

## Eastern Van Buren County Senior Services Planning Project

*Our Goal: provide opportunities, services and caring support for seniors to enhance their quality of life.*

- Our population is growing older.
- Our oldest population, 80 years of age and older, is growing at great speed.
- There are limited services for older persons in the Eastern parts of Van Buren County.
- Reports indicate seniors involved in senior center activities experience less depression and have fewer physical limitations.
- Easy access to services for seniors is of utmost importance to our families whether they are grandparents raising grandchildren, caregivers of all ages helping loved ones, sisters caring for brothers, neighbors helping seniors and nieces caring for their uncles and aunts.

### Seniors are saying...

- I need help with my Medicare
- I can't pay for my medications
- I want to learn new things
- I can't cook anymore, I need help with food
- I'm so lonely, I want to be with people
- There has got to be a simpler way to find help, I'm so confused.
- I need help at home.
- We want services, we have nothing here

### They want a place to call for help.

- They need an "Information and Assistance Center" – a call center that provides information about services and works to connect seniors with critical services or products they may need.



- Seniors risk losing their social ties as they age; senior centers preserve these ties and build social capital.
- Medicare dollars will be preserved since active and independent seniors spend less time in long-term care facilities.
- Caregivers burdens will be lifted therefore employers would experience less workplace absenteeism, decreased employee turnover and increased employee productivity.
- The overall health of seniors in our community will be increased.

- For a few pennies a month, we can provide care and activities for our seniors.
- Sharing the expense via a tax means we can all easily help protect seniors, serve seniors and care for our seniors for just a few cents per day.
- Information seniors can rely on in the areas of medicine, social security, taxes, insurance and home repairs provided by a senior services agency protects our seniors from being taken advantage by predators and scam artists.

## Seniors want and need these Services . . .

- **Information and Assistance Center**
- **Senior Center Services**
- **Trips and Tours**
- **Home and Congregate Meals**
- **In-home Care Assessments**
- **Care Watch Care Management**
- **Affordable In-Home Care**
- **Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program**
- **Rides for Medical Care**
- **Emergency Medical Cards**
- **Intergenerational Programs**
- **Volunteer Opportunities**

## Contacts and Information

[www.pawpaw.net/goseniors](http://www.pawpaw.net/goseniors)

Contact: Pat Winston, Miller Court Housing Commission – 657-4776  
Jennifer Carver, SH Area Senior Services (Western Van Buren County) – 637-3706  
Jennifer Kellerman, White Oaks Assisted Living, 624-4811