

**Nonprofit Chamber of Services
Nonprofit of the Week**

This series has been established to increase awareness of the many causes and efforts taken on by our nonprofit brethren. If your nonprofit has a particular event taking place during the course of a week, an anniversary, for example, let us know and we will try to highlight it for you. On behalf of our membership, we wish to say "thank you" for taking a few moments from your busy schedule to learn more about our community of nonprofits.

Every weekday, the Senior Services, Inc. of Wichita Meals on Wheels program delivers hot, noon meals to 950 homebound Wichita seniors. For many, it's the only real meal they eat, and the volunteer who delivers it is the only person they will see each day.

But Senior Services, Inc. of Wichita is more than Meals on Wheels. Their In-Home Respite Care program provides relief to caregivers of dependent elders. Information/Assistance-Aging helps seniors and their families with access to over 600 aging-related programs. Neighborhood Connection matches volunteers with low-income seniors who need help with home maintenance and daily tasks of living. Roving Pantry takes grocery orders over the phone then delivers the orders to homebound seniors. The agency's four senior centers provide educational, health-related, social and recreational activities for people fifty-five and above. And the Senior Employment Program offers job referrals and job search skills to those fifty-five and over.

The agency's goal is to help older people to live independently and productively and to stay in their own homes as long as possible. One of every ten Sedgwick County residents sixty and older is a direct recipient of at least one Senior Services, Inc. program, and one of every five Sedgwick County residents sixty and above and classified as frail or disabled is a direct recipient of at least one of its programs.

Executive Director Laurel Alkire holds a Masters degree in Gerontology from Wichita State University and has nearly twenty years' experience working for and directing programs for older people. She oversees a staff of fifty employees and a corps of over 800 volunteers.

Spring is a busy time for the agency. During March, with help from a grant from Larkfield Place, Meals on Wheels will promote whole grain foods by delivering new grain products to Meals clients. March 28 is Job Fair 2006, an annual event at which registered clients of the Senior Employment Program meet with nearly forty area employers. March is also March for Meals month, which brings a variety of activities geared toward increasing the public's awareness of senior hunger. May 6 is Kentucky Derby Day, and Senior Services, Inc. will celebrate with its annual fundraiser, Jockeys & Juleps: an authentic Kentucky Derby meal, casino games, live and silent auctions and mint juleps for everyone!

To learn more, go to www.seniorservicesofwichita.org or call 267-0302.