



aging care
connections

Your Source For Senior Care

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**A MESSAGE FROM DEBRA VERSCHELDE,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Dear Friends of Aging Care Connections,

We are pleased to announce Aging Care Connections will soon be in the midst of a Major Capital and Program Campaign Initiative. Our goal is to raise funds for much-needed refurbishing of existing facilities, specifically to allow for us to become more compliant with ADA standards, as well as to expand our programs to meet the increasing needs of older adults in our community.

To help us begin this initiative, the State of Illinois has generously provided Aging Care Connections with a time-sensitive, lead grant of \$200,000 which will require us to complete Phase I and II of four phases, beginning this month. Funding for this project was made possible thanks to Senate Republican Leader Christine Radogno and the "Illinois Jobs Now!" capital program. "Illinois Jobs Now!" was passed by the Illinois legislature in 2009 and has a dedicated revenue stream apart from other general revenue funds in the state.

However, our campaign involves raising the remaining funds required to ensure a more efficient, safer and functional facility to meet the growing number of older adults and families who depend upon our programs and services each and every day.

While we have worked with several community partners (such as Grace Lutheran Church and the Village of La Grange) to temporarily relocate some of our current programs and activities off-site in order to avoid interruption during Phase I and II, **our doors remain open to the community** during this construction.

Despite the dust, clutter and noise as work crews move in and out of the building, please know that we will emerge better positioned to serve older adults in this same facility, thoughtfully configured to help seniors expediently and comfortably. We would like to assure you that Aging Care Connections remains a robust, vital organization—**the community's source for senior care**—and we are proud to continue our 40-year history directed steadfastly to our goal of ensuring the well-being and safety of older adults in our community

If you have any questions, please contact me, or Louise Starmann, Director of Social Services, or Ken Grunke, Director of Philanthropy and External Affairs, at 708-354-1323. Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding.

Sincerely,

Debra Verschelde
Executive Director

AGING CARE CONNECTIONS CREATES A HOARDING AND SELF NEGLECT TASK FORCE

By Colleen Hill, Care Coordination Unit Supervisor

With the assistance of funding provided by the Proviso Township Mental Health Commission, Aging Care Connections has established a Hoarding and Self Neglect Task Force, comprised of some of the community's finest, most talented and committed volunteer professionals. The Task Force was developed to consult and intervene on our most challenging, time-consuming cases before they escalate to crisis situations. It is our hope that through the development of this more coordinated effort, we can find new and innovative ways to serve the needs of those struggling with the problem of self neglect.

Self-neglect is defined by the Illinois Elder Abuse and Neglect Act as a "condition that is the result of the inability, due to physical or mental impairments, or both, or a diminished capacity, to perform essential self-care tasks that substantially threaten health, including: providing essential food, clothing, shelter, and health care; and obtaining goods and services necessary to maintain physical health, mental health, emotional well-being, and general safety. The term includes compulsive hoarding, which is characterized by the acquisition and retention of large quantities of items and materials that produce an extensively cluttered living space, which significantly impairs the performance of essential self-care tasks or otherwise substantially threatens life or safety."

Cases of this type can take up to six months of intensive casework services. We need the entire community to become aware and invested in making a difference in the lives of these older adults.

Aging Care Connections would like to take the opportunity to recognize both the Proviso Township Mental Health Commission and our volunteer members for their interest and dedication to such an important community issue:

Cheryl Anderson, *Pillars*

Michelle Bonadies, *Pillars*

Dick Bunsold, *Resurrection Behavioral Health, ProCare Centers*

Karyn Byrne, *Code Enforcement Representatives Inc.*

Nathan Gordon, *Adventist LaGrange Memorial Hospital*

Bill Kallal, *La Grange Fire Department*

Steve Kneifel, *LaGrange Police Department*

Mike Leganski, *Cantata Adult Life Services*

Joan Lux, *La Grange Park Police Department*

Rachael Mabe, *Lexington Health Network*

Caroline Manley, *Center for Disability and Elder Law*

Kate Marshall, *formerly of Aging Care Connections*

The Task Force is making great strides in dealing with the serious issue of self-neglect. However, there is no governmental funding to support our work. Please join our great community volunteers in making a commitment to combat self-neglect. Make a donation today! Thank you.

