

Good Neighbor News of Georgia

Helping Older Georgians Age Successfully at Home



A Publication of the Georgia Department of Human Resources Division of Aging Services
Maria Greene, Director

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Welcome to **Good Neighbor News of Georgia**, a networking resource for professionals and volunteers who help older adults maintain homes and neighborhood environments that are healthy, safe, affordable, and accessible. We focus on practical information to help nonprofits and civic groups, public agencies, faith communities, and caring companies increase their community impact and successfully collaborate to meet the needs of older homeowners.

What works for you? Each issue of **Good Neighbor News** features a success story from the field – practical programs and volunteer projects that others can replicate in their communities. To submit topic suggestions, training announcements, resource development items, or other information for the September-October issue, write or call us, c/o chdunn@dhr.ga.gov / 404-657-8756, by Aug. 15, 2008.

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Spotlight on Savannah

America is abuzz about Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORCs). In the first of a bonus NORC series, learn about creative ways to help older adults connect with their neighbors, maximize service resources, and access needed support right where they live. The July-August issue features an introduction to Georgia's NORC program and the story of "Summer Angels," a practical service project linking Savannah elders and middle-school students.

Summer Angels Intergenerational Program – A NORC Model

By Deborah Akstein Kahan, Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta

Seniors are the fastest growing demographic segment in the United States. This rise in the number of Americans over the age of 60 is a particularly pronounced trend in the Savannah area, where there are several retirement communities, as well as neighborhoods in which large numbers of residents have aged in place. One such Savannah neighborhood is Ardsley Park, one of two "Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities" or NORCs outside the metro-Atlanta area.

A Naturally Occurring Retirement Community (NORC) is the most common form of retirement community in the United States – it includes any geographic area where there is a large concentration of older adults. By targeting these communities in Georgia, the Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta (JFGA) has helped create six NORC sites and is the umbrella organization of the Georgia NORC Initiative. This initiative helps seniors to remain at home for as long as possible and strengthens the community's capacity to support them in this process.

(Story continued on page 3)



Resource Development

▣ Courses for Georgia Nonprofits ▶

The Georgia Center for Nonprofits' Nonprofit University offers dozens of workshops on topics such as major gift campaigns, board management, financial reporting and analysis, volunteer coordination, and more. Most courses are \$125 for members and \$150 for non-members, and sessions are held in locations throughout Georgia. Visit <http://www.gcn.org/Services/NonprofitUniversity.aspx>.

▣ Georgia E-List for HUD Supportive Housing Programs ▶

Stay informed about funding opportunities and training related to HUD supportive housing for older adults (Section 202) and people with disabilities (Section 811). Learn more about Supportive Housing for the Elderly at this link: <http://www.hud.gov/offices/hsg/mfh/progdesc/eld202.cfm>
To join the announcement list, write Carol Bullard at Carol.C.Bullard@hud.gov or call 678-732-2700.

▣ Resources for Securing Corporate Support ▶

What's the difference between a corporate giving program and a corporate foundation? Should you present your funding opportunity to a community relations director or to a marketing director? What kinds of stories, statistics, and packaging will you need to make your project attractive to businesses? Explore the world of corporate support through the guides, fact sheets, and lists linked below:

Foundation Center: Corporate Giving FAQ

http://foundationcenter.org/getstarted/faqs/html/corporate_giving.html

Idealist.org: Nine-Step Guide for Soliciting Corporate Sponsors

<http://www.idealist.org/if/idealist/en/FAQ/QuestionViewer/default?section=17&item=28>

The Grantsmanship Center: Corporate Giving Programs in Georgia

<http://www.tgci.com/funding/cgps.asp?statername=Georgia&statecode=GA>

Atlanta Journal Constitution - Top 100 Georgia Companies (Free AJC registration required):

Click on the chart's "Revenue" column to rank public companies by earnings.

http://www.ajc.com/business/content/business/georgia_100/stories/2008/05/21/top_georgia_companies_chart.html



Training and Networking Opportunities

▣ Multigenerational Communities for Healthy Aging – Sept 29-30 ▶

Georgia Tech's Center for Healthy Aging in the Built Environment and Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta present "Multigenerational Communities for Healthy Aging Symposium: Trends and Innovation in Community, Housing and Seniors Housing." The event will be held Sept. 29-30 at the Federal Reserve Bank Building, 1000 Peachtree Street NE, Atlanta, 30309. Registration is \$195 (After Aug. 30: \$245). The optional Decatur tour is \$15, which includes round-trip Marta travel and lunch.

