



Elderberry Institute eNews

Volume 5, Issue 2

February 28, 2006

Important Dates!

Elderberry would like to remind you that three important Network Meeting Sessions are quickly approaching. The following dates have been or will be scheduled, so mark your calendars!

- **Wednesday, April 5** - A Day at the Capitol
- **Wednesday, April 26** - Role of Health Plans, Counties & LAH/BNPs (Metro)
- **May, TBD** - Role of Health Plans, Counties & LAH/BNPs (Rural)

Welcome to the Network!

- Lori Reinert - *Volunteer Coordinator*, Roseville
- Meredith Poppele - *Co-Board Chair*, SouthEast Seniors
- Sarah Godfrey - *Co-Board Chair*, SouthEast Seniors
- Jeanne Clausen - *Volunteer Coordinator*, Argyle
- Sue Praska - *Program Director*, Barnesville
- Carole Mersinger - *Board Chair*, Foley
- Julie Hanley - *Volunteer Coordinator*, Foley
- Peter Lee - *Board Chair*, Grove City
- Kerri Hendrickson - *Volunteer Coordinator*, Grove City
- Chuckie Knudson - *Volunteer Coordinator*, Silver Bay
- Glenn Johnson - *Board Chair*, Warren
- Deb Ziegeweid - *Volunteer Coordinator*, Winona

Elderberry Update: Database Upgrade

As most of you know EI has been working hard to get the new Database Upgrade (Version 3.3) installed for each Program. In the past three weeks we have completed upgrades for about 30 organizations. If you have not been upgraded but would like to be, please call Tom at 800-320-1707 to begin the upgrade process.

We would also like to remind you that we always have the latest version of the database for sale. We ask that you please continue to help us with our database sales by mentioning the system to any interested business or organization. You can always download the Database Brochure from the front page of our website or call Laura at 800-320-1707 to request more copies. Thank you for your support!

Network News: CPAC Meetings

At the February 23rd Elderberry Board Meeting, a Future Directions Proposal was presented for consideration. The Ad Hoc Task Force made recommendations in regard to Elderberry Institute's future directions. The next step is to seek and receive feedback from LAH/BNPs through two meetings hosted by CPAC in order to finalize and approve the proposal. The report will be presented to LAH/BNP representatives by Olivia Mastry, facilitator of the process and author of the recommendations. There will be one rural and one metro meeting in an attempt to receive as much feedback as possible.

The following meeting dates have been **tentatively** scheduled. The metro meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 21st at the West 7th Community Center in St. Paul from 1-2:30pm. The rural meeting will be held on Monday, March 20th at Whitney Senior Center in St. Cloud from 1-3pm.

Programs will be receiving more information regarding these meetings from Connie Feig and Lynn Rabbits, your CPAC representatives for future directions. The Ad Hoc Task Force will then meet on Friday, March 24th to consider Program feedback and formulate a final recommendation to the Board.

Program Profile: Holdingford Helping Hands Outreach to Elders

The 2000 Census states that the city of Holdingford's population is nearly 19% persons over the age of 65. With this in mind it is no surprise that the Helping Hands Program centers its efforts around building relationships in order to awaken their community to the elderly people living around them and helping them realize their potential to grow.

The rapidly growing Program was established in June of 2001 and by December of their first year they already had 69 volunteers making home visits in order to discover the needs of the elders in their community. Word quickly got out and by the end of their second year the Program was averaging 360 hours of service every month. Today that number has risen to around 550 hours

servicing 40-50 seniors of various dependencies each month!

The Helping Hands Program is extremely proud of their many accomplishments such as their regularly published newsletter, their Memory Loss & Mental Health resources, their founding membership with the CARE Partnership and much more!

Under current Program Director Jeff Fromm, they continue to recruit and train volunteers to perform specialized, targeted assistance to meet the needs of the unique elders in their community who range from self-sufficient to extremely frail. They focus on promoting a good, healthy lifestyle and continue to improve the quality of life for the elders who depend on them.