



TAHOE DONNER GIVING FUND SUPPORTING SIERRA SENIOR SERVICES, KEEPING OUR SENIORS SAFE



DELIVERING MEALS AND MORE

Every week, hundreds of local seniors open the door to a warm smile, a wellness check-in and a hot, healthy meal – delivered by the staff and volunteers of Sierra Senior Services. With seven routes stretching from Kings Beach to Incline Village and beyond, this vital service provides far more than nourishment. For many, it's a lifeline of connection, care and dignity.

Since 2001, Sierra Senior Services has been the only organization in our region providing consistent, home-delivered meals to adults over 60 who are unable to shop or cook for themselves. Meals are prepared from scratch in their Truckee-based kitchen and tailored to a range of dietary needs – even blended if necessary. In winter months, volunteers brave snowy roads to ensure no one is left without support. The team also prepares shelf-stable kits in case weather conditions cut off access.

HELPING TO MEET INCREASING NEEDS

Last year alone, Sierra Senior Services delivered more than **43,000 meals**. With demand continuing to rise, the organization is in the process of adding two new routes, and their kitchen just hit capacity – they are actively seeking a larger space to help them serve more seniors throughout the region.

The Tahoe Donner Giving Fund has proudly supported Sierra Senior Services in **seven of our ten grantmaking years**. Our funding has helped them purchase commercial kitchen equipment, expand delivery capacity and meet growing community needs. We support

them not only for the meals they provide but also for the human connection they deliver with each one.

MAKING A LIFE-CHANGING DIFFERENCE

Their work is full of quiet, everyday wins, but sometimes, the difference they make is nothing short of life-changing. A community member who joined the program in August 2024 was living alone, struggling to get out of bed and often called the team in distress – confused, disoriented and hungry. Staff quickly realized they were his only reliable source of food. They increased his meal deliveries and checked in regularly. Slowly, he began to stabilize. Today, he's up every morning, dressed and ready to greet the volunteers. He no longer calls in crisis. "He could have gotten lost in our community and ended up in a very bad state," said Executive Director Vivian Ruiz. "Because we checked in on him, he's in a much better place."

Vivian joined the organization earlier this year, bringing with her more than 20 years of experience in health care and nonprofit leadership. As a new leader, she brings a fresh vision and deep commitment to helping seniors age in place with dignity. Her thoughtful, community-focused approach is already energizing the team and building momentum for the future.

GIVING TOGETHER, SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

For many of us in Tahoe Donner – whether we're retirees ourselves, caring for aging loved ones or simply looking ahead – this mission hits close to home. Your continued support of the Tahoe Donner Giving Fund helps us invest each year in incredible local organizations like Sierra Senior Services.

The Tahoe Donner Giving Fund Committee is chartered by the Tahoe Donner Board of Directors to carry out the mission of the Tahoe Donner Giving Fund: to inspire generosity and charitable giving among Tahoe Donner members in order to support deserving programs and youth in the greater Truckee community. The Tahoe Donner Giving Fund is administered as an affiliate fund of the Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, EIN 68-0416404. All contributions are voluntary, irrevocable, and are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Tahoe Donner Giving Fund grants and scholarships are made through the Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation's annual review process. The Tahoe Donner Giving Fund Committee thanks our founding partner, Elements Mountain Company, who has supported the Tahoe Donner Giving Fund since its inception in 2014, and the anonymous Tahoe Donner member who has generously funded the IMPACT Scholarships each year since 2019.

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