



Aging Awareness

A publication of The Greater Akron/Canton Area Agency on Aging Foundation

OUR MISSION

To enable older adults not eligible for government assistance to remain independent and secure at home through access to a range of supportive services.

OUR VISION

That all older adults in our region shall have access to community-based long-term care regardless of their ability to pay.



The Greater Akron/Canton
Area Agency on Aging
Foundation

1550 Corporate Woods Parkway
Uniontown, Ohio 44685
1.800.421.7277

2007 Foundation's Raffle Results

In November, The Greater Akron/Canton Area Agency on Aging Foundation concluded another successful raffle campaign. The Foundation raised over \$76,000, which was an increase of over \$8,000 the previous year! The Foundation's raffle raises funds to help achieve our mission and vision, to assist older adults who have no options for long term care in the community.

The winners of the Foundation raffle were recognized at the 2007 Area Agency on Aging Awards Ceremony. **Margaret F. Medzie**, a Foundation Board member and Chair of the Development and Distribution Committee, presented the prizes to the lucky winners:

- **Grand Prize**
Tony & Sookie Vallone
Westin Aruba vacation package
- **First Prize**
Connie Ring
Home Theatre System
- **Second Prize**
Brian & Sheila Flannery
5 Night Choose Your Destination
- **Third Prize**
Tony & Sookie Vallone
\$2,000 Sky Bank Visa Gift Card
- **Fourth Prize**
Carolyn Frase
\$1,500 Gift Certificate John Gasser & Son Jewelers
- **Fifth Prize**
Ihab Traish
Pamper Yourself Package, courtesy of the Bertram Inn and Headliners Spa

An overview of the Foundation was given by **Charles E. Booth**, Chairman of the Foundation Board of Directors. Mr. Booth spoke about the vital mission of the Foundation, which is "to enable older adults not eligible for government assistance to remain independent and secure at home through access to a range of supportive services."

The raffle would not have been possible if not for the generous donations of our raffle sponsors:

National City Bank
Sky Bank
Sky Insurance
John Gasser & Son Jewelers
AirTran Airways
The Bertram Inn
Headliners Spa
The Ink Well



Pictured from left to right are Sookie Vallone, Tony Vallone, and Connie Ring who were winners in the 2007 Foundation Raffle.

Aging Awareness

Changing Lives – A Foundation Client Story

Bea was having trouble remembering things. It started with forgetting to pay the bills, but became more serious. When she lost her husband of sixty years, she needed more help. She moved to the Akron area to be closer to her

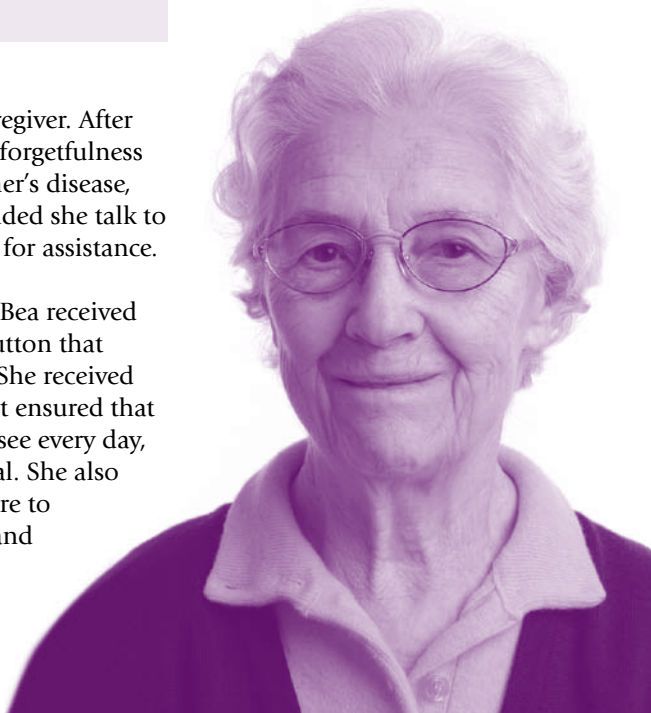
Bea's daughter said that without the Foundation's help, her mother would not have been able to stay at home as long as she did.

not have been able to stay at home as long as she did.

The Greater Akron/Canton Area Agency on Aging Foundation assists older adults like Bea connect to services that keep them as independent as possible in their own homes. As more people live longer with chronic conditions that impair their ability to remain independent, the Foundation's mission becomes even more important. We need your help to maintain older adults who do not qualify for other services in the home. Please contact **Matt Reed** at 1-800-421-7277 ext: 5208 for more information on how you can help.

daughter, who was her caregiver. After a fall broke her hip, Bea's forgetfulness was diagnosed as Alzheimer's disease, and the doctor recommended she talk to the Area Agency on Aging for assistance.

