

**Washtenaw County Blueprint for Aging  
Year 2 Initiative Progress by Month  
July 2007**

**Aging in Place Initiative**

*FANG-Blueprint for Aging Pilot Projects-Rachel*

- Community Volunteers
  - Volunteers from each of the four pilot neighborhoods met with Blueprint staff to give updates and receive support as needed (for example, assistance making business cards with the BFA logo). FANG members offered their expertise to Community Volunteers in a variety of ways including speaking on a certain topic at neighborhood meetings.
  - Al Feldt, FANG member, is moving forward with efforts to start a neighborhood-based services cooperative (to benefit people of all ages, but inspired by models to help seniors age in place)
  - FANG welcomed two new members who are interested in starting a similar neighborhood network in the Fox Hills and Valley Ranch neighborhood in Ann Arbor
- Transportation Voucher Pilot Project-Rachel
  - The pilot project began on July 1 and continues to run fairly smoothly. Although entering data from travel vouchers and providing individualized assistance to users require much staff time, many participants are pleased to find actual use of vouchers quite simple.
- Rachel Dewees and Al Feldt, FANG member, conducted a mini-course, *Aging in Place in Neighborhoods* at University of Michigan's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. Attendees learned about models of neighborhood organization that help seniors stay in their homes as long as possible. Models discussed included the nationally known Beacon Hill Village, ShareCare of Leelanau County, and Blueprint for Aging's Community Volunteers pilot project, as well as the menu of local agency-based services. Having shared impressions and ideas about aging in place in their respective neighborhoods, participants expressed a desire to create a forum in which these issues can be discussed on a regular and informal basis.

*Japanese Dementia Program Exchange*

The Blueprint for Aging is a partner in a U.S. - Japan international collaborative exchange, *Improving Quality of Care for People with Dementia and Their Caregivers: An Exchange of Grass Roots Programs That Work*, created by Ruth Campbell, former CLT member. Staff attended planning meetings and discussions to prepare for the first phase of this project, a visit from the Japanese delegation of physicians and social workers who will attend a week of events in Ann Arbor in late August. The Blueprint for Aging will host an event highlighting our collaborative partnership as well as participate in a poster session describing local efforts to support family caregivers. The project will have a second phase that includes a visit to Japan by local practitioners.

## **Senior Leadership Initiative**

### *Senior Advocates of Washtenaw*

The Senior Advocates participated in a resource and information fair at Carpenter Place on July 30. The group took the month off from meetings to allow for members' vacation schedules. Meetings and presentations will resume in August.

## **Foundation Building Initiative**

### *Core Leadership Team*

After a year of working together collaboratively, members are considering what additional voices and interests should be represented in the Core Leadership Team. Members continue to work with evaluator, Sue Ann Savas, to determine impact of Blueprint initiatives and future priorities.

### *Community Awareness and Education*

An edition of Blueprint for Aging's email newsletter *Blueprint Highlights* was mailed to partners and to our public email list. Core Leadership members received folding business cards imprinted with Blueprint logo and talking points to enhance their discussion of Blueprint for Aging initiatives in the community. Members of the Community Awareness committee presented their plan for a CLT speakers' bureau at the July Core Leadership Committee meeting. Additional presentation tools and venues will be developed.