. In 2023, we offered 470 different opportunities for our seniors to learn, exercise, and gather for life-enriching experiences!

## **General Board Member**

### **Role Description**

The Board will support the work of SPSC and provide mission-based leadership and strategic governance. While day-to-day operations are led by SPSC's Executive Director, the Board-Executive Director relationship is a partnership, and the appropriate involvement of the Board is both critical and expected. Specific Board Member responsibilities include:

#### **Leadership, governance and oversight**

- Serving as a trusted advisor to the Executive Director as s/he develops and implements SPSC's strategic plan
- Reviewing outcomes and metrics created by SPSC for evaluating its impact, and regularly measuring its performance and effectiveness using those metrics; reviewing agenda and supporting materials prior to board and committee meetings
- Approving SPSC's annual budget, audit reports, and material business decisions; being informed of, and meeting all, legal and fiduciary responsibilities
- Contributing to an annual performance evaluation of the Executive Director
- Assisting the Executive Director and Board Chair in identifying and recruiting other Board Members

- Partnering with the Executive Director and other Board Members to ensure that board resolutions are carried out
- Serving on committees or task forces and taking on special assignments
- Representing SPSC to stakeholders; acting as an ambassador for the organization
- Ensuring SPSC's commitment to a diverse Board and staff that reflects the communities SPSC serves

## **Fundraising**

SPSC Board Members will consider SPSC a philanthropic priority, and will actively partner with the Executive Director by advocating, promoting, networking, and making direct connections to potential funding partners including foundations, community organizations, corporations, and individual donors.

In addition, SPSC Board Members will make an annual contribution that is commensurate with their capacity; this reflection of priority lends to meeting the funder's desire to see 100 percent Board participation in annual financial support of the organization.

## **Board terms/participation**

SPSC's Board Members will serve a three-year term to be eligible for re-appointment for three additional terms. Board meetings will be held quarterly and committee meetings will be held in coordination with full board meetings.

## **Qualifications**

This is an extraordinary opportunity for an individual who is passionate about SPSC's mission. Selected Board Members will have achieved leadership stature in business, government, philanthropy, or the nonprofit sector. His/her accomplishments will allow him/her to attract other well-qualified, high-performing Board Members.

Ideal candidates will have the following qualifications:

- Professional experience in business, government, philanthropy, or the nonprofit sector
- A commitment to and understanding of SPSC's beneficiaries, preferably based on experience
- Savvy diplomatic skills and a natural affinity for cultivating relationships and persuading, convening, facilitating, and building consensus among diverse individuals
- Personal qualities of integrity, credibility, and a passion for improving the lives of SPSC's beneficiaries

Service on SPSC's Board of Directors is without remuneration.