



# Elderberry Institute eNews

Volume 6, Issue 6

June 30, 2007

## Network News

### North East Neighborhood Begins Services!

As of June 1 the North East Neighborhood Program began providing services to elders in their area. Please refer elders living in the St. Paul District 2 boundaries to their Program at 651-808-1901. District 2 boundaries are anything north of Minnehaha Avenue, east of Johnson Parkway, south of Larpenteur Avenue and west of McKnight Road.

The Program is headed up by Board Chair Loretta Novak and main staff person Lisa Heilman. They are in the final stages of becoming an official Living at Home/Block Nurse Program.

### Program Profile: Tri-Community LAH/BNP

When it comes to Living at Home/Block Nurse Programs, the Northwest corner of Minnesota is in luck. The Tri-Community LAH/BNP is one of five Programs serving elders who live in Marshall County.

Interested citizens in the Newfolden, Viking and Holt communities located in central Marshall County visited the nearby Argyle HOPE Program in 1998 and decided a Living at Home/Block Nurse Program would be beneficial to their communities. They decided to name the new Program Tri-Community LAH/BNP to indicate all three cities. By the summer of 1999 the steering committee had secured funding from their regional AAA and a few months later had two staff members. By late fall, approval came from Elderberry Institute and the Tri-Community Living at Home/Block Nurse Program began their services to elders.

The 2000 Census reported populations of 362, 92, and 89 people living in Newfolden, Viking and Holt, respectively. Of the 543 people in these three communities, 113 of them were over the age of 65. Obviously the elderly population has grown since then considering the Tri-Community Program served 185 elders in the 2005-06 Fiscal Year.

The Program is currently run by Program Director Darcy Hestekind with the help of Volunteer Coordinator Jill Edin. Their Board Chair is Sharon Bring.

### Grove City 'Garage Guys'

*By: Ronda Johnson, Program Director for Grove City Area CARE*

Something really great is happening in Grove City! A group of men started meeting every Tuesday evening to chat, share their problems, and get to know each other better. They meet in a cooled/heated garage and call themselves "The Garage Guys".

At a recent meeting, one of the men brought up the suggestion of going out in the community and doing odd jobs for our seniors. My husband is one of those Garage Guys and he knew I was a good connection for finding those seniors needing assistance.

I spread the word at a seniors' gathering and immediately had 6 jobs for the guys. Now they've washed windows, hauled away old appliances, repaired broken steps, and moved heavy furniture. Word is getting out and calls are coming every week with new jobs.

An unexpected result of this outreach is the unsolicited donations being made to our Program as the seniors' way of saying "Thanks!" to the Garage Guys. We've heard lots of positive feedback in the community and have added to our number of volunteers and clients.

*If your Program has a 'feel good' story, send it to [Lmuenchow@elderberry.org](mailto:Lmuenchow@elderberry.org) to be included in future eNews issues!*

## Elderberry Update

### New Administrative Assistant

Rachel Leiterman officially joined the Elderberry staff as Administrative Assistant on June 11. She's been handling the phones and general office duties but has also begun training on Consumer Directed Services support. General questions can now be directed towards her by e-mail at [Rleiterman@elderberry.org](mailto:Rleiterman@elderberry.org).

### New Board Members

The Elderberry Board of Directors has grown to 15 members with recent additions. Peg Shelton joined the Board last April and is the former Pine Island Area Home Services LAH/BNP Board Chair. Linda Olson Keller and Ghita Worcester joined the board in June. Linda is a Clinical Associate Professor at the U of M School of Nursing and Ghita is the Senior Vice President of Public Affairs and Marketing at UCare Minnesota.

### Website Trouble

Many people have noticed that the Elderberry Institute website has been unavailable for hours at a time during the past few weeks. This is due to mechanical errors that our website host company is experiencing. Elderberry has decided to change hosts, effective Tuesday, July 3rd. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused the Programs.

### Welcome to the Network!

- Rachel Leiterman - Admin Asst, Elderberry

### Farewell & Good Luck!

- Judy Danduran - Vol Coordinator, Granite Falls

**Check [www.elderberry.org](http://www.elderberry.org) for Reporting Deadlines**