

## Annual Donor Report

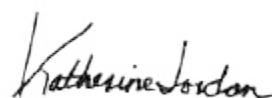
*Dear Friends and Supporters,*

As we reflect on an extraordinary year at South Park Senior Citizens, I am filled with gratitude for the incredible community that makes our work possible. Together, we have embraced challenges, celebrated milestones, and strengthened our impact for seniors in South Park and beyond.

*In 2024*, our Center was an anchor for care and connection for immigrant and refugee seniors, addressing their needs with compassion and innovation. In 2024, we launched new medical care coordination and expanded health coverage through our social services, ensuring our seniors have access to the vital care they need. We prepared an incredible 10,300 nutritious and culturally significant meals, continuing our commitment to addressing food insecurity and celebrating the rich heritage of our community.

We also brought joy and connection to the streets of South Park by hosting our first-ever street fair for seniors, fostering a sense of belonging and neighborhood pride. And in October, we welcomed new friends to our inaugural Savor & Support event, an unforgettable evening showcasing our mission, programs, and opportunities to make a difference.

*With gratitude and hope,*



**Katherine Jordan**  
*Executive Director, South Park Senior Citizens*

These milestones were made possible because of your generosity and belief in our work. With your support, we've been able to provide not just services, but meaningful experiences that enrich the lives of the seniors we serve.

In 2025 we are energized by the possibilities before us. From strengthening our volunteer and donor networks, continuing to grow our Board of Directors, and furthering the reach of the culturally relevant services we provide, SPSC is poised to make an even greater difference for the seniors who rely on us.

Thank you for walking this journey with us. Your belief in South Park Senior Citizens fuels everything we do. We are so fortunate to have you as part of our community, and I can't wait to see what we accomplish together in the year ahead.



## Community Meal Program Highlights

*SPSC is the only* senior center in the greater Seattle area that serves dinner to seniors, providing not just urgent food aid, but doing so in a dignified, communal, fine-dining setting. In 2023, 67% of our seniors of color reported high food insecurity with negative impacts to their health. In 2024 we made progress in reducing their overall food insecurity, seeing a decrease to 54% of those at risk; our work providing food aid is continuing to address this persistent problem. All of our menus are pre-approved by a nutritionist, ensuring that they contribute to the food security, nutrition, and overall health of our seniors. Through our efforts, we have made significant progress in addressing this critical need.

*"The dinners at SPSC are outstanding! I'm very fortunate to join them for dinner almost every night."* –Norman, SPSC Senior

We take pride in serving meals from around the world, prepared with a high degree of authenticity. Our diverse menu reflects the rich cultural backgrounds of our seniors, offering meals that are familiar and cherished. When our seniors come together, they see friends and neighbors, and they are welcomed with beautifully prepared, nutritious meals. Our dedication to fresh, high-quality ingredients ensures that every bite is a delight.

In December, we proudly hosted our second annual *Chef's Holiday Table*, an extraordinary dining experience for the seniors we serve and the broader community. This signature event featured an exquisite five-course meal, showcasing the talent and creativity of our culinary team while celebrating the rich cultural heritage of South Park Senior Citizens.

More than just a meal, the *Chef's Holiday Table* provided a unique opportunity to visit our

center, savor our incredible cuisine, and connect with the people who make our work so meaningful—our dedicated team members and the wonderful seniors we support. It was a moment of togetherness, warmth, and joy, capturing the heart of what makes South Park Senior Citizens such a special place.

In 2024 alone, SPSC served over 10,300 culturally authentic meals, utilizing over 9,600 pounds of donated produce and ingredients that might have otherwise gone to waste

Community meals have proved to build social connections among seniors and increase food uptake in seniors by 60%. (*"The Health and Well-being Impacts of Community Shared Meal Programs for Older Populations: A Scoping Review, Innovation in Aging, 2022*).



## Multilingual Social Services

*At South Park Senior Citizens*, our Social Services department has continued to be a cornerstone of our mission, providing compassionate and effective support to seniors navigating complex socio-economic challenges. In 2024, we offered 1,900 points of contact for crucial social services coordination in Vietnamese, Khmer (Cambodian), and Spanish, bridging critical language gaps to ensure our seniors feel heard, understood, and empowered.

