



Harpowell Aging at Home (HAH) is a community-led nonprofit organization that seeks to help people thrive while aging at home. After assessing the needs of older adults in Harpswell, HAH began working with a range of partners to provide information, promote initiatives, mobilize volunteers and create needed services. HAH has drawn on financial support from the Town and many citizens of Harpswell as well as foundations to enable its activities in 2017.

In 2017 HAH's Food Committee organized the Cooking with Friends and Lunch with Friends programs to provide more than 800 meals that offered cooking and socializing as well as eating opportunities on more than 20 occasions in different areas of Harpswell. More than 80 people cooked for these events and 15 organizations and businesses provided support. In 2018 the committee plans 25 more lunches for 30-45 participants each in expanded locations.

The Health and Wellness Committee organized a Health Fair and Health Talks on key issues. It worked with the Town and the Land Trust to offer recreation programs and managed the Seniors Connecting program to offer regular contact to more than 20 homebound older adults. It created a scholarship fund to help older folks access town-sponsored health programs. It will expand these programs for older adult recreation, health and safety, and connecting in 2018.

The Home Repairs and Resources Committee worked with the Town and Habitat for Humanity 7 Rivers to provide home repair and weatherization to 24 homes and resources help to 24 families in 2017. In six-month follow-up visits, homeowners reported significant improvements in their ability to stay "safe, warm and dry" in their homes. The Committee and Habitat worked with the Town to secure a Community Development Block Grant to support work on 25 more homes in 2018. In 2018, it hopes to grow its volunteer team in both home repairs and resources and will continue to explore additional funding options for the program.

The Transportation Committee recruited drivers for the Volunteer Transportation Network at People Plus to supply rides to older adults who no longer drive. In 2017, 18 Harpswell drivers provided 850 trips covering more than 15,000 miles for visits to doctors, grocery stores and many other destinations. It hopes to expand its driver base to meet increased demand in 2018.

HAH plans to expand these activities and add others in 2018. Because HAH has pioneered community-led efforts to support older adults, we are also now being asked for advice by people starting similar programs elsewhere in Maine. We also have participated in state-level advocacy proceedings to support seniors remaining in their homes with adequate services. In the coming year we will evaluate the impacts of our work on the Harpswell community. We welcome new volunteers to help us with current activities and to develop new ones in 2018!