



Helen

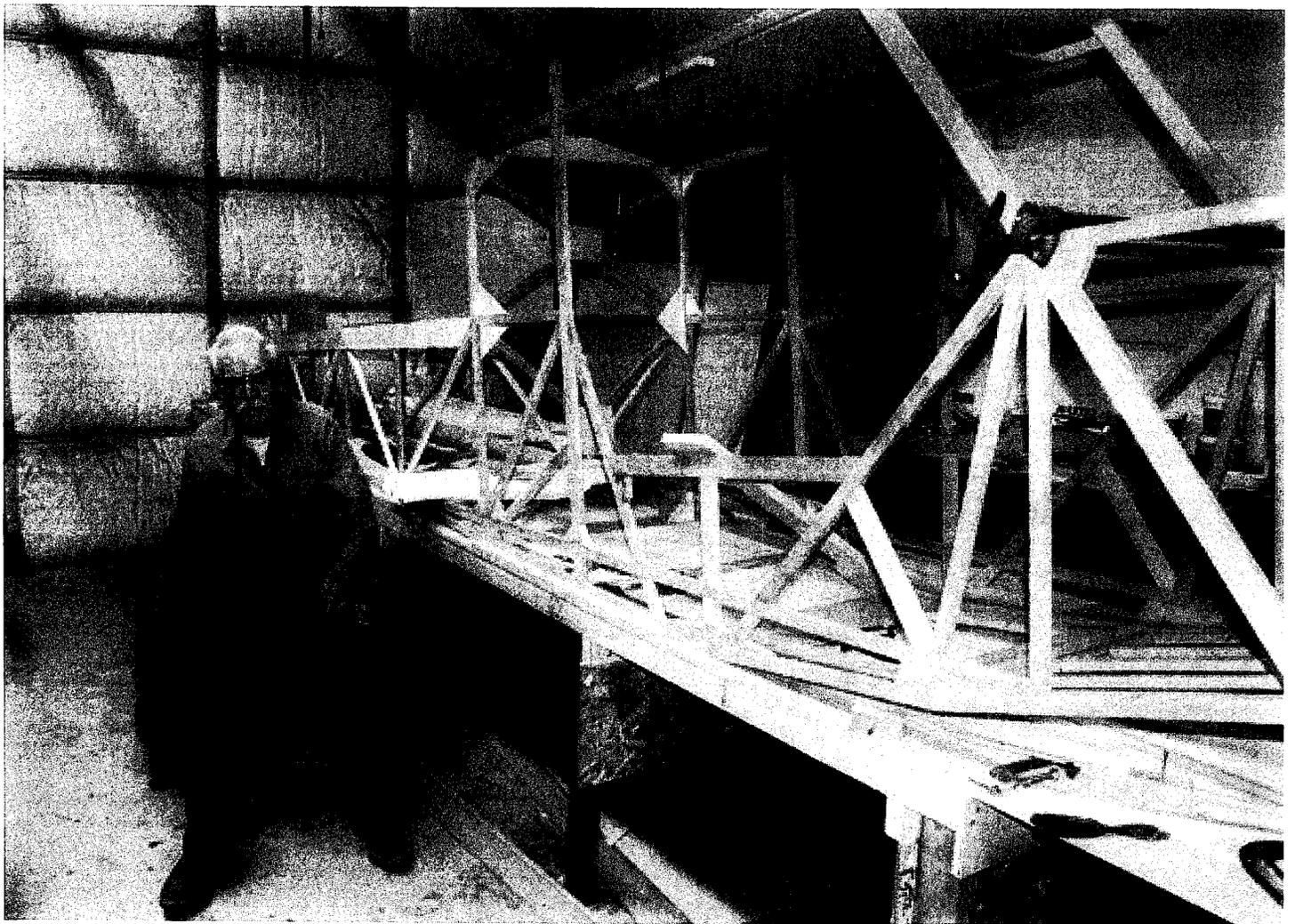
Age: 83

Years with SHH: 6

**Grocery Shopping, Laundry, Light
Housekeeping**

Long term goal:

Remain living in Apartment safely



Tom

Age: 96

Years with SHH: 10

Shopping, light housekeeping

Long term goal:

Remain in own home

memo

To: Whom it May Concern
From: Shauna Spieler
Martha Spieler
Date: 1/17/2011
Re: Big Sky Senior Services (Senior Helping Hands)

Comments:

Big Sky Senior Services has been a valuable asset for me and my elderly, handicapped, dementia mother. Years ago, they helped my mother when she was living in her own home. She had recently quit driving and Senior Helping Hands sent over a wonderful lady to help her get to the store, run errands, help her with lunch and much more. Since then my mom has gone through several assisted living places, daycares, rehab places, etc. Two and half years ago I moved mom in with me and once again Senior Helping Hands have come to my rescue! Her funds ran out to pay for assisted living/nursing home and yet she doesn't quite qualify for Medicaid. We cannot afford to pay the fees for other agencies to come into the house nor will Medicare cover the costs for services—yet, she and I need help with her care.

