



Copper Country Senior Meals

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Happy New Year!

Every new year brings about a sense of hope and new beginnings, and 2022 is no exception. Here at Senior Meals, we continue with our existing services while finding new ways to serve more seniors in Houghton and Keweenaw Counties. We hope to work with local growers to incorporate farm fresh fruits and vegetables, add more delivery routes, and increase programming. May 2022 be a year of health and vibrant new beginnings!



Welcome, Kathleen & Rich

Over the last seven months, newly appointed Executive Director Kathleen Harter and Director of Operations Rich Simpson have been working to understand Copper Country Senior Meals while creating a vision of what the future will look like for the non-profit organization. Both are impressed with the dedicated staff and how smoothly operations run. They enjoy meeting the seniors and hearing from staff, seniors, and the community about how the organization can better meet senior needs. Small changes are taking place - sourcing more local foods, reviewing menus with a certified nutritionist, and adjusting routes to reach more people. Rich and Kathleen are excited to be part of the Senior Meals Team!



New Dishes

Soup in the winter is like a warm hug on a cold day. In February and March, we are introducing two new soups: Lemon Chicken Orzo and White Bean and Sausage.

906-483-1155

821 W. Water Street
Hancock, MI 49930

www.coppercountryseniormeals.org



www.facebook.com/CCSM49930

Copper Country Senior Meals is a 501(c)(3) that complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination based upon race, color, and national origin.

Supporting Staff

Gloria Mathews (top photo) and Jerri Gruber work in our Calumet kitchen as the lead and assistant cooks. Their love of cooking and serving seniors is reflected in the thousands of delicious meals they have served over the years here in Houghton and Keweenaw Counties.

As they consider retirement, we are making some changes that allow Jerri and Gloria to adjust their hours. Starting Jan. 28, all Friday meals will be produced in the Hancock kitchen. Staff are excited to implement this change as it is a way to train for adding new routes and increase the number of seniors we serve. We will miss Gloria and Jerri's cooking on Fridays, but are happy to support them in this way.



Thank You!

Every day, we are happy to serve our seniors by delivering a meal and sharing in special moments. Many others in the community feel the same and throughout November and December of 2021, we were constantly reminded how much people care about Senior Meals.

The following organizations made Copper Country Senior Meals a priority: Portage Health Auxiliary donated \$2,500 for the purchase of hot meal delivery boxes, Miner's Cafe in Laurium cooked a community Christmas dinner and donated \$1,100, Calumet's Hats for Hope Initiative donated knitted blankets, hats, scarves, and socks, Copper Country Masonic Lodge donated \$1,000, and a local farmer donated winter squash. To cap this amazing community support, we



Copper Country Senior Meals was part of the Portage Health Foundation 2021 Giving Tuesday event.

were awarded a check for **\$35,529.52** as part of the Portage Health Foundation Giving Tuesday event! We are so humbled and blessed to be part of such a giving community that believes in the Senior Meals mission. Thank you!



Supply Chain Frustration Leads to New Opportunities

Each week, food orders are placed through distributors like Gordon Food Service and Jilbert's milk. For a variety of reasons, food suppliers have had a difficult time meeting all food ordering requests. Many restaurants, schools,

hospitals, and Meals on Wheels chapters across the United States have had to adjust their orders almost weekly due to supply chain issues.

Recently, the fish that we ordered was out of stock and the vendor recommended a substitute fish that, unfortunately, cost quite a bit more. We called Peterson's Fish Market in Hancock, and they were more than happy to work to supply us with 65 pounds of fresh whitefish filets from nearby Lake Superior. The next day, seniors enjoyed fresh local whitefish for lunch, and their enthusiastic comments and excitement were a delight to hear. We're looking forward to more such opportunities with local food suppliers, and want to thank Peterson's for working with us on such short notice!

