The Aging Network

Area Agency on Aging District 7, Inc.
Serving Adams, Brown, Gallia, Highland, Jackson, Lawrence, Pike, Ross, Scioto and Vinton Counties in Ohio

www.aaa7.org  Helping You Age Better!

SUMMER 2010

Thanks Given and Awards Presented at Annual Appreciation Brunch

Giving thanks. That was common place at this year's Area Agency on Aging District 7’s (AAA7) Appreciation Brunch, which was celebrated June 21, 2010, at the Southern Ohio Medical Center Friends Center in Portsmouth.

Throughout the special event, several individuals and groups throughout the Agency’s 10-county District were recognized for their service and dedication to not only the Agency as a whole, but more importantly, the communities and seniors served by the Agency.

Special Area Agency on Aging District 7, Inc. awards that were presented at the event to individuals or groups included:

William A. Jenkins Award
This year’s “William A. Jenkins Award” was presented to Alvin Norris, Executive Director of the Adams-Brown Economic Opportunities, Inc. (ABEOI), a community action organization serving Adams and Brown counties. The AAA7 presents the award annually to an outstanding contributor to the southern Ohio aging network.

Norris is a 1974 graduate of Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in sociology, and a 1994 graduate of the University of Dayton, where he earned a master’s degree in education.

Norris began his employment at the ABEOI in September 1974 as a social worker in the Child Development Program. In May of the following year, he was promoted to Youth Program Director before assuming the role of Manpower Director in October 1976. In 1980, Norris became the Executive Director of ABEOI, the position he continues to hold today.

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Norris’ leadership with low-income senior housing and the needs of the elderly, including a senior nutrition program and in-home services, have certainly served Adams and Brown County seniors well. The AAA7 presented this special award to Norris for his over 35 years of dedicated service to rural southern Ohio residents in the greatest social and economic need, and for his ongoing commitment to better the lives of those living in Adams and Brown Counties.

Pictured is Alvin Norris who receives his award from AAA7 Executive Director Pam Matura.

The award is named in memory of William A. Jenkins, a native of Gallia County, who helped build the aging network.

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Our Mission
Assisting individuals to maintain independence and personal choice by providing resource options and services.

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The Ombudsman Program was recognized for its hard work and dedication with “Home Choice”, a program that was designed to assist individuals when moving from a nursing home to life back in a home or community-based setting. The Home Choice program, made possible by funds from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, will enable around 2,200 Ohio seniors and persons with disabilities to experience the smoothest transition possible between their nursing home stay and return to home.

The Regional Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program, under the leadership of Kaye Inoshita, RN, was recognized at the event for their tireless work and dedication to individuals who need personalized assistance with this special transition.

Pictured are, left to right, Rex Sanders, Kaye Inoshita, Larke Recchie, Cindy Oakes, Debbie Collier, John Hogan and Pam Matura.

Partnership Award
This year’s “Partnership Award” was presented to Melanie McPeak of Edgewood Manor in Wellston, and Russ Pruitt of Pleasant Hill Manor in Piketon.

Both McPeak and Pruitt were essential partners and supporters of the AAA7’s Regional Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program and the Home Choice program, as mentioned with the Trailblazer Award.

According to Kaye Inoshita, RN, Director of the AAA7’s Regional Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program, both McPeak and Pruitt are social workers who went beyond their normal responsibilities to help residents transition back into their communities. This included assistance...

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Regional Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program has made the Home Choice program one that is making a difference in the lives of others.


Intergenerational Service Award

This year’s “Intergenerational Service Award” was presented to Brownie Troop #1926 from Minford in Scioto County.

Over the year, Brownie Troop #1926 has volunteered at a number of events to help seniors who are enrolled in the Agency’s Residential State Supplement and Assisted Living programs. The Troop delivered Easter baskets and Christmas stockings to 100 residents living in adult group homes in Lawrence County, and most recently sponsored an Ice Cream Social at Holzer Assisted Living in Jackson where one of the residents shared that although they enjoyed the ice cream very much, spending time with the girls was the real “treat.”

Troop Leader Dawn Blankenship reports that the community service projects have been the girls’ favorite. “The girls love showing others that they are cared about and through their volunteer work, are able to see firsthand that although they are young, they can still make a difference in someone else’s life,” she commented.

Pictured is, front row, left to right, Samantha Pitts, Ashley Blankenship and Brooklynn Anderson. Back row, left to right, Pam Matura, Parent Volunteer Jody Pitts, Kaitlyn Blankenship and Troop Leader Dawn Blankenship. Not pictured is Hope Caudill, Julia Lundy and Taylor Simpson.

Art Show and Essay/Poetry Contest Volunteers

Pictured is, left to right, Pam Matura, Daniel Dotson, Mary Maxson, Annabelle Miller, Irena Skaggs, Joyce Haag, Lavon Shields, Jane Bragg, Anna Summers, Betty Means, and RSVP Director Susan Rogers. Not pictured are Rita Baker, Betty Bouts, Helen Brohard, Carolyn Coon, Phyllis Fuk, Virginia Horn, Jayne Horton, Carolee Lewis, Rosemary Matthews, Rushie McAllister, Inez Miller, Bob Powell, Vickie Powell, Barbara Shelton, Phyllis Taylor, Phyllis Wade and Ruth Yates.