Through the Foundation, Bea received an emergency response button that she wore in case of a fall. She received home-delivered meals that ensured that she had a friendly face to see every day, as well as a nutritious meal. She also had help with personal care to make sure her grooming and bathing needs were met. Bea's daughter said that without the Foundation's help, her mother would



CONTACT US

The Foundation relies on philanthropic support to assist moderate-income older adults throughout Portage, Stark, Summit and Wayne Counties. To make a donation or add a name to the Aging Awareness mailing list, please contact **Matt Reed** at 1-800-421-7277 ext: 5208.

Visit Our Website!

To find out more information on the Area Agency on Aging and The Greater Akron/Canton Area Agency on Aging Foundation, please visit our website at www.services4aging.org.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Charles E. Booth

Chairman

*Retired, Executive Vice President
National City Bank*

David B. Reynolds, M.D.

Vice Chair

Physician, Wooster Clinic

Hortense B. Bobbitt

Secretary

*Owner, Operator
TERR-PAUL, Inc.
DBA: McDonald's*

George F. Sesock

Treasurer

*Vice President, Manager
JPMorgan Chase Bank*

Jane E. Litz

FirstMerit Foundation

Margaret F. Medzie

*Executive Director
American Cancer Society*

Donald J. Pavlik

*Assistant Vice President
National City Bank*

Fran D. Rice

Community Liaison

Robert A. Ruggles

*Manager Accounts Receivable
The Davey Tree Expert Company*

Lee S. Walko

*Attorney
Brennan, Manna & Diamond, LLC*

Address Service Requested

The AAA provides older adults and their caregivers long-term care choices, consumer protection and education so they can achieve the highest possible quality of life.



Aging SPECTRUM

In This Issue:

- AT&T Awards \$20,000 to Area Agency on Aging
- Agency Unveils "The Way Forward"
- Key Information Source for Medicare Questions
- Caregiver Support Reaches Professionals and Families
- Area Agency on Aging Holds 2007 Awards Ceremony

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers

Willard P. Roderick, *Chairman*
 Stephen Colecchi, *Immediate Past Chairman*
 Laura C. Dzurec, *Vice Chairman*
 Charles L. Greene, *Vice Chairman*
 David B. Reynolds, M.D., *Vice Chairman*
 Fran D. Rice, *Vice Chairman*
 Julia T. DiFrancesco, *Treasurer*
 Anne T. Nixon, *Secretary*
 Kyle R. Allen, D.O., *Chief Medical Officer*

Directors

Charles E. Booth	Nancy McPeek
Cathy M. Ceccio	Jon D. Oliverio, D.P.M.
Jack T. Diamond	David J. Peter, M.D.
Kenneth A. Dorsett	Myrtle Peters
Eileen W. Good	Kathleen A. Rice
Dolores M. Greene	Patricia J. Schrader
Marianne G. Lorini	Erika L. Sobolewski, D.O.
James Masi	

Joseph L. Ruby, *President & CEO*
 Matthew L. Reed, *Community Outreach Manager & Editor*



Aging SPECTRUM

Winter 2008 Edition

AT&T Awards \$20,000 to Area Agency on Aging

On November 30, 2007, the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) was awarded the 2007 Excelerator grant from the AT&T Foundation, which is the corporate philanthropy organization of AT&T Inc. This grant provides technology access to organizations working to strengthen underserved communities.

AT&T has been providing non-profit organizations with technology grants for the past six years and this year awarded more than \$67,000 to organizations in the Akron area. The Area Agency on Aging had hosted the grant ceremony with other awardees in attendance, including Children's Hospital Medical Center of Akron, Urban Ounce of Prevention Services, Inc., and Visiting Nurse Service Inc.

Senator Tom Sawyer, who represents Akron's 28th district, was in attendance at the award ceremony and spoke to the importance of AT&T's grant. AT&T awarded AAA with \$20,000 to be used towards computer software upgrades for improved management of our Financial Services Division. "We will use this money to explore web-based products with online accounting, expense reporting, employee time logs, tracking Title III grants, and purchase requisition," says

AT&T, continued pg. 2

Aging Spectrum Newsletter

Do you know someone who would like to receive our newsletter, or do you wish to be removed from our mailing list? Please contact Matt Reed at 1-800-421-7277 ext: 5208.