Senior Helping Hands/Big Sky Senior Services and their fantastic staff have allowed me some caregiver relief and have given my mother the quality of care that she needs and deserves. I am so grateful for the little time they are allowed to give me at an affordable price. I wish they could give me more!

Thanks again and again!!

Sincerely grateful,



Shauna Spieler

January 19, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

I have been involved with Senior Helping Hands since December 1, 2004. The program has helped me to stay independent in my home. There are some things that I have trouble doing or can't do because of my physical limitations, so they help me with it. Since I'm unstable with my balance, if I were to climb a chair to change a light bulb, I could fall. It is hard for me to clean the bathtub, and vacuum the carpet on the stairs.

I enjoy working with the people that come to help. They are very helpful and personable. When I call the office to talk to someone, or to ask questions, they are very helpful. I would be lost without the program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Adel Sather".

Adel Sather

Jan 14-2011

You Ann
Parrett the
Spelling C.

The year of 2010 was a very discouraging year for me. At the age of 88, I had foot surgery in Jan. Only to find out 5 mo later the pins had broke and needed another surgery. I was in a surgical boot for almost the whole time, and using a roll about (a kneede type of a wheeled cart

Getting around in a small kitchen, trying to cook my own meals, would tire me out, and then I was to tried to eat.

Then we were told we could get meals on wheels, I recieved them ever day except Sat & Sun, and I started eating better.

This also helped me, as far ^{as} getting buying less groceries, as I also could not drive.

my son applied for to Big Sky Services for some One to Come in a clean my ~~house~~ apt. She did some shopping for me, Laundry & Cleaning and other errands, as I was unable to vacuum or lift any thing, even making the bed was a problem, All of these services were offered to me with kindness and willingness

As of Dec 16th I am in my own shoes after further surgery in Oct. These services

Recently I applied for help from Senior Helping Hands of the Big Sky Services of Billings, Mt.

These services are given to elderly people who need part time help. They may need help bathing, dressing, changing bandages or care after an operation. They also need help with everyday chores - cleaning kitchen, bathroom, fixing beds, laundry, ~~vacuuming~~ vacuuming or any other chores that need to be done.

Brenda the lady who helps me has helped with many of these chores. She has also checked for safety in the home - like fire extinguishers, fire alarms - safety bar in bathroom and first aid kit.

Brenda is a very good helper. She is also a pleasant person. We have had fun trimming a Christmas tree - and painting rocks because I can't tell dark blue from black. We've ~~shopped for~~ gone to Macy's Shipping which really help when its icy & cold out.

January 17, 2011

To The Legislators of Montana

Dear Legislators:

My name is Mary Esser and I am one of the very grateful clients of the Senior Helping Hands Program here in Billings, Montana.

I am writing to ask you to check into all of the wonderful, life saving work that they do for people like me; People who are older, live alone, and from time to time we go through medical and other problems and needs. When I had surgery and had no one to help I gave them a call and they came out and had a talk with me, checked things out and then put me on their list for people to help. They sent someone out to help me once a week at first, and now once a month. They also put me in touch with a telephone friend and she has become an additional blessing and real friend indeed. It was frightening to realize that I would come home from surgery to an empty home with no help available, so I cannot put into words the relief and gratefulness that I feel towards this organization. It is so wonderful to be able to be at home and know I can make it because of these people. I now know of others that they have helped and continue to help and I hope that you will really check into their services to senior citizens and the City of Billings and surrounding area.

Please keep them on top of the list when you work on budgets for Montana. I hope that all cities have such a program working to help seniors who live alone and need help. This helps us to remain independent and much less of a burden to our families and other State Funded Programs.

Thank you so very much for making this Program available here in Billings. Please keep funding and supporting the Senior Helping Hands Program.

Sincerely,

Mary Esser

7441 Lewis Ave.

Billings, MT 59106

January 19, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

I have a cleaning person come over twice a month and has always done everything I asked. I have been a client of Big Sky Senior Services for several years and am very happy.

I don't think I could live without it. I've enjoyed all the people that have come to help me ranging in age from college to semi-retired. They all brought something unique to share with me and I've enjoyed them all.

I would hope that funding would not be cut from this very important program.

