



WE FIGHT FOR SENIOR HEALTH & WELL-BEING

SOUTHEAST LINN COMMUNITY CENTER

Dwayne started coming to Southeast Linn Community Center years ago. He never actually participated in any programs or services but would stop in to share a story with staff or another senior, maybe have a cup of coffee, and then go on with the rest of his day.

That all changed about six months ago when, unfortunately, Dwayne's wife passed away. It took about a month before we heard from Dwayne after his wife passed. He was grief stricken and struggling to adjust to his wife's passing.

Then one day, we received a call that he had signed up to come in for a meal. We were very surprised as he had never signed up for anything before, but we were excited to see him. When he came in, we welcomed him with open arms. Though still sad, he was out of the house and socializing again. That first day turned into another, and now he comes daily

for a meal, to chat with friends, participate in activities, and he even volunteers to bring bread to the local senior housing complex.

Wanting to put a face on the program, we asked Dwayne to come and talk to our board about the importance of Congregate and Meal on Wheels. Dwayne gave a tearful presentation on how important it was for him and others who have lost loved ones after all these years to have a place to go and be with others. He talked about the hunger issue seniors face in our community and how sometimes pride can make them go hungry.

Dwayne taught all of us that the meals are important for the health of a senior, but the friendship one feels at a dining site feeds the heart!

Your gift supports our funded partners and addresses our community's most critical problems.

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United Way
of East Central Iowa