Our team's dedication has been instrumental in finding solutions for seniors where other agencies have struggled to meet their needs. Whether it's addressing housing insecurity, connecting individuals with essential benefits, or offering guidance through bureaucratic hurdles and the use of technology, our multilingual social workers bring expertise and cultural sensitivity to every interaction.

*"Without your support, I do not know how I can navigate this system."*

—SPSC Senior

*SPSC is addressing the following challenges faced by our resilient seniors.*

- SPSC's zip code, 98108, has the highest food insecurity rate in King County (26.7%) with seniors and people of color highly impacted ([communitiescount.org](http://communitiescount.org))
- 80% of SPSC's seniors are living below the poverty line with monthly incomes of \$800–\$1,200.
- The median gross rent ranges between \$1,444–\$1,796 for people living in SPSC's service area (*US Census Bureau*), which aggravates our seniors financial difficulties.
- As many as 7–11.5% of people living in SPSC's service area lack health care coverage (*US Census Bureau*)
- Many of our seniors struggle with language barriers, low technology skills, and system navigation intimidation, preventing them from accessing medical care and public benefits.





## Reducing Barriers to Medical Care

*This year*, we were proud to introduce our new Vital Medical Access to Care for Seniors project made possible by a grant from the Pacific Hospital & Preservation Development Authority, expanding the scope of support we provide. Through this initiative, our social workers can now identify seniors with untreated medical conditions and helped them overcome barriers, such as system intimidation and lack of insurance coverage, to connect with providers who could address their health concerns.

*"I have been experiencing discomfort, and sometimes pain, for quite a while but I didn't have a doctor and didn't know how I could possibly pay for the care I might need. This program, and the support it has provided me, is such a blessing-thank you."*

-SPSC Senior

More than just immediate assistance, the Vital Medical Access to Care for Seniors project empowers seniors to navigate the healthcare system independently, build trusting relationships with medical professionals, and secure ongoing medical coverage. By equipping seniors with the tools and confidence they need, we are not just addressing their current health challenges but fostering long-term wellness and self-reliance.



## *Enrichment Programs:*

### *Building Connections, Celebrating Culture*

*At South Park Senior Citizens*, we believe in creating opportunities for joy, movement, and connection. Our Enrichment Programs have continued to bring vibrancy to the lives of our seniors through a dynamic array of activities, events, and cultural celebrations.

Some of our seniors' favorite regular activities include lively rounds of Lotería and Bingo, spirited Karaoke, and unforgettable dancing events, including Disco Nights. Our exercise programs, including EnhanceFitness and Zumba, keep our seniors active and energized, promoting both physical health and social connection.

Our seniors enjoyed exciting field trips to the Arboretum and Japanese Gardens, Volunteer Park, and the Seattle Asian Art Museum. We also embraced community pride by marching in the Seattle Pride Parade.

Cultural celebrations remain at the heart of our enrichment programming. In 2024, we honored the diverse heritages of our community with events like Vietnamese Lunar New Year, Cambodian New Year, Hispanic Independence Day, the Vietnamese Mid-Autumn Moon Festival, Pchum Ben (Cambodian Ancestor's Day), and Hispanic Día de los Muertos. These gatherings brought seniors together to celebrate their traditions, share their stories, and deepen their sense of belonging.

*"As a newly minted senior citizen, I can't tell you how much I appreciate the South Park Senior Center. They serve excellent meals, have interesting and engaging programs, and the staff is just as nice and helpful as can be."*

—Chris, SPSC Senior

Through these enriching experiences, we continue to create an environment where seniors feel valued, connected, and celebrated—both as individuals and as a vital part of our vibrant community.





## *Savor & Taste:*

### *A Warm Welcome to South Park Senior Citizens*

*In October*, South Park Senior Citizens proudly hosted its inaugural Savor & Taste event, an evening dedicated to sharing our mission and connecting with new friends. This community-focused gathering brought together supporters, volunteers, and neighbors to experience the heart of our work through inspiring storytelling, a delicious 4-course meal, and meaningful conversations.

The event showcased the impact of our programs in supporting immigrant and refugee seniors, while also highlighting the vibrant culture and resilience of our community. Guests had the opportunity to meet our dedicated staff and hear directly from seniors about how South Park Senior Citizens has enriched their lives.

