



The Source for Seniors

Kent County Senior Millage **Millage Minder**

about the Kent County Senior Millage
Winter 2011

Caregiver Resources:



Family caregivers are essential to the independence of many older adults. The Kent County Senior Millage provides funding for the following programs to help family caregivers take a break from providing care.

Respite- companionship or assistance with daily living activities provided in the home for those who are physically or mentally disabled.

Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan (616) 456-5664
HHS Health Options (616) 956-9440

Adult Day Services-structured daytime program for functionally impaired seniors.

CareTree Adult Day Services (616) 464-3665
Side by Side Adult Day (616) 235-2910
SarahCare Adult Day Center (616) 530-6700



Vision Services

The Millage funds services for two types of vision services; clinic and counseling. The clinics are offered at two separate organizations and they are geared to seniors with different vision needs.

Low Vision Clinic helps people with severe vision impairment using a team of professionals, including optometrists and low vision specialists. Comprehensive low vision eye exams are provided and a personalized rehabilitation plan is developed to help individuals maximize their ability to use remaining vision and compensate for vision loss.

Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired (616) 458-1187

Vision Clinic offers comprehensive eye and vision care. Complete eye examinations, including dilated retinal examination, are performed on all patients by a Doctor of Optometry. Specialty services including diagnosis and treatment of glaucoma and diabetes are also provided. Eyeglasses are offered at reduced costs.

Cherry Street Health Services (616) 235-7272

Vision Counseling for older adults experiencing personal, social or emotional (depression, anxiety, etc.) problems due to vision loss. This is a short term service, with a focus on adjusting to vision loss.

Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired (616) 458-1187

Prescription Assistance

Navigating the different prescription and health care programs, like Medicare, Medicaid, and Veterans benefits can be very confusing. The Prescription Assistance program can help.

Clients meet with trained staff for a thorough assessment to determine the prescription and medical insurance programs that will best fit their individual needs. Counselors also assist with Medicare and Medicaid education, enrollment and troubleshooting.

This program is available to all Kent County residents age 60 and over.

For more information, contact:

Senior Neighbors (616)-459-6019

Care Management

The Care Management program provides an in-home assessment by a Registered Nurse (RN) and Social Worker which looks at the needs of the older adult. Referrals are then made to community services as needed.

Each client has a Primary Care Manager (either a RN or Social Worker) assigned to their case in addition to the in-home services.

The Primary Care Manager maintains regular contact with the client to ensure the services ordered or arranged are being provided.

For more information, contact:

Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan (616) 456-5664
HHS Health Options (616) 956-9440

Personal Emergency Response Systems (PERS)

Personal Emergency Response Systems (PERS) are electronic systems that assure communication and, if necessary, provide emergency assistance.

PERS can be very helpful for those seniors who live alone. Sometimes referred to as a “call button” these systems have helped seniors who have fallen or had other medical emergencies like a stroke or heart attack.

If an emergency occurs and the client presses the button, the PERS company attempts to contact the individual and will also send out emergency personnel to assist.

Monitoring is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. For more information, contact:

Elders’ Helpers (616) 454-8305
Gerontology Network (616) 456-6135

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 those with incomes above \$21,780 and couples with incomes above \$29,420.

Cost share fees are based on income and vary depending on the service. For more detailed information, contact the organization providing service.

Donations are accepted for all services.

For more information, including a full list of services, visit 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.