




Haywood COMMUNITY CONNECTOR





Haywood Community Connections Quarterly Newsletter

Fall, October 2009



In 2006, the Haywood Community Partnership received a four-year grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and Haywood Community Connections was born. Now, only six months are left in that four-year grant period. Who would have thought the time would fly by so fast? What do partners and staff have to show for that time and money?

Consider these accomplishments:

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- 2-1-1 was established in Haywood County in collaboration with United Way.
 - A website was established to inform of senior issues:
www.haywoodconnections.org
 - A Senior Directory was published and distributed.
 - A Senior Leadership Class was established in collaboration with Haywood Community College.
 - Senior Resource Teams now operate in ten communities across the county. These teams have:
 - Sponsored a Senior Safety Day
 - Sponsored an Emergency Preparedness Event
 - Established a Caregiver Support Group in Canton.
 - Raised awareness of Alzheimer's Disease.
 - Established a food pantry in a senior housing complex.
 - Put resource bags together for people moving into the area.
 - A Senior Advocacy Network was established.
 - Project CARE received state funding due in large part to the advocacy network.
 - The dental clinic began serving Medicaid-eligible adults.

- An Adult Day Health component was added to Maple Leaf Adult Day Care.
- Senior Resource Manuals were distributed to all medical clinics, mental health professionals and law enforcement agencies.
- A Phone-a-Friend Program was established.
- A 9-1-1 Cell Phone distribution Program was established.
- Caregiver bags were distributed.
- 10,000 Files of Life were distributed.
- Collaborated with Haywood Public Transit to write a grant and received a grant to establish a New Freedom Transportation Program.
- Received an Acts of Caring award from the National Association of Counties.
- Received a Multi-generational and Civic Engagement award from the National Council on Aging and the Administration on Aging

The list could go on, but you get the idea—partners, staff and volunteers have been very busy over the past few years and have made a large impact in Haywood County.

Because Haywood County has no Department on Aging and no Council on Aging, the work of Haywood Community Connections has become vital to our county and its senior population, yet the program cannot continue without funding. Partners, staff and volunteers are working diligently to establish some fee-based services that will hopefully generate income in the future, but this constitutes starting a new business, and everyone knows it can take several years for a new business to generate a profit. Grants are also being written in an effort to generate funds; however, competition is fierce and funding has decreased with the downturn in the economy. (continued on p.2)

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Haywood Community Connections would like to become a full resource center, bringing many senior services together under one roof. This is possible, but currently the program is just trying to survive, and needs your help to do so. A handful of people cannot save this important program, it will take many of you, contributing what you can to keep this senior program alive.

What can one person do? Many things... first, contribute what you can yourself. Second, speak to any class, group or organization of which you are a member. Ask them to take Haywood Community Connections as a project and hold a fundraiser for its support. Third, have a party on your birthday and ask, in lieu of gifts, that attendees bring a contribution to your favorite charity (Haywood Community Connections). Fourth, think of other creative ways you can raise money to contribute.

If Haywood Community Connections is lost, many wonderful programs will also be lost, and more importantly, future potential will not be realized.

Partners and staff ask you to do what you can to further the work of this important program and thank you for all you do to support Haywood Community Connections.

The recent quarterly meeting of the Senior Resource Team members was well attended. These



quarterly meetings give team members an opportunity to network and learn from each other.

“Men in no way approach so nearly to the gods as in doing good to men.” -Cicero



Foreground, left to right: Chris Gibson, Lunia Williams, and Ann McAdams, members of the Canton Senior Resource Team, enjoy the quarterly meeting.



Senior Safety Day, sponsored by the Waynesville Senior Resource Team, was very well attended.

Jeff Haynes, with The 30th Judicial Alliance, was one of several presenters at the Senior Safety Day.



Robert Fulbright, President of the NC Senior Citizens Association and Representative Ray Rapp share advocacy pointers with members of the Senior Advocacy Network



The current Senior Leadership Class heads out on the bus to learn first hand about programs and services for seniors in Haywood County.