Sincerely, Dean C. Graham

January 14, 2011

To whom it may concern:

My name is Frances Lane. For the past nine years I have been a client of Senior Helping Hands, a branch of Big Sky Senior Services, as was my husband, James until his death in December 2006. I don't know what I would have done without them.

Jimmy had diabetes, end stage renal failure and due to the diabetes had lost several toes and was about to lose his left foot before his death. He had also had several strokes. He was also in the third stage of Alzheimer Disease. I was attempting to take care of him the best I could but without the help of the staff of Senior Helping Hands it would have been impossible.

I am also in bad health, with Congestive Heart Failure, Diabetes, Fibromyalgia and severe arthritis. My doctor has ordered no vacuuming, sweeping or mopping. Can you imagine what my home would look like it was not for the kindness of Big Sky Senior Services.

I cannot work, and am living on Social Security Survivors Pension monthly. It does not stretch very far. My services through Big Sky Senior Services are completely free. This would not be possible, and will not continue to be possible if they cannot receive the proper funding for their much needed services. They have to pay their very wonderful staff and living gets more and more expensive every year in spite of the fact that we seniors are told there is none so we get no cost of living raise on our checks.

Please consider the plight of the seniors in your great state and be generous with your funding of Big Sky Senior Services.

May God richly bless you,

Frances R. Lane

January 18, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a client of Billings Big Sky Senior Services Helping Hands program. I appreciate the assistance it provides me and am not able to afford private services.

I would hope the funding would not be taken away, as seniors are in need of help once in a while and are on limited budgets.

Please do not cut funding for this very important program and one that is very important to me.

Sincerely,

Christina Carlson


January 18, 2011

To whom It May Concern:

I am a client of Big Sky Services - Helping Hands program. This program allows me to have my home cleaned when I am unable to do so. The service provides someone to wash my clothes, vacuum, mop, make my bed and other chores as they arise. Without this service my daily life would become more difficult and cause me much pain and discomfort. I cannot afford a private service and would not have the quality of life I do today.

Unison Much
Magic City Terrace

So I would hope that you would
reconsider cutting the funding for my
ability to have this program, where I
benefit the most.

Sincerely,
Zvonne Morris

January 15th, 2011

To whom it may concern:

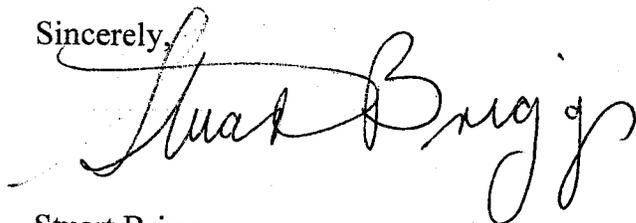
My name is Stuart Briggs. I am 64 years old and my health has been deteriorating for some years. I have had 8 cardiac arrests.

Over years past, I have been able to keep ahead of the house work, but as my health has deteriorated, so has my ability to keep our house clean. My wife has a full time job and therefore is not able to take care of the house either.

The Senior Center has been able to provide cleaning assistance which has been very helpful. Without the funding to the Senior Center, this assistance would not be possible. Please continue to support the efforts of the Senior Center with your funding.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stuart Briggs". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

Stuart Briggs



can afford to pay.

And wouldn't trade my girl either.

Her name is Ellie.

Sincerely,

Jim Jean Cox

and thank you!



Jan 15, 2011,

I do wish it may concern:

My name is Jim Jean Cox.

I am a resident of Magic City
Durham.

I had the opportunity to receive
the service from Senior Services
in the form of part time house
cleaning.

She & I have my bathroom, carpets,
kitchen plus dusting & laundry,
just what I need.

Just want you to know I would not
trade this opportunity Senior Services
has provided for me what I need and

To Whom this may concern,

What Big Sky Senior Services does for me and others is awesome. I don't know what I would do without their services, as my health doesn't allow me to do all of the things I need to get done.

I'm afraid if they don't receive enough funding I and other like me, will lose their services. Everything you can do to help us keep these services would be greatly appreciated. I pray you will make the right decision on this matter.

Sincerely,
Maelyn Slaughter

Dear Legislators

I am writing to ask that you approve funding request for Senior Helping Hands. I am just one of their very grateful clients.

The assistance they give me allows me to remain living independently in my own apartment in spite of handicaps and health concerns, as oxygen use 24/7, use of a walker and heart problems to name a few.

Limited income prohibits securing the Doster ordered help, but Senior Helping Hands has met these needs

OVER →



Non-profit state licensed home health agency providing homemaking, nursing and respite services to help seniors remain living in their homes for as long as possible.