AGING CARE CONNECTIONS TO OFFER SUPPORT GROUP FOR CAREGIVERS OF MENTALLY ILL ADULTS

Beginning in April, Aging Care Connections will offer a support group for seniors living in the community and caring for their adult children with mental illness. The sessions will be held on Fridays beginning April 13 and ending on May 25 from 11am to 12:30pm at Grace Lutheran Church, 200 N. Catherine, La Grange. The class is free of charge, but registration must be completed by calling Laura Sutherland at 708-354-1323.

The seven-week program will focus on using artistic expression and creativity for self-discovery, relieving stress, and connecting with others who have had similar experiences. Group sessions will offer participants the opportunity to explore their experiences of parenting in a safe and supportive environment. All levels of artistic experience are welcome. Please call Laura Sutherland at 708-354-1323 with any questions you may have.



Introducing the Coordinator for the Senior Health Insurance Program **BOB SPAIN**

After retiring with 35 years of federal service, serendipity led Bob Spain to be hired as a Health Care Choices Specialist during the summer of 2000. This led to his current position as Coordinator for the Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP). Prior to joining Aging Care Connections, he worked for the Social Security Administration and subsequently with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Bob grew up on the southwest side of Chicago and attended St. Ignatius College Prep. After receiving a B.A. degree in Economics from Georgetown University, he received a commission as a Second Lieutenant and served more than three years in the Medical Service Corps of the US Army.

Bob and his wife, Mary, met while in high school and have been married for 36 “wonderful” years. They have three children and three grandchildren. Their current grandparenting responsibilities include babysitting their nine-month old granddaughter two days a week.

Appointments with Medicare and disabled beneficiaries take up most of Bob’s time as SHIP coordinator, but he also serves as mentor to the other Aging Care Connections’ SHIP volunteer counselors. Their goal is to keep beneficiaries informed of their benefits under Medicare, supplemental plans, Medicare Advantage (HMO) plans and prescription drug plans. They assist individuals in filing for the State’s Circuit Breaker and Illinois Cares RX programs. Bob also enjoys reaching out to the communities in the Aging Care Connections’ service area through presentations and health fairs.

It is a pleasure to introduce, Bob Spain, Coordinator for the Senior Health Insurance Program at Aging Care Connections!

CONGRATULATIONS, LYONS/ NORTH RIVERSIDE/ RIVERSIDE AGING WELL COMMUNITY ACTION TEAM!

The Lyons/North Riverside/Riverside Aging Well Community Action Team was among 12 Community Action Teams recognized with the prestigious Community Service Award at Aging Care Connections Annual Luncheon held in 2010. Since that time, the Community Service Award is "traveling" to each of the villages to be on display in recognition of each Team's dedicated efforts to make our communities elder-friendly.

Aging Well, a program of Aging Care Connections, is dedicated to working with communities to create an environment in which people can age well. Serving 20 communities in the Lyons, Riverside and South Proviso Townships, the program is composed of hundreds of older adults and more than 130 community-based organizations working together to address aging issues in their local communities. For more information about Aging Well, please contact Linda Hussey at 708-354-1323, ext. 242, or by email at lhussey@agingcareconnections.org.



Mayor Christopher Getty of Lyons and Lyons/North Riverside/Riverside Aging Well Community Action Team Leaders, Katie Fielmann, Barbara Blazina, and Lorraine Marek, pose with the Aging Care Connections Community Service Award presented to them at the February Lyons Village Board meeting

COMMUNITY ACTION TEAM SPRING PROGRAMS

Monday, April 9 – 1:00 to 3:00pm

Lyons/North Riverside/Riverside CAT
Antiques and Collectibles – Free Appraisal Event
Lyons Village Hall, 4200 S. Lawndale, Lyons
RSVP to Barbara at 708-442-4856
Light refreshments will be served. Monetary donations accepted at the door.