Don't miss these key topics: home designs and technologies for aging-in-place; addressing healthy aging in community development; trends and innovations in community design and development; approaches to multigenerational, mixed-income development; the challenge of chronic disease and disabilities for community development; a walking tour of nearby Decatur, and more.

The event is excellent for municipal leaders, community developers, financial institutions, healthcare and aging advocates, and everyone who cares about creating vibrant, livable communities for all ages. To join the e-blast list and receive additional details, write Jennifer Freeman of Georgia Tech at Jennifer.freeman@innovate.gatech.edu or call 404-894-4904.

■ Volunteer-Based Senior Transportation Projects ►

Interested in starting a volunteer driver program or a similar grassroots transportation initiative in your community? Visit the STP Exchange – Supplemental Transportation Programs for seniors – to access how-to guides, research, and networking forums for organizations that seek to supplement existing formal transportation in their communities with creative, volunteer-based services. Organizations can join the STP exchange for free to participate in dialogue and access tools such as the Volunteer Driver TurnKey Kit, which includes sections on planning, implementation, evaluation, and volunteer mobilization. The STP Exchange is a joint project of the Beverly Foundation, the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, and the Independent Living Partnership. To learn more, visit www.stpexchange.org.

MORE ► For research and ideas focused on the unique needs of rural communities, read: *Transportation Innovations for Seniors: A Synopsis of Findings in Rural America* (2006)

http://web1.ctaa.org/webmodules/webarticles/articlefiles/Senior_Rural_Innovations.pdf

Prepared by the Community Transportation Association of America and the Beverly Foundation



Information Sources



■ Community Tool Box – How-To Guides for Organizers ►

The Community Tool Box, developed by the University of Kansas, is a free one-stop-shop for organizers devoted to community health and development projects. Browse through the site to find practical, detailed instructions related to fundraising, volunteer recruitment, asset mapping, financial management, media advocacy, and more. Visit <http://ctb.ku.edu/en/Default.htm>.

■ Tools for Life - Assistive Technology and Assessment ►

Contact Tools for Life to learn about Assistive Technology Resource Centers where Georgians with disabilities can examine and experiment with assistive technology products and explore local resources. Centers in Atlanta, Augusta, Macon, and Conyers serve families throughout the state. For more information and to join the Tools for Life program announcement list, call 1-800-497-8665 or visit www.gatfl.org.

■ DCA Seeks Public Comments on Fair Housing Choice ►

The Georgia Department of Community Affairs requests public comment on the State's Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice draft document, which covers fiscal years 2008 through 2012. Copies are available at www.dca.state.ga.us/housing/homeownership/programs/downloads/AIFinal_03.pdf. You may also obtain the draft by contacting DCA's Lolita Collins at 404-679-5293, 1-800-736-1155 (TDD), or lcollins@dca.state.ga.us. Comments are due on or before July 14 at 5:00 p.m.



Spotlight on Savannah, cont.

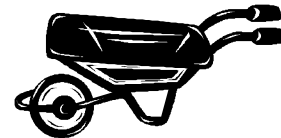
Summer Angels Intergenerational Program – A NORC Model



Continued from page 1

Beginning in September 2003, the Georgia NORC Initiative has grown from two NORC sites to six and now serves almost 3,000 older adults. The NORC builds on entities that already exist – lead partners that know how to provide community based services, seniors themselves, businesses, and nonprofits. One such partner is Senior Citizens, Inc. (SCI), which oversees and manages the Ardsley Park NORC in Savannah.

Although Ardsley Park is a desirable neighborhood for in-town living, many of its seniors, having aged in place, are **“house-rich but cash-poor,”** and are in need of free or reasonably-priced services which they can no longer provide for themselves. Beyond issues of financial need and physical ability, loneliness and social isolation are perennial problems for seniors, no matter what their individual living situations.



In 2006, SCI developed and executed a program to address both the tangible and psychological needs of local seniors. **The program matched middle-grade students from two Savannah schools with seniors at various levels of need and in a variety of living situations.** Under the direction of a staff person (a teacher on summer break), participating students and over one hundred seniors engaged in more than 1,000 hours of programming that met the needs of the seniors *and* provided a life-changing experience for the young people as well. The project, entitled the Summer Angels Intergenerational Program, was amazingly successful. The program is now in its third successful year.