AAA7 Nurses Recognized

The work of America’s 3.1 million registered nurses to save lives and maintain the health of millions of individuals was the focus of this year’s National Nurses Week, celebrated annually May 6-12 throughout the United States.

This year, the American Nurses Association (ANA) selected “Nurses: Caring Today for a Healthier Tomorrow” as the theme for 2010. Annually, National Nurses Week begins on May 6, marked as RN Recognition Day, and ends on May 12, the birthday of Florence Nightingale, founder of nursing as a modern profession.

Through the Area Agency on Aging District 7, nurses cover a wide range of services to individuals in the Agency’s 10-county District which includes Adams, Brown, Gallia, Highland, Jackson, Lawrence, Pike, Ross, Scioto and Vinton.

Nurses with the AAA7 wear many different hats and take on a variety of roles including advocate, assessor, case manager, consultant, health educator, and care planning coordinator. Nurses conduct these functions for the many programs available through the Agency that provide individuals with assistance to support independent living in their own home. Nurses recommend and refer these individuals to services like personal care/homemaking, adult day care, assisted living, home repair, transportation, home-delivered meals, and client advocacy in order for them to remain safely and independently as possible in their home.

“We applaud and salute our nurses throughout our Agency during National Nurses Week in May and all throughout the year,” stated Pamela K. Matura, Executive Director for the Area Agency on Aging District 7, Inc. “Through their hard work and dedication, seniors in our region have the resources that make it possible for them to live safely and securely in their own homes.”
28th Annual Art Show Recognizes Senior Talent

The artwork of local seniors was recently showcased at the Area Agency on Aging District 7’s (AAA7) 28th Annual Senior Citizens Art Show and Essay/Poetry Contest that was held at the Esther Allen Greer Museum and Gallery, located on the campus of the University of Rio Grande in Rio Grande, Ohio.

Ohio residents age 65 or older were eligible to participate in the Art Show and Essay/Poetry Contest that was on display from June 1 through June 10, 2010. Examples of art categories that were entered in the Contest included acrylic, charcoal, counted cross stitch, mixed media, oil, pastels, pencil, and photography. Judging themes included abstract, animals and birds, cartoons, floral, landscape, portraits (humans), seascape, and still life, in addition to essays and poetry.

A special Tea to honor the artists was held on June 10 where winners were announced and recognized. Artists representing the District’s 10 counties were in attendance.

A complete list of winners is located on the Area Agency on Aging District 7’s website, www.aaa7.org.

Special recognition was given to this year’s Victor Potts Award Winner, Pat Thompson of Adams County, this year’s People’s Choice Award Winner, Rick Mitchell of Gallia County; and the 2009 Victor Potts Award Winner, Sandra Lane of Gallia County.

Older Americans Month:...continued from Page 5

Older Americans Month Proclamations in May

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Older Americans Month:...continued from Page 5

Older Americans Month Proclamations in May
AAA7 Announces New Slogan

A new slogan has been developed for the Area Agency on Aging District 7!

Why a new slogan? To help the public better identify with the Agency and understand its mission and vision. Something quick, to-the-point and memorable. The Agency’s “fight song”!

The new slogan was chosen from a number of entries that were submitted by staff throughout the Agency. In fact, 75 slogans were entered by many staff representing the four office locations.

All entries were presented to the AAA7 Management Team without the names of the staff member who submitted the slogan in order to support a fair and balanced process. It was a hard decision, but after much thought and consideration, the new slogan was decided – “Helping You Age Better.” The slogan nicely sums up the Agency’s helping nature while presenting a positive image and outlook on the aging process.

Look for “Helping You Age Better” in upcoming and future promotion, advertising, and other similar activities to help aid the AAA7 in our outreach, education and communication to our communities and public.

The Area Agency on Aging District 7

Helping You Age Better!

Senior Expo is September 10th!

After taking a year off, the Area Agency on Aging District 7 (AAA7) Senior Expo is back and set for Friday, September 10, 2010. This popular event will take place at the Scioto County Fairgrounds in Lucasville from 9:00 am until 2:00 pm. This year’s theme is “Wild, Wild West.”

In the past, the AAA7 Senior Expo has welcomed over 3,000 visitors to this one-day event that has served as a favorite throughout the district. Features at the Senior Expo include exhibit booths, free health screenings, Bingo, door prizes, live entertainment, a cake auction, food, games, and much more. The event’s program will include Dick Lucas, “The Piano Man”, from 10:00 am until 11:30 am; the Veterans Program from 11:30 am until 12 Noon; Cake Auction at 12 Noon; and the Joe Freeman Band immediately following the Cake Auction until the close of the event.