Agency Unveils "The Way Forward"

In the past year, we have seen the beginning of a major transformation in Ohio's long term care system, the magnitude of which has not been seen since the inception of PASSPORT over 20 years ago. In 2007, and against this backdrop, we unveiled our vision for the future: The Way Forward. This plan was built on four cornerstones that focus on our consumers, our relationships with policymakers, our partners, and our finances.

Our Consumer Plan: Make Consumer Choice a Reality in Long Term Care. In years past, frail older adults who needed help and had exhausted their financial resources had to go to a nursing home. PASSPORT was developed to help these older adults in their own homes, rather than in a facility. PASSPORT is very popular, but in the past was hampered with waiting lists that forced older adults into more costly nursing homes. Thanks to Governor Ted Strickland and the Ohio Legislature, we can now serve Medicaid eligible older adults through PASSPORT with no artificial limits placed on enrollments. The achievement of this PASSPORT budget objective represents the first steps toward a balanced system of long term care in Ohio that allows Medicaid consumers to choose the setting of their care: home care, assisted living or nursing facility. Such a system will require funding "silos" to be eliminated, thus allowing consumer choices to drive the flow of funds.



Our Advocacy Plan: Fight to Win. We must fight to influence public policy at all levels in order to achieve our vision that the growing number of older adults will have the care they need to remain independent. Nationally, the Agency will work with the Administration on Aging to implement their CHOICES initiative, which will provide an Aging Disability Resource Center, an Evidence-Based Disease Self-Management Program, and a Nursing Home Diversion Program.

In Ohio, our President & CEO has been appointed by the governor to the Unified Long Term Care Budget Workgroup. This group will recommend the budgetary and legislative infrastructure that will facilitate the aforementioned client choice in Medicaid long term care settings.

Locally, the Agency continues to educate the community regarding the need of older adults who do not qualify for Medicaid, but still require help to remain at home

Forward, continued pg. 2



1550 Corporate Woods Parkway
Uniontown, Ohio 44685
1.800.421.7277 • www.services4aging.org

AT&T, continued from pg. 1

Dave Burtscher, Financial Controller for the Area Agency on Aging. By integrating improved technology into its operations, AAA can improve efficiency and effectiveness to support older adults in the community.

Forward, continued from pg. 1

instead of in a nursing home. We hope to tie local support built from this education with state funds, that will be used in conjunction with federal monies that will allow for a program that will meet the needs of a growing older adult population.

Our People Plan: Work Together. In order to move forward with our plans to assist older adults in the care setting of their choice, we need to strengthen our partnerships with our board, our employees, and our volunteers as well as building on human resources that move us on our way forward.

- **Our Board of Directors** – Our board partnerships allow us to place Agency nurses in local hospitals to quickly

assess the need for long term care and assist older adults to find help.

- **Our Employees** – In order to improve our customer service delivery, we are instituting a “Culture of Excellence” program that takes tenets from the Disney Company and applies them to our own practices. We have built our clinical competencies by adding a Clinical Nurse Specialist and a Registered Nurse Senior Vice President of Managed Long Term Care to our staff. We are continuing to develop our succession planning process by training the next generation of leaders with our leadership academy.
- **Our Volunteers** – In order to expand our capacity to meet the needs of older adults in the community, we will improve our volunteer and student intern practices to recruit and retain volunteers and interns who wish to work with older adults.

Our Financial Plan: Invest in the Future. Insuring proper funding into the future is paramount in our planning process. In order to accomplish the tasks ahead, we need to ensure our financial solvency. We will institute a managed care model that will provide our staff with the tools they need to ensure quality care management of community based long term care. This will allow for the joining of information, medical monitoring, and working with other

partners in the medical community such as Medicare Advantage Plan representatives. We will continue with our education programs for older adults in the community regarding Medicare options such as Medicare Advantage Plans, which can save older adults on their premiums and out of pocket expenses. Finally, we hope to move our plans forward to build a new office, as we have grown out of our current facility.

For over 30 years, we have been a leader in the long term care industry. We are committed to meeting the chronic needs of a growing aging population. Unprecedented change is before us. We must seize opportunity where found and create opportunity where lacking. We will continue to advocate for meaningful change in the long term care system through our presence in Washington D.C., Columbus and in our region. Making our strategic vision, The Way Forward, a reality will ensure continued care for the thousands of older adults who rely on us today, as well as those who will rely on us tomorrow.

For more information on The Way Forward, please call Matt Reed at 330-899-5208 or toll free 1-800-421-7277 ext: 5208.

