



Elderberry Institute eNews

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Network News:

Local Programs Honored in Their Communities

Two Minnesota Living at Home/Block Nurse Programs were recently honored in their communities. In late June, five volunteers for the Pine Island Area Home Services LAH/BNP were collectively named as one of '10 Who Make a Difference.' The award is given to 10 individuals or groups throughout southeastern Minnesota and northern Iowa by the United Way of Olmsted County and KTTC-TV. The five PIAHS volunteers were selected due to their decision in 2002 to help elderly neighbors whose needs were not being met as identified in the Goodhue County Gaps analysis. Their generosity and hard work resulted in the formation of the Pine Island LAH/BNP which led to this statewide recognition.

In St. Paul, the Payne-Phalen Living at Home/Block Nurse Program was also honored in a different way. Readers of the East Side Review chose the Program as the 2006 Readers' Choice Award winner in the July 17th issue. Upon acceptance of the award, the Payne-Phalen LAH/BNP wished to share the honor with the Conway-Battle Creek LAH/BNP.

Elderberry Update:

Grants, Meetings & Changes

As the summer progresses, Elderberry Institute staff has plenty to do between grant reporting and proposals. We are currently working on five grant proposals which we hope will result in renewed contracts with the Metropolitan Caregiver Connections Collaborative and the Central Minnesota Council on Aging. The grants will provide money for III-E, III-B and Consumer Directed Services in 2007.

Elderberry also continues preparation for the Rural and Annual All-Site Meetings to take place on September 14th and 15th in St. Cloud. We are in the final stages of confirming presenters, so Programs should watch their mailbox for registration forms and schedules.

In other news, the departure of Associate Director Tom Gossett is now behind us, and Elderberry is in the process of reviewing applications for a new Community Liaison and a part-time Project Coordinator for Consumer Directed Services. In the meantime, Laura Muenchow is training to become the new resource person for the Elderberry Institute Database. Bernie Ryan and Arlene Pine will also be taking on added responsibilities with Consumer Directed Services. Elderberry asks all Programs to please be patient with us as we work through this transition. Please continue to call and e-mail with any questions!

Welcome to the Network!

- Barbara DeGrote-Sorensen - Program Director, *Grove City*
- Therese Buckley - Interim Program Director, *West 7th*
(Maureen Davidson is now the Interim Executive Director for the West 7th Community Center)

Important Dates!

- **Sept. 14** - Rural All-Site Meeting, St. Cloud
- **Sept. 15** - Annual All-Site Meeting, St. Cloud
- **Sept. 30** - Cost & Services Report Due - **ALL LAH/BNPs**
- **Oct. 3-6** - Age & Disability Odyssey, Minneapolis

Program Profile: Summit Hill Living at Home/Block Nurse Program

July marks 13 years for one of St. Paul's Living at Home/Block Nurse Programs. The Summit Hill LAH/BNP was incorporated in 1993 through the efforts of five local residents interested in providing Living at Home services in their area. In 1995 it officially began operations. Located in St. Paul's District 16, the Summit Hill Program boundaries form a triangle between Interstate 35E, Ayd Mill Road and Summit Avenue.

In 2000, the census reported a total

population of 6,741 for the Summit Hill area. Of that number, 506 people were 65 years of age or older. These numbers show a decrease of about 25% in the 65+ population since the 1990 census. However, the Summit Hill LAH/BNP has continued to serve a significant portion of their elderly population. On top of the clients in their area, the Program has also stepped in to serve some of the elders in the West 7th neighborhood, located just south of the Summit Hill Boundaries.

But its not their basic services that have the locals talking. Its their weekly gathering of Friends and Neighbors. This group, known as the FAN Club, meets every Thursday to exercise, lunch and discuss social & educational topics. Half of the group is 90 years of age or older, and three members are 97!

The current staff consists of Program Director Julie Poupore and Service Coordinator Sue Burkhardt, and both are involved in the direct delivery of service.