



n4a Announces

2010 Aging Innovations and Achievement Award Recipients

Recognizing innovative and successful aging services programs that serve older adults in communities across the country

Washington, DC (July 20, 2010) – The National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a) announced the 2010 recipients of its prestigious *Aging Innovations and Achievement Awards* today at its annual conference in St. Louis, MO. This awards program recognizes n4a member Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) and Title VI Native American aging programs, and showcases innovative and successful aging services that assist older adults and caregivers in communities across the country. The need for successful cost-effective aging services programs is especially important to address the needs of our ever-growing aging population.

Thirty-six programs received *Aging Achievement Awards* and nine (9) top-ranking programs were honored with *Aging Innovations Awards*. In addition, the three programs that scored the highest in the review process received monetary awards. Jeffrey Prough, President and CEO of Critical Signal Technologies (CST), sponsor of the awards program, announced the following monetary awards: \$2,500 to Los Angeles Department of Aging (Los Angeles, CA) for the **City of Los Angeles Senior Art Exhibit**, a partnership that features the artwork of senior amateur artists; \$1,500 to the Carroll County Bureau of Aging (Westminster, MD) for **Retirement Options for Persons with Disabilities**, a partnership that involves therapeutic art techniques in educating younger adults with developmental disabilities about retirement programs provided by senior centers; and \$1,000 to the Aging & Independence Services (San Diego, CA) for the **Workforce Academy for Youth (Way)**, an intergenerational program that utilizes the strengths of older volunteers as Life Skills Coaches in mentoring youth ages 17-21 who 'age out' of the foster care system.

This year, the awards program also presented a "Leadership as Innovators in Aging Programs Award," which honors one agency that cultivates a creative and flexible atmosphere to foster groundbreaking programs. **Aging & Independence Services of San Diego, CA** received this award as the winner of two *Achievement Awards*, two *Innovations Awards* and a monetary Award.

In presenting the awards Prough said, "It is a privilege for CST your Link to Life to sponsor the n4a's Aging Innovations and Achievement Awards again this year. Through our partnership with n4a and the Area Agencies on Aging, it is an honor to recognize those who develop and implement creative programs to better assist our older adults. Each year, I am impressed by your ingenuity, touched by your unwavering commitment to excellence and amazed by your eagerness to openly share your ideas with your peers. On behalf of myself and CST your Link to Life, thank you for your contributions to improve the care we provide to those most in need."

The *Aging Innovations Awards* recognize ground-breaking programs that are innovative and bring fresh ideas to aging programs. The honored programs serve as models for other agencies looking for new approaches to serve the older population within their own communities.

“Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) and Title VI Native American aging programs are the trusted resources for assistance to older adults and caregivers in their communities. These organizations are the lifeline that provide critical resources that help older adults remain in their homes and stay active and contributing members of their communities as long as possible,” stated Sandy Markwood, n4a CEO.

Nine (9) *Aging Innovations Awards*, the highest honor, were presented to the following:

- Aging & Independence Services / San Diego, CA for **TEAM SAN DIEGO** – (a collaboration that coordinates health and social service programs for aging and disabled persons with chronic illness by creating “virtual” care teams)
- Aging & Independence Services / San Diego, CA **Workforce Academy for Youth (Way)** – (an intergenerational program that utilizes the strengths of older volunteers as Life Skills Coaches in mentoring youth ages 17-21 who ‘age out’ of the foster care system)
- Carroll County Bureau of Aging / Westminster, MD for **Retirement Options for Persons with Disabilities** – (a partnership that involves therapeutic art techniques in educating younger adults with developmental disabilities about retirement programs provided by senior centers)
- ElderSource, Area Agency for Aging for Northeast Florida / Jacksonville, FL for **Virtual Tour of Services DVD** – (a creative way to communicate about services to elders and caregivers who have low literacy and difficulty understanding written brochures and techno-lingo)
- Hawkeye Valley Area Agency on Aging / Waterloo, IA for **Elderly Nutrition Food Box Program** – (a partnership that provides older residents in rural areas, who are living on a fixed income and at risk of malnutrition, with a nutritious fifteen-meal food box once a month)
- Los Angeles Department of Aging / Los Angeles, CA for the **City of Los Angeles Senior Art Exhibit** – (a partnership that annually provides a citywide showing of artwork by senior amateur artists)
- Montgomery County Area Agency on Aging / Rockville, MD for **Better Living at Home** – (a collaboration of health care and social workers to provide assessment and intervention assistance for older adults who are at-risk of out-of-home placements due to functional impairments)
- New York City Department for the Aging / New York, NY for **MarketRide** – (a program that uses school buses during the hours they are idle to shuttle seniors to supermarkets and other venues)
- Westchester County Department of Senior Programs and Services / Mount Vernon, NY for **Livable Communities Caregivers Coaching** – (a partnership that involves professional nurses, social workers and geriatric care managers to train volunteers to coach family caregivers)

