

### Good Evening to the members of the appropriations committee.

My name is Brenda Joyce Kingsley, I am a registered voter from the town of Putnam. I am here to testify about our voices, it is time to let you the legislators know how much the social program of United Services does for all our members. It has changed from what it used to be.

We have no set club house building to go to. We are a Health and wellness social program more out in the community. Talking today to keep the funding for our social program. Our social program grew with more members. Over 40 new members. The Y.M.C.A. a very Popular program. The activity calendar members pick out 3 days in a week to sign up for.

Usually only 2 staff. Sometimes only 1 when the other is out. We need an update on our vehicles, one of the vans is an older van. We need to hire another staff. Now we have 1 staff and 1 peer staff.

We the members are grateful for what they can do with no increased funding. So many new members, short on staff and in need of newer vehicles, A lot different. It is not based on having a daily hot lunch, some times the staff will do a prepared lunch.

The staff just saying to us not really a lot of shopping trips. The staff feels it is not so much for the health, wellness and social program. People on the shop trips buying other things.

Once a month we have a board meeting, the staff with about 5 members. We meet, we talk about how our social program should run. The issues, the concerns, the rules. The staff sends out the monthly letter to all the members. We do not have house meetings with members. It is like this for our social program because of the fact the areas are so far in all the different directions to pick up the members, Plainfield, Moosup, Danielson, Brooklyn, Woodstock, North Grovenordale, Thompson and Putnam.

On our calendars the YMCA is usually on the Mondays and the Fridays. The Killingly Library usually a

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coloring group, another the book club and movie. A health group might find a chair yoga , a bowling group and out to the movies.

A get together for coming up holidays. Trying out the paint class. The staff will do a going out for breakfast sometimes.

Sometimes in life we need the motivation to get our inner feelings going. Getting our brains , our hearts, pumping, enabling us to physically move.  
That motivation for many of us comes not from our club house building. We do not have any more.It comes from our staff, our boss Janet, our 2 newer staff Judy and Jill. And comes from our members making up our social program.

Individuals having feelings unique to their own character.

Laura feels this about the social program, We now have the program, gets her out of her house. Laura not being left home, feeling lonely and depressed. Laura able to be with members out to socialize and meet new people out in the community.

Kathy appreciates the program a lot. If not for the program Kathy does not know what she would do. Kathy does not have transportation of her own to go any where. Kathy finds her mood improves she is better able to handle every day situations that come up. Giving Kathy a break from being in her house.

Mary likes the program to socialize with people giving Mary the incentive to do more for herself. At this time Mary taking a break from the program.  
Mary intends hopefully to be able to go back to the social program.

Bill the program helps him to keep busy. to be in touch with people not just a home body.

Ernie feels good about the program. the program helps Ernie to remain stable with other things going on in his life.

Robberly living in a housing program participating in the social program he is able to practice his communication skills.  
the program gets Robberly out of his living quarters to a structured program and to exercise and socialize and being out in the community.

John feels about the program of United Services. Some bumps in the road because John said we used to have our own club house,  
now we meet different ares when convenient. John has many years being a member of the club house , being responsible John was a back up volunteer,  
he was handling the money, bringing staff the money signing off on it. John did maintenance work besides being back up volunteer,  
John said he misses all that.

The good qualities, the in shape program. john said he has come long way building up his upper body.

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The social program as it is now John said he enjoys getting to go out and do fun things. The bowling, the movies, going to the beach, going different places and shopping. John enjoys the coloring at the library. John says the program gets him out of the house keeps him from being down . John lives alone , with the program he is out a lot more , John enjoys the staff, friendly, John asks any questions the staff answers to the best of their knowledge.

Betsy , a member because of her mental health issues not been able to participate , Betsy misses the social program. The socialization. The going out in the community getting out of the house. Since Betsy is back with our social program Betsy misses the club house in the building. and the movies in the winter months. Betsy would make lunch and enjoyed playing cards, Betsy likes our social program based as out in the community.

Dave misses the club house building, more people involved, more input about the members. Dave is an advocate for the in shape program and Mental health.

We lost our building , we don't want to loose what we have left.

What would happen ? Costing more money People falling through the cracks. People going to out Patient. to psyche units more. in hospital and day treatment programs.

Keeping our program to help our members with their physical and mental health. Which in the long run cost less money to keep people healthy.

I feel we would have nothing. That is why the social program does so much for all of us. how we feel. How we do. Handle every day situations, that come up. How are we able to feel better after going to the program.

Giving us good feelings about ourselves. Making it our day , at home , after program. That we are not alone about us. Makes a big difference to all of us that are members of the social club.

To keep our program in the Northeast, a program of United Services funded .

Thank you for listening.