

**Blueprint Highlights**  
**By Project Initiative -- October 2006**

**Foundation Building**

- The Blueprint for Aging received a video message from Senator Debbie Stabenow congratulating Washtenaw County and the Blueprint partnership for receipt of Robert Wood Johnson Foundation funding, for the county's initiatives in long term care system change, and for the strength of the partnership.
- At the Blueprint for Aging's first Positive Aging event on October 6, community members gathered to celebrate the award of Robert Wood Johnson Foundation four-year funding. Frank Cambia, the new Core Leadership Chair gave the keynote address. Blueprint partners introduced four positive attitudes for aging: an attitude of Collaboration, an attitude of Leadership, an attitude of Discovery, and an attitude of Innovation. Community members were introduced to Blueprint initiatives with pathways for their participation.
- Blueprint director, Jill Kind and project manager, Virginia Boyce attended a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation communications conference in Annapolis, Maryland. Conducted by Spitfire Strategies, the conference covered aspects of moving a project communication plan from planning stage to implementation.
- The Blueprint hosted a monthly meeting of Senior Leaders of Washtenaw, representatives from for-profit and non-profit organizations that serve older adults. Blueprint staff gave a presentation on the Blueprint strategic plan along with ways attendees could become involved.
- Blueprint staff attended an Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti Community Reads planning meeting to discuss possible book selections. This and other partnering opportunities were discussed with Ann Arbor Library Outreach Services.
- Blueprint for Aging information was distributed at the Milan Senior Center Health Fair. The Center was a site that held a community forum during the Blueprint planning phase.

**Senior Leadership**

- SAW- Senior Advocates of Washtenaw meeting. AARP's Andy Farmer presented. He discussed his group's current advocacy efforts on state and national levels with particular emphasis on pending legislation (HB 5389) to expand the MI Choice Waiver Program and Adult Home Health Program.

## **Technology Innovation**

- Blueprint Technology Group- Decision Tree Committee met October 31 to continue work on a web-based tool to enhance access to community resources for older adults.

## **Aging in Place Initiative**

- Saturday, October 28, Blueprint Project Manager appeared on WAAM Radio's Ted Heusel show to discuss Blueprint initiatives that support aging in place, the focus of this week's Aging in Place conference sponsored by Blueprint partner, the Housing Bureau for Seniors. The Blueprint for Aging was a sponsor of the conference; staff attended conference sessions to distribute Blueprint information.
- Ann Arbor Community Access television aired a Soapbox spot describing Blueprint initiatives and its sponsorship of the Aging in Place Conference.
- The Friendly Aging Neighborhood Group (FANG) met to review submitted proposals and make final selection on neighborhood to participate in the Community Volunteers Pilot Project. Neighborhoods chosen are West Willow in Ypsilanti, Spring-Books-Summit in Ann Arbor, Webster Church of Christ-rural northeast Washtenaw County, and Lincoln School District. A subcommittee of FANG met to begin planning for orienting and training the Community Volunteers.