



Rural Development • Community Programs • Community Facilities

A Senior Center Working with the Community to Improve Itself

Boyd County Senior Center was founded in 1979 with a grant from the Northeast Nebraska Area Agency on Aging. Since that time, no updating of the kitchen had been done. The kitchen was laid out in such a way that it was impossible for two people to work effectively at the same time. The counters were falling apart due to prolonged use and water damage, causing a deficiency on its Health Department inspections. There was no storage room and clean up after a meal took two hours using the old dishwasher.

The community has been very supportive of the senior center, but the center was nonetheless unable to raise enough money to remodel the kitchen on its own. The senior center received

\$5,500 from the Spencer Community Foundation and the rest of the contributions came from soup suppers and bake sales. However, it was the USDA Rural Development grant of \$18,000 that allowed Boyd County Senior Center to replace the old tired kitchen with a new bright, well laid out, and efficient kitchen. Beyond the grant funds, Rural Development also provided both technical and moral support throughout the entire process.

The new kitchen allows as many as four people to work preparing meals. The meals for the seniors of Boyd County are now prepared easily and clean up with the new commercial dishwasher is a snap. They have more food storage with a new commercial freezer and refrigerator. Food is not stored in the hallway anymore, but stored properly in a pantry in the kitchen. These new features not only save time but also money in utilities since all appliances are energy efficient.

With this new and improved kitchen the Center has been able to take on more projects and expand current programs to better develop its senior center into a hallmark of senior centers. It also allows the Center to open its doors to take on more Health and Human Service SSBG clients that need a daily meal. Without the new kitchen, expansion of the senior center would not have been possible



The new and improved kitchen of the senior center can now serve people in the community as well.

Obligation Amount: \$18,000 grant

Date of Obligation: 06/28/2013

Congressional District: Representative Smith, NE-3rd District; Senators Fischer and Sasse

Partners: Spencer Community Foundation

Demographics: Senior citizens

Impact: Senior facilities repairs; community involvement; building safety and food access.