Tuesday, April 10 – 9:30am-12:30pm

Hinsdale/ Burr Ridge CAT
Ask the Expert "See Better, Live Better"
The Community House, 415 W. Eighth Street, Hinsdale
RSVP to 630-789-7090 by April 5. \$10 workshop fee includes lunch.

Tuesday, April 17 – 1:00pm

Countryside, La Grange/La Grange Park & Hodgkins/McCook CATs
"Eye Health and Nutrition" presented by Dr. Tracy Stimpson
Countryside City Hall, 5550 East Avenue, Countryside
Light refreshments will be served.

Tuesday, May 15 – 1:00pm

Brookfield CAT
"Senior Safety in the Home" – Topics are:
"Scams" presented by the Brookfield Police Department
"Home Safety" presented by the Brookfield Fire Department
"In-Home Services" presented by Cantata Adult Life Services
Brookfield Village Hall, Lower Level, 8820 Brookfield Avenue, Brookfield
RSVP to Mary at 708-485-1527. Light refreshments will be served.



Brookfield Aging Well CAT members, Marie LeGros, Mike McNeily, and Marilyn Volek, prepare nametags for the annual Brookfield Aging Well and Chamber of Commerce Senior Valentine Social event held Sunday, February 12.

AGING CARE CONNECTIONS ELEVENTH ANNUAL SPORTS BALL BENEFIT GALA

Aging Care Connections' Eleventh Annual Sports Ball Benefit Gala will be held Saturday, May 5 at 6:00 pm at Harry Caray's at The Westin Hotel, Lombard. Celebrity athletes representing major league teams will headline an evening of tailgate cocktails, skybox dining, auctions and dancing. Sports Ball is Aging Care Connections' major fundraising event held to support the organization's social service programs to assist those 60 years of age and older in suburban Cook County communities.

The event will give guests the opportunity to meet celebrity athletes who will sign autographs and answer questions about the outstanding careers they have enjoyed with major league teams. Auction items showcasing a Notre Dame package including a football autographed by alumnus and Heisman Trophy winner John Lattner who will attend Sports Ball, and the opportunity to "borrow" John Lattner's Heisman trophy for two weeks; sports memorabilia; trips to Siesta Key, Florida, Scottsdale, Arizona, Napa Valley, Galena, Blue Harbor Resort and Lake Tahoe; and the opportunity to attend the ESPY Awards in Los Angeles, and the Ryder Cup Tournament at Medinah Country Club.

Sports Ball 2012 Planning Committee members include: Vicky Dawson, Linda Dishman and Cathy Macellaio, Burr Ridge; Kerry Quirin, Downers Grove; Lizzi Chibucos, Elmhurst; Tracy Erwin, Hinsdale; LaVerne Loayza, Karen Olson and Karen Westrick, La Grange; Steve Kneifel, La Grange Park; Christy Dolan, Margaret Mary Mallon, Pat Smurawski and Debbie Stangarone, Oak Brook; Jeanne Martin, Prospect Heights; and Mike Doepke, Susan Druffel, Saranne Milano, Mary Miller and Mike O'Brien, Western Springs.



Tickets are available for \$150 each and information about Sports Ball is available by calling Niki Chibucos, Director of Development and Public Relations, at 708-354-1323, extension 226. Sports jerseys and casual attire are encouraged. Please join us for an unforgettable evening!

IN MEMORIAM – Sue Tutt-Parsons 1947-2012



On February 25, we lost a wonderful friend, Sue Tutt-Parsons. Sue was instrumental in the success of our signature event, the Sports Ball Benefit Gala, as the former Co-chair, Planning Committee member and auctioneer. In addition, she served on the Aging Care Connections Development Committee. Sue worked tirelessly and creatively to help raise funds for our organization.

