



Then and Now

Stillwater Community Center: It belongs to everyone.

As a college town, Stillwater is a diverse community. That's one of the reasons the Stillwater Community Center works so well for so many groups within and around this community.

The community center is accessible and affordable for the people who live here. And, it is smack dab in the middle of the cultural district of Stillwater.

Used most every day and night of the week, the community center is home to activities that keep people in Stillwater and/or bring them to Stillwater.

But, most people don't realize how the community center is used every day of the week.

Did you know that from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016 there were 1,604 events at the SCC with 138,807 people who participated in some way there? According to data, this has been going on since well before 2001 with more than 100,000 "users" every year. Add that up!

How is this possible?

The SCC is used for such things as meetings, concerts, conferences, parties, reunions, weddings, receptions, training, live performances, recitals, art exhibits, dances, meeting place for civic organizations, church, breakfasts, luncheons, dinners, daily lunch for senior citizens, and even funeral services.

Since 2001 community members, led by the Stillwater Community Center Foundation, have shown they care about the SCC by contributing money to replace the 832 hard-backed and hard bottomed seats installed in 1954 for a school with 710 comfortable, large chairs, staggered seating designed for a theater. Many of the seats were donated in honor or memory of a loved one, indicated by an engraved brass nameplate.

In 2004, thanks to a generous donation of \$500,000 from Robert and Marion Lowry, the west wing was renovated and the lovely Lowry Activity Center is now a popular spot for events.

The Stillwater Singers raised enough money to purchase for the SCC's use

- 2004: Marking the group's 10th anniversary, state of the art risers for performing groups - \$5,000.
- 2006-08: A beautiful, new grand piano - \$25,000.
- 2008: A digital piano - \$3-\$4000.

That's consistent evidence that Stillwater needs and vigorously uses this gathering, multiuse performance center. And, at only half its true capacity since the second floor is unusable. At least for now.

Admittedly, the facility looks unloved from the outside and the heavily-used first floor needs work.

And, then there's the second floor.

So, the Friends of Stillwater Community Center, Inc. have a wish list. And, the group is open to people who are interested in joining the ranks, befriending the SCC.

That is what the community center is about.

It belongs to everyone.



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Ann C. Houston is a longtime supporter of the Stillwater Community Center and member of the Stillwater Community Center Foundation.

The Stillwater Community Center Foundation and the Friends of Stillwater Community Center strive to provide supplemental resources for the Stillwater Community Center to ensure its accessibility, affordability and sustainability for its use by residents and visitors of Stillwater and surrounding area. Visit www.sccfriends.com for more information.

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