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Get the “inside scoop” on what has been happening at Coal Creek Meals on Wheels!
On July 2, 2021, we reopened our older adult congregate dining program at the Josephine Commons Housing Development, now called “Coal Creek Café.” For the first time in sixteen months, the dining room at Josephine Commons was full of pleasant chatter and hugs as diners gathered to enjoy lunch together again, experience CCMOW’s new café-style atmosphere, meet new members of the community, and catch up with familiar faces. Since closing the congregate meal program on March 13, 2020, most of our “regulars” transitioned to our meal delivery service until we reopened. Returning diners, like Patty B., were thrilled to finally be able to spend time and enjoy a meal with friends after not being able to do so for over a year. “I enjoyed the meal today very much and the fact that we can all eat together, spend time together, and be kind to each other is really a gift, so I’m grateful for that!”

Clients were exuberant once they were able to eat lunch together again, and even seemed to notice and enjoy the interactions between clients, the kitchen staff, and our volunteers working through our meal delivery service while we were closed — and were able to stay in contact with volunteers through our “Friendly Callers” program — the essential daily in-person interactions between clients, the kitchen staff, and our volunteers were irreplaceable and greatly missed. "Friendly Callers" program – the essential daily in-person interactions between clients, the kitchen staff, and our volunteers were irreplaceable and greatly missed. Clients were exuberant once they were able to eat lunch together again, and even seemed to notice and enjoy the small improvements we made to the program to enhance their overall dining experience, such as adopting a more café-style atmosphere. The new system is awesome! I love the people; everyone is so nice and friendly, and they bring you your food and coffee. It beats going to a restaurant! The food is good and they give you a lot of it. It tastes even better when you can eat with people you know,” Ron shared one day after lunch.

When asked what he enjoys most about the café, Ron said “For me, it’s easy: I don’t have to get in a car and go. Getting my wife’s walker into the car is a job for me, and just being able to walk over here from home to get a good meal is amazing. And the food is good. You get all kinds of variety; they don’t serve the same thing every day! The services we provide make access to daily nutritious and well-balanced meals a little easier for clients like Ron and his wife.

“We consider our lunch the main meal of the day and it’s perfect because it saves me from having to make a big dinner. Also, where else are you going to get a meal for $3.50?” Ron said with a chuckle.

In addition to food insecurity, many of our clients are often impacted by other factors including limited mobility, physical and cognitive health challenges, and chronic illnesses. By removing barriers related to transportation and access to healthy meals, CCMOW aims to alleviate the stress around how someone is going to put food on their table.

The first hug I gave a couple of days ago at lunch was 110% more than I remember before, and it was very special because it was the first hug I could give now that we’re allowed to spend time with other people and our friends,” said Patty.

Coal Creek Café is made possible through a partnership with the City of Lafayette Senior Services. Meals are served Monday through Friday, between 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Coal Creek Café creates opportunities for guests to socialize with friends and neighbors while enjoying the delicious and nutritious daily offerings. CCMOW requests a suggested donation of $3.50 per meal for café guests who are over 60 years old. Those under 60 are welcome to join for $3 per meal. All are welcome and no one is ever turned away due to an inability to pay the suggested donation amount.

To learn more about Coal Creek Café and view the weekly menu, please visit www.coalcreekmow.org/coalcreekcafe.