Overview

Mission

The Center’s mission is to positively impact our community by creating opportunities for healthy aging through social engagement, physical well-being, civic involvement, creativity, and lifelong learning.

What We Do & Why It Matters

The nationally-accredited Center is our community’s most comprehensive and accessible resource for increasing the number of older adults who live productive, high-quality, and independent lives. It does this by offering more than 100 programs every week in learning, arts, fitness, recreation, travel, and volunteering.

Aging is a community issue that impacts planning, economic development, workforce, social services, health care, families, and more. By 2024, one in four people in our region will be 65 or older; many will live another 20 years.

Longer lifespans have brought a new stage of life with new challenges and different expectations. By closing the gap between life expectancy and healthy life expectancy, multidimensional programs like those at The Center promote independence; lower health and long-term care costs; reduce demand for social services; and support individuals, families, and community. The Center also supports other nonprofits, making our community a better place for people of all ages.

Founded

The Senior Center (now The Center) was founded in 1960 by the University League (now the Junior League of Charlottesville). We became an independent nonprofit organization in 1963. From 25 members in its first year to almost 2,000 today, the Center has never stopped growing, evolving, and serving our community in myriad ways over 58 years of service.

Nonprofit Status & Funding

- 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit donations to Senior Center, The Center, and The Center at Belvedere are tax-deductible.
- The Center receives no operating funds from the government. Private donations provide more than 60% of funding each year.
Governed By

Board of Directors. Our volunteer leadership currently consists of 21 business and community leaders.

Professional Staff & Volunteers

Eleven full-time and five part-time paid staff members are supported by hundreds of volunteers who lead programs, assist with administrative work, help with special events, and much more.

Fun Facts from The Center’s Fiscal Year 2018

• Almost 500 Center volunteers donated 58,173 hours of service to The Center and 55 other area nonprofits
• $112,000 of space was donated to community groups
• The Center offered 6,795 events, classes, programs, and trips
• 200 people took advantage of the no-hassle membership scholarships always available
• There were approximately 2,000 members | 6,000 guests | 100,000 visits
• Many programs were free and open to community members of all ages
• The Center had 20+ partner programs to share resources and increase access
• 85% of members attributed a more positive outlook on life to participation at The Center