Key Information Source for Medicare Questions

The Area Agency on Aging sponsored four educational Medicare forums which took place in November, one in each of the four surrounding counties: Stark, Summit, Portage and Wayne. Ombudsman Supervisor from the Area Agency on Aging, **Francine Chuchanis**, and representative **Christine Reeg** from Open Source Health Information Platform (OSHIP) focused their discussion on Medicare Part D insurance. A general overview of drug coverage programs were discussed and how to select an appropriate Medicare program. Individuals were informed on their options so they could feel more confident about choosing a program or staying on traditional Medicare coverage.

Over 250 people attended the event, including caregivers, consumers and other interested individuals in the community. Eight major drug companies set up information booths to discuss plans and provided individual drug consultations.

The purposes of the forums were to educate older adults and their caregivers, so they can be well informed and confident when making their Medicare Plan decisions. A Long Term Care Ombudsman Volunteer, **Kris Wojtysiak**, put together a county plan comparison chart for each county which was handed out to all attendees. “The Medicare forums were able to provide an unbiased overview of consumers’ options in a language they can understand,” said Chuchanis.

The Area Agency is currently one of the few organizations that keeps an unbiased position when educating older adults about Medicare Part D. Medicare plans are changing yearly and people are always looking to review their options so they can receive the best coverage possible. The Agency continues to play a key role with assisting seniors as they choose Medicare plans.



Caregiver Support Reaches Professionals and Families

On November 5, the Area Agency on Aging sponsored an educational seminar at the Hartville Kitchen for caregivers, consumers and health professionals in the community. **Charles Puchta**, renowned author and founder of Aging American Resources, was the guest speaker.

Aging America Resources is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting family and professional caregivers. Puchta demonstrated how the provision of care is different for each individual's illness as well as the caregiver's experience. Puchta also discussed a step-by-step process that caregivers can apply to address issues of concern. Handouts were provided and caregiving questions were answered.



Charles Puchta speaks with a caregiver before his presentation.

Everyone in attendance received a copy of Puchta's book, *The Caregiver Resource Guide*. Several homecare and health-related organizations staffed information booths to educate caregivers and their loved ones on supportive services in the area.

The Area Agency on Aging's Family Caregiver Support Program continues to be proactive in addressing the needs of caregivers by providing learning opportunities such as this conference. Professional organizations interested in exploring how the program helps caregivers can contact the Area Agency on Aging. Information is available on speakers to discuss caregiver support and health-related topics. For more information on how AAA can help caregivers, please call the Aging Resource Center at 1-800-421-7277 ext: 8440 or directly at 330-899-8440.

Area Agency on Aging Holds 2007 Awards Ceremony

Older adults, volunteers and the people who support them give to their communities every day. The Area Agency on Aging, in conjunction with The Greater Akron/Canton Area Agency on Aging Foundation, recognized several of these individuals at our annual Awards Ceremony at the Portage Country Club in Akron.

Attendees were welcomed by the Area Agency on Aging President & CEO



Area Agency on Aging President & CEO Joseph L. Ruby (center) with Hall of Fame Inductees (from left to right) Jeanne France, Lydia Thompson and Eva Bradley.

Joseph L. Ruby. Mr. Ruby spoke to the importance of those who make a difference for older adults. Gary L. Cook, the Area Agency on Aging COO, inducted the 2007 Hall of Fame additions:

- **Clyde and Mary Ann Lottig** – Portage County *nominated by Sally Kelly*
- **Eva Bradley** – Stark County *nominated by Terry Stauffer*
- **Jeanne France** – Summit County *nominated by Mary Beth Breda*
- **Lydia Thompson** *nominated by Ruby Shriver*

These older adults are exemplary examples of how people can positively impact their community, regardless of age.

Rosanna Yoder was awarded a \$5,000 Student Scholarship. She stated that her

passion for working with the elderly stems from her caregiving of family members. She is currently working towards her degree in Nursing.

Lucy Hunter was selected as our 2007 Volunteer of Distinction. Lucy has been very active at the Agency since May of 2006, and has provided over 500 hours of volunteer service, both as an advocate and as a volunteer heading our speakers bureau. **Rose Everhart**, Volunteer Manager, happily presented the Ombudsman Volunteer of Distinction Award.

Closing remarks were provided by **Willard P. Roderick**, Chairman of the Area Agency on Aging Board of Directors. Mr. Roderick made very poignant comments regarding the efforts of all who were recognized at the ceremony, and thanked them for the efforts they put forth to create better tomorrows for the residents of Portage, Stark, Summit and Wayne Counties.