



Blueprint for Aging  
*Start a Revolution: Age with Attitude*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 1, 2007**

## **Senior Summit Brings Legislators and Seniors Together to Discuss Senior Issues**

Seniors Encouraged to Have a Voice in Public Policy Debates

Ann Arbor, MI – The Blueprint for Aging and the Senior Advocates of Washtenaw will host the second annual Senior Summit on Friday, November 16, from 10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. at the Ypsilanti District Library, 5577 Whittaker Rd. Washtenaw County seniors are invited to attend this day devoted to senior issues and including discussions with legislators, their representatives, and other older adults. State representatives Pam Byrnes, Rebekah Warren, and Alma Wheeler Smith plan to attend. Federal legislators John Dingell, Carl Levin, and Debbie Stabenow will either attend or send a representative from their offices.

“The whole idea is to give people an opportunity to speak,” says Josh Ard, Chair of the Senior Advocates of Washtenaw Planning and Legislation Committee. “We’re not here to talk for people; we’re trying to get people to speak for themselves.” The event will include time for state and federal legislators to address attendees, but also an opportunity for seniors to ask questions of their representatives and to discuss the issues they care about most with other seniors. Attendees will also learn about ways to get involved in public policy.

The Blueprint for Aging is a collaborative of seniors, family members, and government, non-profit, and for-profit organizations working together to build community and improve quality of life for older adults in Washtenaw County. The Blueprint is supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation through its Community Partnerships for Older Adults national initiative (CPFOA). CPFOA helps communities develop leadership, innovative solutions, and options to meet the needs of older adults over the long term.

The Senior Summit is part of the Housing Bureau for Seniors Aging in Place Conference, and special attention will be given to housing, transportation, long-term care, and services to help seniors stay in their homes and in the community. Members of the Senior Advocates of Washtenaw hope to educate themselves and other seniors on what legislators can do to benefit older adults. “We’d like to know what’s really possible for legislators to do for us in today’s climate,” says Flora Burke. “What is possible to accomplish and how can we support it being accomplished?”

The Senior Advocates of Washtenaw is a nonpartisan group led by older adults. It works to organize and educate seniors, giving them the tools they need to make informed decisions and to advocate on public policy issues that affect their lives. For more information about the Senior Advocates of Washtenaw, call 734-712-0548 or email [senioradvocates@gmail.com](mailto:senioradvocates@gmail.com).

For information about other events during the Aging in Place Conference (November 12-20, 2007) or to register for the Senior Summit, contact the Housing Bureau for Seniors at 734-998-9336, [www.med.umich.edu/seniors](http://www.med.umich.edu/seniors).

**# # #**

**For more information, contact:**

**Jean Borger  
Communications and Advocacy Manager  
Blueprint for Aging  
Catholic Social Services  
5361 McAuley Drive  
PO Box 995  
Ann Arbor, MI 48106  
Daytime Phone: 734 712-0548  
Evening Phone: 734 945-9309  
Email: [jborger@csswashtenaw.org](mailto:jborger@csswashtenaw.org)**