GRANT ADMINISTRATORS VISIT FROM WASHINGTON, D.C. AND BERMUDA

This month, program staff from the Multi-generational and Civic Engagement Initiative with the National Council on Aging visited Haywood Community Connections. The MGCE initiative is about discovering, documenting and supporting existing exceptional locally developed program models and volunteer engagement strategies throughout the United States.

Haywood Community Connections' Senior Leadership/Senior Resource Team Program was one of the local models selected to be taken to the exceptional level and considered as a national model. Tom Endress, Vice President, Civic Engagement, National Council on Aging and Dr. Edmina Bradshaw, consultant, were treated to a home-made breakfast, and spent the rest of the day visiting with staff and facilitators of our Senior Resource/Wisdom Works Teams. They had good things to say about our local program. Tom said our program will be "Difficult to replicate but important to replicate."



Juanita Dixon, Ann McAdams, Beverly Beason, and Lunia Williams prepare breakfast for the visiting MGCE team.

He noted that the Atlantic Philanthropy's current priority is exactly what our program is now doing.

Tom also said "I wish we could 'can' what you have here and take it to the other communities. One of the things I will take away is how your Senior Leadership Program helps people recognize their passions."

Dr. Bradshaw said of our Senior Leadership Program curriculum, "You have a customized tool here that can be adapted by others. It has great potential."

Tom and Edmina were very encouraging and said they will get back to the staff regarding some ideas they have that may be useful in our efforts toward sustainability.

It was a great pleasure to have Tom and Edmina visit and so very good to hear that the good work of our teams is being recognized on a national level.



Tom Endress and Dr. Edmina Bradshaw



Victoria Young, Project Director of Haywood Community Connections, poses with a Multigenerational and Civic Engagement Team at a conference in Philadelphia. Left to right: Jessica Snow, Dr. Andrea Taylor, Victoria Young, Lynette Whiteman, and Dr. Edmina Bradshaw.



In the past month, Ruth Simpson, a Senior Resource Team Member, has presented a video program for two groups regarding Haywood Community Connections. She has spoken of the need to sustain the program and has raised \$400.

Ruth is shown here, presenting a check to Victoria Young, Director of Haywood Community Connections.

Ruth is doing her part to ensure that seniors have a place to call their own in Haywood County. Will you join her in raising funds for this important program? Call 452-2370 and speak to Victoria Young or Yvonne Gold to find out how you can help Haywood Community Connections continue its important work.

**Haywood Community Connections
Governing Council:**

- Mountain Projects, Inc., Lead Agency
- Haywood Community College
- Haywood County Board of Commissioners
- Haywood County Cooperative Extension Service
- Haywood County Department of Social Services
- Haywood County Emergency Management
- Haywood County Health Department
- Haywood County Recreation and Parks
- Haywood Regional Medical Center
- Mountaineer Publishing Company, Inc.
- Southwestern Commission, Agency on Aging
- United Way of Haywood County
- Inez Angus, Christianna Gibson and Tony Beaman

Haywood Community Connections is supported by the Community Partnerships for Older Adults which is a national program funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to help communities develop leadership, innovative solutions, and options to meet the needs of older adults over the long term.

Haywood Community Connections Staff: Victoria Young, Project Director; Yvonne Gold, Project Coordinator; Odile Ullah, Information Assistant; Mattie Green and Janet Burnham, Administrative Assistants.



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TO:



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**“Better together”
Get involved**

- I would like to hear more about the project and determine where I might connect to its mission and volunteer my talents.
- A tax deductible gift in the amount of \$_____ is enclosed **payable to Mountain Projects, Inc., with a notation in the left-hand corner “Haywood Community Connections.”** This gift is in honor/memory of _____.

Name _____ Home Phone _____

Address _____ Business Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Email _____