



2024 Healthy Senior Grant Program Spotlight

The Mary E. Bivins Foundation is committed to amplifying the efforts of community organizations dedicated to improving the lives of older adults across the Texas Panhandle.

The Healthy Senior Grant Program is designed to support a range of wellness programs which promote the overall health of older adults in our region. The primary focus of the grant is to partner with local organizations who are helping to alleviate hunger and food insecurity. Funding for projects which address needs from social connection and caregiver support to community access and safety which empower individuals to age with dignity and maintain their independence will also be awarded.

Below is a collection of projects from the 2024 Healthy Senior Grant Cycle and the impact those awards had on the programs and people across the Panhandle.



Opportunities, Inc.

Opportunities, Inc. Senior Center and Meals on Wheels served 141 seniors and provided over 17,000 meals, helping to reduce food insecurity among Hutchinson County older adults.

"Through this grant, thousands of meals were prepared and shared - each representing hope, health, and human connection. The Mary E. Bivins Foundation's support truly strengthened our mission to care for Borger's seniors and ensure they receive both the nutrition and kindness they deserve."

- Jamie Kirksey, Director

Ogallala Commons

In July, August, and September 2025, Ogallala Commons (OC) delivered approximately 550 meal bags containing fresh, healthy, regionally produced food to seniors living in 120 different households in Quitaque, Turkey, Silvertown, and Tulia.

"[This] project, combined with OC's other 2025 work in the Texas Panhandle, has moved OC closer to creating a year round food hub route serving seniors and other at-risk populations with consistent access to fresh grocery items."

- Meryl Benham, OC Grant Services



The 2026 Healthy Senior Grant Cycle will open on August 12, 2026. Eligible organizations are invited to apply for up to \$50,000 in support of qualifying projects which improve the health and wellbeing of older adults in the Texas Panhandle.



Area Agency on Aging

The Area Agency on Aging of the Panhandle expanded educational programming and social connection opportunities for older adults and caregivers through four major events serving 406 participants ... offering interactive learning, caregiver education, and CEU opportunities while addressing dementia care, legal planning, safety, and ageism.

"We are deeply grateful for the Mary E. Bivins Foundation's continued partnership, which has made these programs possible and helped improve quality of life for older adults and caregivers in our region."

- Anna Ojeda, Operations Coordinator

White Deer - Skellytown Lighthouse Food Pantry

The White Deer-Skellytown Lighthouse Food Pantry provided protein supplements (Boost, Ensure, yogurt, cheese, breakfast bars) and fresh and packaged fruits for adults aged 55 and older.

"The White Deer-Skellytown Lighthouse Food Pantry sincerely thanks the Bivins Foundation for supporting our senior nutrition initiative. Our clients reported improved health and quality of life, and we are grateful for the Foundation's role in making this possible for seniors with limited incomes."

- Peggy Chaney, Director



Friends of the Amarillo Public Library

The Friends of the Amarillo Public Library facilitated their Memory Cafe series and a three-part Dementia Caregivers Training. Combined, the Memory Cafe and the Dementia Caregiver Training were attended by 219 people, enhancing the lives of area Persons Living with Dementia (PLWD) and other cognitive impairment issues as well as the lives of their caregivers.

"According to an ongoing survey of attendees at the Memory Cafe, [caregivers] have consistently experienced a 40% improvement both in how supported and how engaged/connected they felt with their caregiving community after attending a Memory Cafe event."

- Cynthia Hunt, Library Program Specialist