Savor & Taste was an incredible success, strengthening bonds within our community and building excitement for the future of our work. This memorable evening set the stage for deepened engagement and new opportunities to support the seniors who rely on us.



## 2024 Performance & Outcomes

*This year, SPSC achieved the following results:*

10,300 culturally authentic meals served, allowing seniors to secure the nutrition they need while preserving their dignity.

470 opportunities for social connectedness, exercise, and cultural expression through our Enrichment Activities.

1,900 support contacts offered in the preferred languages of our seniors helping them pursue wellness on their terms with resources, medical care, and supportive services.

SPSC's seniors completed recent surveys describing all the ways our Center's activities improve their lives; the majority of surveyed seniors indicated SPSC helped them:

- *eat meals that are better for them*
- *feel more able to stay independent.*
- *have something to look forward to each day*
- *feel happier and more satisfied with life*
- *see friends more often and make new friends*
- *take better care of their health*
- *become more physically active*
- *have more energy*
- *learn about services and benefits*
- *know where to ask for a service such as a ride to the doctor or other assistance*





## **Darnell's Story** *Name and picture changed to protect the senior's identity\*.*

**Darnell**, an African American senior, is a familiar face at SPSC. He's a regular participant in our fitness classes and dining programs, especially on Mondays and Wednesdays. Having lived in the neighborhood for years, he started attending the Center after we reopened following the pandemic. The Center has become an important part of his routine, providing him with both physical and social benefits.

One Wednesday, like so many others, Darnell came in for his fitness class. After finishing, he left to go home with plans to return later that evening for dinner. However, staff noticed that he had forgotten his black bag in the exercise room. Expecting him to return for dinner, they set it aside to give back to him then. But when Darnell didn't show up and couldn't be reached by phone, we grew concerned.

Later that evening, SPSC received an email from Darnell's neighbor informing us that he had been taken to the emergency room. He had suffered a stroke.

SPSC quickly contacted the hospital, only to discover that Darnell had been admitted but was classified as a "John Doe" because the hospital had no information about him. The next day, SPSC staff went to the hospital in person. The hospital staff was relieved, as they had no way of reaching Darnell's family. Our Lead Social Worker was able to provide the hospital with Darnell's name and connect with his parents, who live in Tennessee.

From that point on, South Park Senior Center played a vital role in Darnell's recovery. SPSC helped him apply for state health insurance

and disability benefits, visited him regularly in the hospital, and coordinated every step of his discharge. We also made arrangements for Darnell to reunite with his parents in Memphis, Tennessee, ensuring he had the support he needed during his recovery.



*Darnell continues to stay in touch with us, sharing updates about his health and life in Tennessee. He often speaks about his plans to return to Seattle, where South Park Senior Citizens has become his home away from home.*

Darnell's story illustrates the immense value of South Park Senior Citizen's social services. In his moment of crisis, when no one else was there to help, our team stepped in to provide the care, advocacy, and community that he needed. Whether it's through fitness classes, meals, or critical social services, SPSC is a lifeline for seniors like Darnell, offering support that goes far beyond the walls of the Center.







## *A Heartfelt Thank You*

*As we close* this 2024 annual report, we want to express our deepest gratitude to everyone who has contributed to the success of South Park Senior Citizens. Whether you are a donor, volunteer, community partner, or advocate, your unwavering support has made a profound difference in the lives of the seniors we serve. Together, we have created a place where joy, connection, and care thrive—a testament to the power of community.

We look forward to continuing this journey with you in the year ahead, building on our shared commitment to ensuring that every senior feels valued, supported, and celebrated. Thank you for being an essential part of our story.

### 2024 Organizational Donors



Kawabe Memorial Fund

The Glaser Foundation

Catherine Holmes Wilkins Charitable Foundation

## *Our Vision*

*King County seniors have access to services, and the cultural community needed to lead vibrant, healthy, and independent lives.*

## *Our Mission*

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.

## *Our Values*

<b>Community:</b>	We change lives
<b>Compassion:</b>	We take care of each other
<b>Respect:</b>	We recognize the worth of all
<b>Integrity:</b>	We always act with honor
<b>Cultural Competence:</b>	We accept and respect everyone