Sue also leaves a legacy of committed service to the community through her tenure as La Grange Park Trustee (1993-2001) and Village President (2001-2005). In addition, Sue was President of the West Suburban Chamber of Commerce and Industry and was named the Chamber's Woman of the Year in 1993. She served as Chairman of the Chamber Board in 2002 and received the President's Award in 2005.

Sue was President of the West Cook County Solid Waste Agency and was the recipient of the W.C.M.C. & West Cook County Solid Waste Agency Jack Williams Intergovernmental Achievement Award in 2005. She worked passionately in her role as Director of Development at Helping Hand Rehabilitation Center of Countryside and enthusiastically served as a Board member of Pets and Pals Charities.

Village of La Grange Park Trustee Scott Mesick, who served with Sue at the West Suburban Chamber, said, "She was gregarious and outgoing with a free-flowing sense of humor that led one to be instantly comfortable around her and when dealing with her," Mesick said. "She understood her community and was a giving person through her work with Pillars and Aging Care Connections."

Our deepest sympathy to Sue's husband, Alec, and their family. We will truly miss Sue's compassion, devotion and zest for life.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!!

Community Nutrition Network Home Delivered Meals Program is in desperate need of volunteers to deliver meals on wheels to FRAIL, DISABLED and HOMEBOUND seniors.

Volunteers can commit to one day a week or more. Deliveries can take between an hour to two hours. A gas mileage stipend is available if needed. Anyone interested in donating their time for this most-needed service can contact Regina or Jackie at the phone number below or by visiting the on-site office:

OARS ADULT DAYCARE
712 East. Elm Street
La Grange, IL 60625

Community Nutrition Network Home Delivered Meals Distribution Center
Regina A. Overstreet, Distribution Site Manager
(708) 234-1853 • roverstreet@cnnssa.org



***Rotarians to the Rescue!** Volunteers, Chris Breakey of the Rotary Club of La Grange, and his son, Chris Breakey, Jr., assembled furniture for an Aging Care Connections' client in desperate need of a bed, dresser and chair. Thanks for partnering with us!*



Brain-Boosting Activities Offered For People With Early Stage Alzheimer's Disease And Dementia

Betty's Love, an organization based in La Grange offering support to older adults and family members living with Alzheimer's disease and dementia, will sponsor a program focusing on brain-boosting activities for individuals diagnosed with early stage Alzheimer's disease or dementia. Sessions will be offered every other Monday beginning April 16 from 9:30 am to 10:30 am at Grace Lutheran Church, 200 N. Catherine Avenue, La Grange. The instructor is Maureen Gavan, founder of **Betty's Love Alzheimer's Charities**. The cost is \$9 per person and includes materials and refreshments. Family members and caregivers are invited to attend. Reservations are encouraged, but not required. For information and to respond, please call 708-354-1323, ext. 228. For more information about **Betty's Love**, please call 708-420-LOVE (-5683) or visit www.bettyslove.org.

Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast Has Moved to Helping Hand!

Please note that the Kiwanis Club of La Grange's Annual Pancake Breakfast will be held at **Helping Hand Rehabilitation in Countryside** due to the much-needed renovation project taking place at Aging Care Connections.

WHEN

Sunday, May 6, 2012

WHERE

**Helping Hand Rehabilitation
9649 W 55th Street, Countryside**

Cost for "all-you-can-eat" breakfast:

- Tickets in advance are \$6.00
- Children aged five and younger are FREE
- Tickets at the door are \$8.00

Tickets are available at Aging Care Connections, 111 W. Harris Avenue, La Grange.