Scores of Savannah-area seniors in a wide variety of living situations are served through the Summer Angels Intergenerational Program. These seniors include homeowners who have reached



a point of inability to care for their own homes and lawns. Also included are seniors who live in their own homes, or in the homes of loved ones where assistance is provided, but who, because of Alzheimer’s or other dementia-inducing medical conditions, are in need of care during daytime hours while their caregivers work regular jobs or claim much needed respite. Finally, Summer Angels Program youth participants visit various nursing homes where they provide entertainment, companionship, and other services to residents. Therefore, a significant benefit of the Summer Angels Program is the large variety of seniors it serves.

The results of the 2006 Summer Angels Intergenerational Program far exceeded expectations.

At the start of the summer, eight tentative—and in some instances even sullen—young people between the ages of twelve and fourteen arrived at SCI headquarters to begin their five-week commitment to serving seniors. Their summer itineraries included yard work for senior clients on a weekly basis, home delivery of meals on wheels, frequent craft projects and sing-along sessions at SCI’s adult day care center for Alzheimer’s patients, and numerous scheduled visits to local nursing homes.

In every case, the seniors who were the focus of the young people’s work and attention benefited in both literal and intangible ways. **The young people executed chores for their assigned seniors which would otherwise have been achieved only at great cost to the seniors, or would have been left undone.** Alzheimer’s patients began to look forward to each visit from the young people. Nursing home patients, often neglected or ignored by their families, enjoyed a summer of lavish attention from this group of dedicated young people.



In addition to all of the benefits enjoyed by clients through this project, the young people themselves were utterly transformed by their association with the seniors they served. All of them reported significant changes in their perception of the elderly, as well as a brand new service ethic that forever altered their view of civic responsibility and their duty to serve the community. Subsequent programs have enjoyed the same positive outcomes, and **there is now a waiting list for youth participants in the program.**

The Summer Angels Intergenerational Program has become a staple item in the array of services offered by SCI through its NORC designation and grant funding. Savannah’s seniors have grown accustomed to the program, which receives yearly attention from local media (**the Angels have been named “Top Teens” by Savannah’s CBS-affiliated television news team for three years in a row,**

as well as from Savannah's Mayor and the City Council of Savannah, members of which have attended all end-of-summer recognition ceremonies. It is difficult now for SCI or the seniors it serves to envision a summer without the Angels.



Make it work in your community ► For more information on the Summer Angels Program, please contact Roger Smith, Director of Community Outreach at Senior Citizens, Inc. at 912-236-0363. For more information on the Georgia NORC Initiative, contact Deborah Kahan, NORC Project Director at the Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta at 404-870-1624 or visit www.ShalomAtlanta.org.

Learn more about NORCs ►

- United Jewish Communities - NORCS: An Aging in Place Initiative – www.norcs.com
- U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services – Supportive Services Programs in Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities - <http://aspe.hhs.gov/daltcp/Reports/NORCsspA3.htm>



Aging Services & Information

■ Georgia Senior Homeowner's Resource Guide ►

Download your copy today! Visit www.aging.dhr.georgia.gov, and click on "Publications" to the left.

■ About Georgia's Area Agencies on Aging ►

Local Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) can help individuals access information about thousands of resources throughout Georgia in service areas such as housing, meals, transportation, home-based assistance, and more. Georgia's aging network consists of the Georgia Department of Human Resources (DHR) Division of Aging Services, the state's 12 Area Agencies on Aging, and cooperating organizations that provide services to individuals. Area Agencies on Aging meet the needs of diverse Georgians, such as those described here:

- Older adults and persons with disabilities
- Family members and caregivers of people who are older or living with a disability
- Individuals and families who are preparing in advance for long-term care needs and/or retirement needs
- Professionals in the fields of healthcare, education, social services and advocacy
- Businesses of all sizes that care about the ways in which aging, caregiving, and/or disabilities may affect their employees' daily lives
- Friends, faith communities, and volunteers who want to make a positive difference in the lives of older adults, caregivers, and/or people with disabilities

To find an AAA near you, call **1-866-55-AGING** or visit www.aging.dhr.georgia.gov. To search for an AAA by city or county, click this direct link: <http://aging.dhr.georgia.gov/portal/site/DHR-DAS/menuitem.9e91405d0e424e248e738510da1010a0/?vgnnextoid=2050984bdf80010VgnVCM100000bf01010aRCRD>



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