Total Program Budget: \$378,441

18% State Aging, 21% Federal Aging

34% Local Mill Levy & United Way

Partners:

-Yellowstone County Council on Aging

-Adult Protective Services

-Billings Clinic PACE

-Family Services

-United Way of Yellowstone County

of EMPLOYEES providing in home services to clients: 10

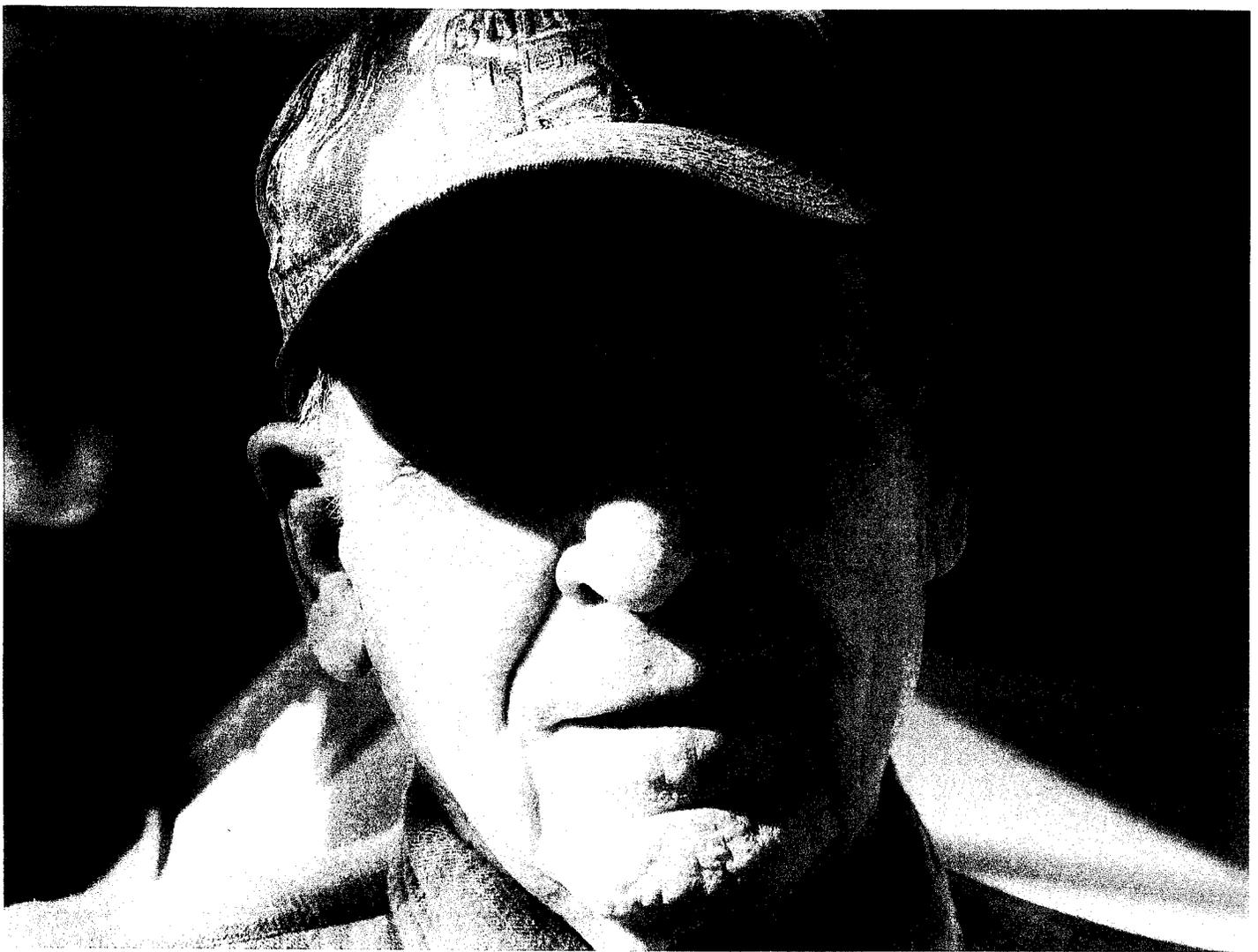
of CLIENTS served as of December 2010: 101

of HOURS of service to clients: 508

-Average MONTHLY COST to keep senior citizens living in their homes: \$320

-Average cost in nursing home covered by MEDICAID:

\$4830



Dean

Age: 87

**Military Veteran, Veteran of Foreign Wars, American Legion,
Disabled American Veterans, and Military Order of Purple
Hearts**

Years with SHH: 10

*“I don’t think I could live without it. I’ve
enjoyed all the people that have come to help
me.”*



Marie

Age: 92

Years with SHH: 7

Laundry, housekeeping

Long term goal:

**Assist with homemaking so she can
remain home safely.**