



The Source for Seniors

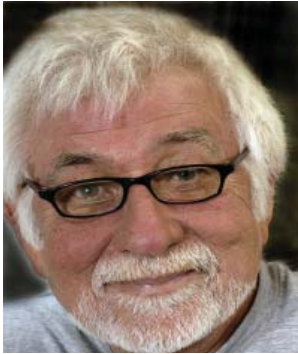
Kent County Senior Millage Minder

about the Kent County Senior Millage
Winter 2009

Volunteer Opportunities

The following programs, funded through the Kent County Senior Millage, help older adults stay active while also improving the community and the lives of seniors.

- **Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)**- connects seniors with many local organizations that need help
Senior Neighbors 459-9509
- **Senior Companions**-trains and provides a stipend for seniors to care for homebound, frail or disabled seniors
Gerontology Network 456-6135
- **Telephone Reassurance**- prepares volunteers to provide regular telephone contact with homebound clients
Senior Neighbors 459-6019



New Services for 2009

Baxter Community Center- senior center staffing

The Rapid- transportation coordination

Starting January 1, 2009, Baxter Community Center and The Rapid will receive Kent County Senior Millage (KCSM) funding. This will provide contract funding to 33 agencies involving 49 unique programs.

“Each year we have been able to add services for those age 60 and older who need assistance,” says Nancy Kehoe Nielsen, Chair of the Kent County Millage Review Committee. “The Kent County Senior Millage provides a variety of services including meals, transportation, adult day, health promotion, legal services and many other programs that enable older adults to remain independent in their own homes.”

Baxter Community Center (BCC) will offer senior specific programs two days a week. This service will be targeted to older adults in the Baxter neighborhood, a predominately low-income and African American population. Programs will include enhanced fitness, nutrition information, sewing class, tax assistance and access to services through Baxter Clinic such as flu shots. More programs will be added during the year.

The Rapid has already been involved in the KCSM Rideline transportation pilot program for nearly two years. To meet demands for transportation, the Rapid will continue to provide telephone support in the form of ride scheduling and coordination. Rideline, a collaboration of multiple agencies, has helped boost ridership, reduce duplication in service and increase efficiency. The transportation service will be available to all seniors in Kent County during 2009.

Priority Services- in-home and nutritional services help the most frail and needy elders (including their family caregivers) maintain independence in their own homes.

Supportive Services- strengthen and sustain priority services to lengthen time frail individuals can remain living at home in a safe environment.

Access Services- guide older adults and their caregivers to appropriate senior services.

General Services- include health promotion, disease prevention, first line support and volunteer opportunities.

Emergent Needs- address needs typically based on weather emergencies, including home heating assistance.

Ridelink Services
Now Available *Ride*
1-866-425-3848 *link*

Ridelink transportation services are now available to all Kent County residents age 60 and over. The program, a collaboration among multiple agencies, helps coordinate rides and provides one central number for scheduling.

To register, contact Ridelink and provide information such as name, home address and phone number. Transportation can be accessed about five business days after registering.

Seniors are encouraged to schedule trips between 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. when rides are less likely to be at capacity and to have frequently visited addresses handy.

**For more information, contact
Ridelink at 1-866-425-3848**

Current Year Funding (2009)

- Priority Services \$ 3,427,461 (48%)
- Supportive Services \$ 929,471 (13%)
- Access Services \$ 1,524,217 (21%)
- General Services \$ 1,186,916 (17%)
- Emergent Services \$ 65,000 (1%)

Total \$ 7,133,065

Previous Year Funding (2008)

- Priority Services \$ 3,273,317 (47%)
- Supportive Services \$ 889,556 (13%)
- Access Services \$ 1,512,325 (22%)
- General Services \$ 1,182,503 (17%)
- Emergent Services \$ 41,000 (1%)

Total \$ 6,898,701

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 or 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 and are put back into programs, allowing additional seniors to be served.

Millage Review Committee Member Retires

After three years serving Kent County on the Millage Review Committee, Ruth Tardy is retiring.

“Ruth’s dedication to the Senior Millage and the needs of older adults, especially individuals of color, was obvious during her time on the review committee,” says Nancy Nielsen, Chairperson of the Committee. “She will be greatly missed and we wish her the best in her retirement.”



Nancy Nielsen and Ruth Tardy

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.