



Haywood **COMMUNITY CONNECTOR**

Haywood Community Connections Quarterly Newsletter

Winter, January, 2010

What's Next?

Many of you may be wondering what will happen when grant funding for Haywood Community Connections comes to an end. It is not possible to answer that question unequivocally at this time.

It is important to note that Haywood County, municipalities, nonprofits, businesses and individuals have been very supportive during the grant period. As grant funds come to an end this spring, we trust that the work completed by Haywood Community Connections will provide the strongest argument for the need to continue the program. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Community Partnerships for Older Adults Initiative (CPFOA) recently published a report based on outcomes from its 15 projects across the nation. Our program was one of those 15. The report stands as proof that partnerships work.

Haywood Community Connections has:

- Improved supports for older adults by asking them what their needs and preferences are and involving them, along with a wide range of traditional and non-traditional partners, in develop-

ing a comprehensive, community-wide strategic plan to expand and improve local efforts to respond to those needs.

- Made it possible to combine and allocate resources more effectively and meet needs more efficiently. The Byzantine maze of local long term care services and supports behaves more like a coordinated system in which providers, consumers, and community leaders work together toward shared goals. Perhaps most importantly, the partnership has

- Strengthened our community. By bringing everyone to the table to work together, it has increased connections among neighbors and reduced barriers between agencies and sectors.

In the current economy, states and communities have tough choices to make selecting programs to fund. Problems facing older adults and their families will grow worse as the senior population increases, budget cuts continue, and more people struggle to pay for basic necessities and health care. Community partnerships represent a good investment because they foster collaboration among community players who work together to reallocate resources and meet needs more efficiently. We trust the "powers that be" in Haywood County will realize this and provide support to continue Haywood Community Connections.

~ Yvonne Gold,
Project Coordinator

CPFOA GRANTEE COMMUNITIES



You will note that our area is flagged on the map along with large areas such as Houston, Milwaukee, and Jacksonville. We were very privileged to receive a grant from such a prestigious foundation.

WHAT HAPPENED TO.....

Do any of you wonder what happened to the programs that were administered by the Council on Aging? In 2006, when the Council on Aging dissolved, most of the programs were salvaged thanks to area agencies stepping up to the plate.

Several agencies had come together in 2004 as the Haywood Community Partnership and began work on an 18-month grant project. This same group later applied for a second round of funding and established Haywood Community Connections. These diverse agencies learned to work together for a common good. Therefore, upon the demise of the Council on Aging, it came as no surprise that these agencies stepped forward and amicably decided what program would go where based on the good of the community. Mountain Projects became the lead agency for Haywood Community Connections. The Faith In Action Program was incorporated into Mountain Projects' Safe at Home Program, and Mountain Projects also took responsibility for the Information and Assistance Program which continues to be funded by another partner, the Southwestern Commission Area Agency on Aging. The Community Alternatives Program (CAP) and the Adult Day Care Program became part of the Department of Social Services. Happy Wanderers as well as Senior Games and Silver Arts continue as part of the Recreation and Parks Department. Haywood County took over payments on the former MARC building and used it as county headquarters until courthouse renovations were completed.

Haywood Community Connections addresses many long term care issues and has a mission to equip and empower older adults to live productively in their own communities as long as desired and possible. While it does not have responsibility for direct service programs, it does take responsibility for bringing diverse groups together to promote collaboration and serves as a catalyst in bringing about change to the long term care system.

On November 18, 2009 the sixth Senior Leadership Class graduated. Pictured back to front, left to right: Betti Bumgardner, Bill King, Beverly Beason, Bill Bumgardner, Helen King, Jan Chicoine, Melissa Moss, David Hendrix, Sandi Matson, Susan Giles, Suzanne Hendrix, Jackie Wicks, and Marsha Crites (instructor)



The final Quarterly Meeting of the Senior Resource Teams was held on December 9th. It was an opportunity to fellowship and celebrate the Holiday Season together.



NOT business as usual!



We express our sincere appreciation to Arnold Howell for spearheading our fundraising campaign.



Congratulations to our own Patsy Dowling on being selected as The Mountaineer's 2009 Person of the Year!

We wish Patsy continued success in the New Year.



Lake Junaluska Senior Resource Team member, Marie Metcalf, beautifully captured Haywood County's first large snowfall on film.



Haywood Community Connections' Senior Resource Team members collected personal hygiene items that were then donated to the homeless shelter.

Mattie Green of Haywood Community Connections is seen delivering the bags to Perry and Joanne Hines who work closely with the shelter.



IT'S WHAT YOU DO--NOT WHEN YOU DO IT

Ted Williams, at age 42, slammed a home run in his last official time at bat. Mickey Mantle, age 20, hit 23 home runs his first full year in the majors.

Golda Meir was 71 when she became Prime Minister of Israel. William Pitt II was 24 when he became Prime minister of Great Britain.

George Bernard Shaw was 94 when one of his plays was first produced. Mozart was just seven when his first composition was published.

Now how about this? Benjamin Franklin was a newspaper columnist at 16 and a framer of the United States Constitution when he was 81.

You're never too young or too old if you've got talent. Let's recognize that age has little to do with ability.—United Technologies Corporation, in Charles Swindoll, [Living Above the Level of Mediocrity](#), p.104

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

**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.



Victoria Young,
Project Director

Haywood Community Connections
Haywood County Office Building

TO:



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**“Better together”
To 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 _____