



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: (June 3, 2005)**

Contact: Dana Bright, MSW  
Catholic Social Services  
734/712-3625  
[dbright@csswashtenaw.org](mailto:dbright@csswashtenaw.org)

***Washtenaw County Prepares for Massive Growth in Aging Population***

Chelsea, MI - Families and communities in Michigan will face enormous pressure in the next few decades as the number of residents over the age of 65 skyrockets. In response to this, The Blueprint for Aging -- a group of consumers and Washtenaw County human service providers and governmental agencies -- will host a Town Hall Meeting to discuss plans and strategies to meet the demands of Washtenaw County's rapidly growing older adult population on Wednesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to noon at Pierce Lake Elementary School in Chelsea, Michigan. Open to the public, the event will include a keynote address by Bill Healy, President and CEO of United Methodist Retirement Communities. Refreshments will be provided. Registration is not necessary.

The mandate of the Blueprint on Aging is clear. Families and communities alike will face enormous pressure as the number of residents over age 65 skyrockets in the next few decades. The Blueprint for Aging is preparing for the increased demands by developing strategies that will produce accessible programs and services for older adults and their caregivers, such as "programs on wheels" and a 24-hour helpline for caregivers.

The Blueprint for Aging's mission is to build community with healthy, independent, and honored seniors. Through a collaborative planning process, the group of more than 40 organizations will continue to host events like the Town Hall Meeting at Pierce Lake Elementary School throughout the next year.

The Blueprint for Aging is an integral part of Community Partnerships for Older Adults (CPFOA) — a national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Its vision for the future is one where all citizens recognize themselves as stakeholders in the care of older persons and are more actively engaged and outspoken in promoting and supporting programs for these residents.

###