



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 17, 2006

Contact: Rachel Dewees, MSW
Administrative Coordinator
Catholic Social Services
Phone: 734.712.3625
Email: rdewees@csswashtenaw.org

**BLUEPRINT FOR AGING AND LEARNING IN RETIREMENT TO CO-SPONSOR
MINI COURSE**

Ann Arbor, Michigan – The word from the community is clear. Older adults want to be their own advocates when it comes to their own long-term care needs. In response to this, the Blueprint for Aging – a large group of community residents and county human service providers and government agencies – is partnering for the first time with Learning in Retirement to co-sponsor a mini course entitled, “Raising a Public Voice for Long-Term Care Reform.” This Mini Course will allow participants to study issues in depth, formulate solutions, and develop and initiate actions to promote their solutions. Specifically, the course will overview how and why we have a crisis in long-term care, public policy and programs driving our current system, reform efforts, and advocacy opportunities locally and in Lansing. This six-week course will run each Wednesday from May 17th to June 21st at the Turner Senior Resource Center from 4:00 – 5:30 pm. Course fee is \$15. Scholarships are available. Space is limited. To register, contact Learning in Retirement, 2401 Plymouth Rd, Suite C, Ann Arbor at 734-998-9351.

The Blueprint for Aging is a partnership of consumers, public, private, nonprofit agencies, and funders who are engaging the county in a planning process in response to the concerns and expectations of older adults. The Blueprint for Aging is an integral part of Community Partnerships for Older Adults (CPFOA) – a national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, one of 11 projects nationwide selected from a field of 486 applicants to receive a planning grant in 2004. The Blueprint for Aging is endorsed by the Washtenaw County Human Services Community Collaborative and has received major support from the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation. For more information about the Blueprint for Aging, contact Rachel Dewees at 734.712.3625 or rdewees@csswashtenaw.org.

###