

Savvy Senior Space Final Report

In June of 2019 we updated our reading room to a Savvy Senior Space because we realized that the percentage of people in our area, 65 years and up, was 20% and we were missing opportunities to serve this group in our library.

We added comfortable seating, more tables to work on, a coffee & snack bar, and puzzles and games. We also moved our large print books into that room. Money for the project was raised through fundraisers that summer, a WiLS' Ideas to Action grant, and a Winnefox Lifelong Learning grant.

In November we started offering programs aimed at older adults. We held them the 1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month at 10am through February. In March we tried a program on the 1st Wednesday at 5pm. The turnout for that was phenomenal. Unfortunately, we were not able to continue programming after that date due to COVID-19. We have several months of programs ready to go once the virus has abated and people are freely out and about again.

Things we learned and will use in the future when programming can continue:

1. We need a "snow date" if a program happens to fall on a day the weather is bad. Older adults in our rural area do not come out when there is a heavy snowfall happening.
2. When programming can start up again we will try having one program in the morning and one program held in the evening each month, during non-winter months.
3. We will have books available about program subjects to encourage continuing education or activity.
4. Each month we will have 1 program that is educational and another that is more creative/activity based.

We were thrilled with the turn-out we got for the programs and I would highly recommend doing something similar at other libraries if they are not already. The hardest part starting out was figuring out which programs to have. After we began, we added a survey question asking what other programs they would like to see us hold and went from there. Even though COVID-19 has temporarily stopped our programs, we are continuing to work on future programs.



Making Cookie-In-a-Jar gifts program.



Brain Health program.