

Magazine Drive exceeds expectations

by Josephine Chaparro and Joanne Kitsos

When we started our magazine drive on May 19, we called on the community for donations. We expected to receive 800 to 900 magazines that would be distributed to several older adult residences, rehabilitation centers, and memory care locations in Uptown, Edgewater and Rogers Park.

Well, hold onto your hats! We received 2,392 -- nearly three times the anticipated number. Because the community responded so generously, Edgewater Village Chicago and its partner, the Edgewater Branch of the Chicago Public Library, delivered magazines to 19 facilities -- surpassing even the number of valentine cards that were distributed to residents at 14 neighborhood facilities.

The outpouring of donated magazines is expected to interest the reading tastes of more than 1,000 older adults. We received publications covering such topics as history, art, architecture,



food and current events. "Many were elegant magazines about decorating, developing culinary skills and poetry," said Josephine Chaparro, co-chair of the Magazine Drive initiative. "We even received a vintage Elvis Presley magazine."

(photo: Edgewater Villagers who sorted magazines at the library are, from left, Ginger, Aleene, Joanne, Betsy, Katy, Neena and Gerhard.)

Two facilities that received magazines are intergenerational ones. With only a few donated magazines for children, we discussed which would be appropriate for them. But that concern was alleviated on the last day of the magazine drive.

Katy Linehan, co-director of the initiative and adult services librarian at the Edgewater Branch library, explained what happened. "We had Smithsonian and National Geographic magazines which are appropriate for older children and young adults," she said, "but were at a loss as to what to offer younger children.

"Just as we were looking around the stacks of magazines we had sorted at the library, in walks a long-time Edgewater Villager with four bags filled with 63 children's' books that were perfect for younger readers. It couldn't have happened at a more opportune time," Katy said. Since then, more children's books were donated and will be delivered to clients of Care for Real and New Interim Family Shelter and residents of Nathalie Salmon House.

While residents will enjoy reading and sharing magazines, they'll also use them for creative projects. Mary Claussen, administrator, All American Nursing Home, reported that Activities Director Shawn Gordan "loved the donations" and expects to use some of them for arts and crafts projects.

Debra Northey, manager at Edgewater Satellite Senior Center, said her assistant, Cheri, plans to use some of the magazines for collages and vision boards this fall. All activities directors who received magazines also were sent internet links to videos and craft projects. *(Senior center staff and a visitor are, from left, Joan, Cheri, Juan and Ferrede.)*

“We’re so appreciative of the community’s response to our magazine drive and the volunteers who unpacked, sorted and delivered the magazines,” said Ginger Williams, executive director of Edgewater Village Chicago. “We know the magazines will entertain, educate and be a source of pleasure for our neighbors for a long time.”



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