Prescription costs plague Kirksville’s senior citizens

"I can’t get the medicine I need. I just got out of the hospital and I can’t cook and I need to get something to eat before winter comes."  

79-year-old Betty Miller

"It’s a matter of pride, for one thing," said Georgia Bergmeier, 79, of Kirksville. "Bills are just so high and it’s hard to make ends meet. People over 65 do it, " Bergmeier said. "They make up 16 percent of the city population and many have disabilities."

The Missouri SenioRx program, which began in July, is something the Louisiana Residential Care Program had needed for a long time, according to its director, Carol Windtberg.

Windtberg said that while these services are not based on income, other organizations do funciton this way. The Missouri Department of Aging provides income assistance to people who may have to make the choice of paying for their prescriptions or their utilities, according to Windtberg.

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