

November 15, 2019

Erik Gaikowski

State Director

5101 S. Nevada Ave. | Suite 150 | Sioux Falls, SD 57108

Dear Mr. Gaikowski

On behalf of the City of Milbank in Grant County, we are excited about the opportunity to join with AARP South Dakota and the World Health Organization (WHO) to become an Age – Friendly Community. Milbank is committed to making our community age friendly and promoting policies friendly to an aging population. Grant County has a population of 7300 of which Milbank is more than half of those numbers 20 % of our population is 60+ years of age.

In 2018 Grant County was recognized as the Healthiest County in the State. We realize the importance of a healthy lifestyle not just for seniors but for attracting and keeping citizens.

In 2018/2019 we created our own Index "Milbank Index" our intent was to engage the citizens of the community in defining what a thriving community looked like. Milbank Index pillars match up closely with the Livability Index created by AARP. As a participant we will focus on these areas in our Milbank Index .

We identified;

- **Community Connection & Engagement**

Indicator 1: Establish a 'Give 10' volunteer program that encourages adult residents to commit 10 hours annually to the community (equivalent to high school sophomores.)

Indicator 2: Establish a community "Day of Giving" to celebrate existing programs & encourage giving time and resources in community.

- **Health & Health Care**

Indicator 1: Identify opportunities to engage doctors and medical professionals in the community.

Indicator 2: Create a "Neighbor Check" program for seniors that would benefit from contacts and connection.

Indicator 3: Work with the hospital to grow the regional footprint for hospital services.

Indicator 4: Commit to becoming a 'healthy lifestyle' community

- **Park, Recreation & Outdoor Amenities**

Indicator 1: Increase membership and usage of Unity Square.

Indicator 2: Increase community usage of parks.

Indicator 3: Increase participation in Parks & Recreation programming.

Indicator 4: 'Own the diamond' regionally.

As a participant in the national network of communities, it the intent of the City of Milbank to continue to bring focus to these areas that we have identified to improve the overall livability of the community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pat Raffety". The signature is stylized with a large initial "P" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Pat Raffety,
Mayor