



# Elderberry Institute eNews

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## **Program Profile: Rothsay PARTNERS**

Autumn is almost here, you can feel it in the air, smell it in the cool crisp breeze, and soon bright colors will dress our trees. Autumn brings about many changes in one's life whether you are sending your child off to school for the very first time, or sending them off to college. Some changes we can control, others we can not, it is part of life's journey. PARTNERS is here to help the elderly in some of the changes they may experience at some point of their life.

In October 1991, a small group of concerned citizens got together and formed PARTNERS – People Around Rothsay That Need Extra Routine Services – to serve the 65+ population. This October marks the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of helping our “elderly live as independently and safely as possible in their own homes.” Rothsay is a small community that sits on interstate 94 about 40 minutes from Fargo. We serve the Rothsay school district and Carlisle area. We are unique in the fact that the main street in Rothsay divides our town into two counties - Otter Tail and Wilkin. We have 3 townships on the Otter Tail side and 6 townships on the Wilkin side.

Some of the services we offer to the 70 people we serve are: the annual flu clinic, grocery service, rides, and foot & ear clinics. We also host social activities like the fall tour of leaves, spring garden shopping, the pie and ice cream social in August, and the annual Christmas volunteer appreciation dinner.

PARTNERS is staffed by two part time employees, Program Director Pamela Iverson, Volunteer Coordinator Stacey Lang and 69 volunteers that have helped to make this program a success for 15 years.

*Article written by: Pam Iverson*

## **Elderberry Update:**

### **Are you taking Solid Steps to Support Elders?**

The Annual and Rural All-Site Meetings are quickly approaching! Have you sent in your registration form? Registrations are due by Friday, September 8th, so don't forget to send them soon.

The 2006 All-Site theme is “Solid Steps to Supporting Elders.” Session topics range from Marketing to Legislation to ideas for direct care in various situations. We are pleased to announce the 2006 Keynote Speaker as well. Gerise Thompson from the Rochester branch of the Alzheimer's Association will present a session called “Maintain Your Brain.” Her talk will provide ideas and insight for how to help both yourself and elders keep your mind alert and active.

If you would like to find out who is facilitating a session you are interested in, please feel free to call Laura Muenchow at 800-320-1707. Also, please continue to pass on the registration forms to anyone you think may be interested in attending the meetings. This year both Meetings are open to non-LAH/BNP attendees. We look forward to seeing everyone in September!

## **Welcome to the Network!**

- Eleni Messiou - Volunteer Coordinator, *Longfellow*

## **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
- **Oct. 4** - **SEE REPORT SCHEDULE ONLINE**

## **Network Update:**

### **'Neighborhood Partnerships' Closes**

This July, the Living at Home/Block Nurse Program Network said goodbye to one of its metro Programs. The Neighborhood Partnerships Program in Edina officially closed its doors on July 31, 2006. The Program was having problems funding the position of Program Director. The Board of Directors led by chairperson Mark Shockey ran the Program for the last months before closure but was unable to keep the Program moving forward without a proper staff.

In their last year of service, Neighborhood Partnerships served 36 elders living in Edina. At the time of closure, the board was confident that the Program has made a positive impact on the community. Some of these residents continue to receive help from past Program volunteers. The Program was open for four years from 2002-2006.

### **Fee Committee Recommendation Approved**

The Elderberry Institute Board approved a recommendation from the fee committee that each state based funded LAH/BNP be requested to pay a fee in early 2007 of between \$500 and \$700, as their individual situation permits. In addition, if the 2007 Legislative Initiative is successful, each funded Program will be expected to pay an additional \$100 for the period from July 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007. No base funded Program is expected to pay more than \$700 during 2007 in relation to this fee.

For more information or to read the full recommendation, log in to the member's only side of the Elderberry Institute website and download the document titled “Fee Committee Memo” from the Board Packet.