

**Washtenaw County Blueprint for Aging
Year 3 Initiative Progress
July and August 2008**

Aging in Place Initiative

Community Volunteers Pilot Project:

Organizing Community Volunteers to Enhance Aging-Friendly Neighborhood: A guide for communities interested in organizing support for elderly residents, with lessons learned from this pilot project has been sent to a local printer for design and layout work. The guide will be available on the Blueprint website shortly.

Transportation Voucher Pilot Project:

The Workgroup met in July and August to continue work on the transportation pilot project. A logic model and time line were established (with the pilot slated to begin Jan 1, 2009), and parameters of the pilot solidified. Staff started the process of renewing contracts with most of the formal providers used in Phase I of the pilot and securing participation confirmation from sites (six senior centers and 5 medical clinics serving seniors). Work was done on project materials including data collection tools.

Neighborhood Organization Support-Village Model

The Village Model workgroup will continue organizing community brown bag discussions. The current focus is getting discussions started in Ypsilanti and Northfield Township, and outreach is in progress in these areas.

Staff met with the services coordinator of Carpenter Place. The residents' council there has expressed interest in self-organizing to help each other out with issues such as transportation, wellness check-ins, etc. Blueprint staff arranged to meet with residents for an informal tea on Sept. 5 and a more formal presentation and village model discussion (if the tea indicates interest) on October 24.

Staff has collected information on additional neighborhood-organized aging in place models around the country in order to add to the organizing resources the Blueprint currently offers interested neighborhood groups.

Senior Leadership Initiative

Volunteer Washtenaw... *What else are you doing this week? Publicity developments*

Publicity is being developed for the upcoming VolunteerWashtenaw.org website. Ads will feature a photograph of a prominent local Baby Boomer enjoying a favorite leisure activity, with the slogan, "What else are you doing this week?" the web address VolunteerWashtenaw.org where BFA partner volunteer opportunities are listed. BFA has identified a photographer who will begin photo shoots with CLT members and partners in September.

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Technology Innovation Initiative

AAACF Technology Planning Grant

The United Way expansion funding planning grant has provided the technology committee with a starting point for data management. The committee is committed to an approach where agency staff are not required to learn and implement all new data forms and entry. Initial steps require each involved agency to submit a list of issues and interventions that are typically employed to assist seniors. The committee will submit the follow-up implementation grant in the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation February funding cycle.

Volunteer Washtenaw - website development

Larry Cohn is currently developing the VolunteerWashtenaw.org website. He has trained Blueprint staff to manage the site. Staff has prepared training information and materials for partner agencies who will be listing volunteer opportunities that support older adults on the site.

Foundation Building Initiative

Core Leadership Team Meeting –

The July Core Leadership meeting was devoted to discussion and endorsement of the Blueprint for Aging's role and the process for allocation of United Way Aging in Place expansion funds to support older adult services. The plan received support by Core Leadership for its submission to United Way. Participating agencies currently include Neighborhood Senior Services, Housing Bureau for Seniors, Catholic Social Services, Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels, Washtenaw Association for Community Advocacy, Turner Geriatric Clinic and Jewish Family Services.

Washtenaw County Senior Data Book

The Senior Data Book Workgroup met in August. Work continues to create a book of data that describes Washtenaw County's older adult population. A draft of the product will be presented at the September Core Leadership Team meeting.

Washtenaw County Senior Centers

This workgroup is in the final phase of developing pages on the Blueprint for Aging website that describe each center with services offered, transportation options, a map and link to the center website. Additional information includes a directory of all centers and a common calendar for special events. Center Directors will have access to information on local population trends and the changing face of senior centers in response to these demographics.

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United Way – presentation July 16

Larry Voight, Barbara Penrod, Ingrid Sheldon and Jill Kind presented the Aging in Place Intensive Intervention Model to a panel of United Way volunteers. The model embraces a collaborative, wrap around approach to meet the multiple needs of seniors who are at severe risk of losing their ability to be self-sufficient. This is a fee for service approach that utilizes United Way funds to pay for the specific needs of a senior in crisis.

Community Awareness, Education and Events

The Blueprint continued to collaborate with Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum and local Licensed Funeral Director and lecturer at Wayne State University, Erika Nelson, MSW in presenting two lectures to the community scheduled for two evenings in late September (details on website). Partners developed promotional materials (including press release, flyer, website pages) and began publicizing *After You're Gone: Earth and Family Friend Funerals and Burials* in August.

BFA Branding and Publicity

- BFA now has a part time staff person who is responsible for updates and innovations to the Blueprint for Aging website.
- Artist and friend of the Blueprint for Aging, Bill Burgard has created a new version of the BFA logo for letterhead and other publicity uses.