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REGULAR MONTHLY EVENTS

Due to construction in our building, previously on-site events will be held temporarily at Grace Lutheran Church, 200 N. Catherine, La Grange
(northwest corner of Ogden and Catherine—
parking lot off of Catherine and please enter through south door facing Ogden)
Church 708-352-0730

Alzheimer's and Related Dementia Caregivers

Support Group: A support group for those who care for someone who has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease or dementia meeting the first Tuesday of the month from 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

For information, please contact Sue Murphy, 708-354-1323, extension 221.

Memories—Gone But Not Forgotten: This group is designed for older adults who are experiencing the early stages of memory loss and enjoy the company of others to reminisce about “old times.” The group meets the first Tuesday of the month from 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

For information, please contact: Intake Office, 708-354-1323, extension 215.

Caregivers Support Group: “The Lunch Bunch” is a group of caregivers who chat over lunch. The group meets at Bakers Square Restaurant, 942 S. La Grange Road, La Grange, on the third Thursday of the month (effective January 19, 2012) at 11:30 a.m. Each participant pays for his or her lunch.

For information, please contact: Ruth Folkening, 708-354-1323, extension 228.

Friday Morning Regulars: Support group for men only related to aging issues. Meets every Friday at 9:00 a.m.

For information, please contact: Intake Office, 708-354-1323, extension 215.

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Support

Group: Group meets at the Summit Public Library, 6233 S. Archer Road, Summit, the last Thursday of the month from 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

For information, please contact: Sue Murphy, 708-354-1323, extension 221.

Health Clinic: Dr. Nyaeme, a geriatric physician with Adventist Midwest Geriatric Specialists, sees patients on selected Thursday mornings by appointment.

Please call: 708-245-4073 to make an appointment.

Will and Estate Planning: Attorney Erik Peck is available the second Wednesday of the month at Grace Lutheran Church for consultation on matters pertaining to estate planning. There is no fee for the consultation.

Please contact: Intake Office, 708-354-1323, extension 215 to make an appointment.

Communities Served

Bedford Park	La Grange
Bridgeview	La Grange Highlands
Broadview	La Grange Park
Brookfield	Lyons
Burr Ridge	McCook
Countryside	North Riverside
Hickory Hills	Riverside
Hinsdale	Summit Argo
Hodgkins	Westchester
Indian Head Park	Western Springs
Justice	Willow Springs

Elder Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation Services Only


Elmwood Park	Northlake
Franklin Park	Park Ridge
Harwood Heights	River Grove
Melrose Park	Rosemont
Norridge	Schiller Park

Aging Care Connections' Mission

.....to enrich the quality of life of older adults and their families through a range of programs and services that enhance their well being and independence

SAVE THE DATE

**SATURDAY, MAY 5, 2012
6:00 PM**



SUPPORT AREA SENIORS **CASUAL ATTIRE**

Sports ball 2012

Dinner! Dancing! Live and Silent Auctions!

Harry Caray's at the Westin, Lombard

ENTER GATE 1

SECTION 201

ROW 3

SEAT 4


SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

To learn more about sponsorship, or to order tickets, contact Niki at 708-354-1323 ext. 226.

ONLY 350 TICKETS AVAILABLE!

Mingle with Dutchie Caray and Celebrity Athletes!

TO BENEFIT



Your Source For Senior Care

111 W. Harris Ave. • La Grange, IL 60525
PH: 708/354/1323 • FX: 708/354/0282
nchibucos@agingcareconnections.org
www.agingcareconnections.org

HELP US SAVE  **AND**  **!!!**

Please contact Niki Chibucos at 708-354-1323, extension 226 or via e-mail at nchibucos@agingcareconnections.org if you would like to receive this newsletter electronically. Help us to live GREEN! Thanks!

Statement of Non-Discrimination

Aging Care Connections does not discriminate in admission to programs or treatment or employment in programs or activities in compliance with the Illinois Human Rights Act; the Age Discrimination in Employment Act; and the U.S. and Illinois Constitutions. If you feel you have been discriminated against, you have the right to file a complaint with the Illinois Department on Aging. For information, call Aging Care Connections at 708-354-1323.