

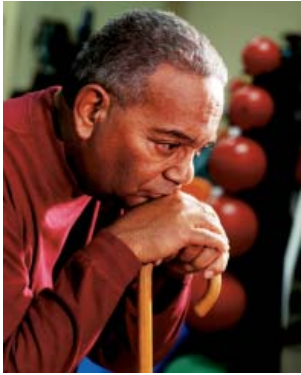


The Source for Seniors

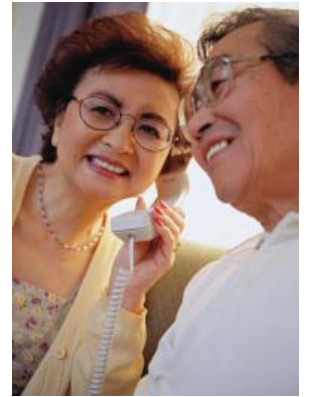
# Kent County Senior Millage Minder

about the Kent County Senior Millage  
Fall 2010

## Outreach and Assistance:



Outreach and Assistance services help identify ways to best meet an individual's needs. This may include assistance with housing, utilities, meals, prescriptions or Medicaid. If you have questions on services available, contact one of the Kent County Senior Millage providers below.



- ACSET- Latin American Services (616) 336-4186 (English)
- (616) 336-4000 (Spanish)
- Gerontology Network (616) 456-6135
- Native American Family Services (616) 451-6767
- Senior Neighbors (616) 459-6019
- United Methodist Community House (616) 241-1645



## Services for 2011

A struggling economy and decreasing tax revenues will affect funding again in 2011. The Millage Review Committee allocated \$6,469,368 (\$186,907 less than in 2010) to 33 agencies for 46 unique services for 2011.

Half of the Millage funding was put into priority services. This includes in-home and nutritional services for the most frail and needy elders to maintain their independence in their own homes.

Starting in January 2011, bathing, chore and Personal Emergency Response Systems (PERS) will each add another provider. The funding for those three services has not increased, but adding another organization will provide older adults with more options.

SarahCare Adult Day Center will offer bathing for their adult day participants. This service is currently being provided for older adults at Gerontology Network's CareTree Adult Day Program. Steepletown will join Senior Neighbors in providing chore services. Elders' Helpers and Gerontology Network will provide PERS.

"Each year the committee has difficult decisions to make as we look at distributing the dollars to various organizations," says Nancy Nielsen, Committee Chairperson. "I am pleased with the committee, and each of the providers who serve our Kent County seniors, but it is also exciting to add new providers to give seniors more options even when faced with diminished dollars. The Millage has helped many older adults remain independent and it has been a great improvement to our community."

The Millage Minder is published quarterly by the Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan.  
For more information contact (616) 456-5664

## Flu Shots

The Kent County Senior Millage is again providing flu shots for those ages 60-64 not covered by Medicare or Medicaid.

“The goal of the program is to ensure seniors are not putting themselves at risk simply because they can’t afford the vaccination,” says Cari Weber, Kent County Contract Coordinator, Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan.

This year the traditional flu shot is combined with serum to combat the H1N1 strain.

“The flu vaccine changes every year to reflect the risk to the population as the various strains become more or less problematic,” says Jim Byrne M.D., Priority Health Vice President and Chief Medical Officer and a member of the Kent County Millage Review Committee. “This year is no different; H1N1 was added because of the risk it poses.”



Vaccinations are always recommended for high-risk populations including older adults. Complications from the flu may result in otherwise avoidable hospitalizations and even deaths, especially among frail older adults.

“Given the strong likelihood of the return of H1N1, it’s even more important that older adults get vaccinated,” says Byrne. “Benefits to seniors will be the same as getting two separate shots, but the overall value will be greater because we expect to have ample vaccine.”

Kent County Senior Millage funded flu and pneumonia shots will be provided by AngelCare Home Health Care and Catherine’s Health Center.

AngelCare Home Health Care	245-8899
Catherine’s Health Center	336-8800

## Home Heating

As the weather turns colder, it’s important to be aware of community resources that exist in part to keep older adults warm without breaking the bank.

“It’s not uncommon for seniors to become overwhelmed with outrageous heating bills,” says Sandra Ghoston Jones, Contract Coordinator at the Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan. “The problem could stem from a faulty or energy inefficient furnace or poor insulation. There are steps we can take to fix these problems and control heating costs before an individual is facing a shut-off.”

**Senior Neighbors:** minor repair or emergency needs.  
(616) 459-6019

**Home Repair Services:** major home repairs.  
(616) 241-2601

**ACSET:** weatherization to improve home energy efficiency.  
(616) 336-4023

## Millage Service Eligibility

To qualify for Senior Millage services, persons must be at least 60 years old and residents of Kent County.

Cost sharing may be required for individuals whose incomes are above \$21,660 and for couples whose incomes are above \$29,140. The cost share fees are based on income and vary depending on service type. For more information, contact the organization providing services.

Donations are accepted for all services and are put back into programs.

**For more information on the Kent County Senior Millage, including a full list of services, visit [www.aaawm.org](http://www.aaawm.org).**

*The purpose of the Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan is to provide older persons, including those in the greatest economic need, with an array of human services designed to maintain independence and dignity in their homes and communities.*