In addition, the 2010 *Aging Achievement Awards* were given to 36 programs in 11 categories that included Caregiving, Community Planning/Livable Communities, Elder Abuse Prevention, Healthy Aging, Home/Community-Based Care, Information & Referral, Nutrition, Technology, Transportation and volunteerism/civic engagement. The list of *Aging Achievement Award* recipients is attached.

n4a is the leading voice on aging issues for Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) and a champion in our nation's capital for Title VI Native American aging programs. Through advocacy, training and technical assistance, n4a supports the national network of 629 AAAs and 246 Title VI programs. The fundamental mission of the AAAs and Title VI aging programs is to provide services that make it possible for older individuals to remain in their homes, thereby preserving their independence and dignity. These agencies coordinate and support a wide range of home and community-based services, including information and referral, home-delivered and congregate meals, transportation, employment services, senior centers, adult day care and a long-term care ombudsman program. (www.n4a.org)

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(More)

2010 AGING ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

The following programs are recipients of the 2010 *Aging Achievement Awards* for their notable contributions to the quality of life of older adults and their caregivers:

Caregiving

Caregiver Resource Zone
WACOG-Area Agency on Aging / Yuma, AZ

Caregiver Solutions
Southeast Missouri Area Agency on Aging / Cape Girardeau, MO

Yoga for Caregivers DVD
Aging & Independence Services / San Diego, CA

Community Planning/Livable Communities

Livable Communities Walkability Audit
Westchester County Department of Senior Programs and Services / Mount Vernon, NY

New Planning Principles to Create New Communities
Atlanta Regional Commission, Area Agency on Aging / Atlanta, GA

The State of Aging & Health Among Older Latinos
Los Angeles Department of Aging / Los Angeles, CA

Elder Abuse Prevention

Bexar AAA Assisted Living Task Force
AACOG Bexar Area Agency on Aging / San Antonio, TX

It's My Money!
New York City Department for the Aging, New York City, NY

PEACE (Prevent Elder Abuse & Criminal Exploitation)
TARCOG Area Agency on Aging / Huntsville, AL

Healthy Aging

Elder Suicide Prevention
ElderSource, Area Agency on Aging for Northeast Florida / Jacksonville, FL

Fall Prevention Toolkit and On-line Resource Guide
Aging & Independence Services / San Diego, CA

Generations "Step It Up"
Generations, Area 13 Agency on Aging / Vincennes, IN

Stand Tall, Don't Fall
Prince William Area Agency on Aging / Woodbridge, VA

Home/Community-Based Care

Bed Bugs—Innovative Solutions to an Age-Old Problem
Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley, Inc. / Lawrence, MA

Health Care Consortium/Long Term Care Services
AACOG Bexar Area Agency on Aging / San Antonio, TX

Los Angeles City & County Directors Knowledge Fair
Los Angeles Department of Aging / Los Angeles, CA

Project REACH (Ready to Extend a Caring Hand)
Washington County Disability, Aging & Veteran Services / Hillsboro, OR

Providing Alternatives to Transition Home
Area Agency on Aging 10B, Inc. / Uniontown, OH

Information & Referral

Carrier Alert Program at Hawkeye Valley
Hawkeye Valley Area Agency on Aging / Waterloo, IA

Nutrition

Menu Choices
Hawkeye Valley Area Agency on Aging / Waterloo, IA

Technology

MAC Track
ElderSource, Area Agency on Aging for Northeast Florida / Jacksonville, FL

The Livable Communities Web Portal
Westchester County Department of Senior Programs and Services / Mount, Vernon, NY

The Virtual Senior Center
New York City Department for the Aging, New York City/ NY

Transportation

Transportation & Mobility Options
Alliance for Aging, Inc. / Miami, FL

WellTran
Shenandoah Area Agency on Aging / Front Royal, VA

You Name It

Community Expansion of Nutritional Assistance
Oklahoma Association of Area Agencies on Aging (O4A) / Shawnee, OK

Dorothy had it right!
Hawkeye Valley Area Agency on Aging / Waterloo, IA

Elders Advocacy Network: Education and Training
AACOG Bexar Area Agency on Aging / San Antonio, TX

Emergency Preparedness and Response
Heritage Area Agency on Aging / Cedar Rapids, IA

Helping Elderly Meet Essential Needs
Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc. / Mansfield, OH

Hit Your Target With Waiting Lists
Area Agency on Aging of North Idaho / Coeur d'Alene, ID

No Cost Needs Assessment and Data Analysis
Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio, Inc. / Toledo, OH

Positive Living Awards
Alliance for Aging, Inc. / Miami, FL

Retreats and Treats
River Valley Area Agency on Aging / Columbus, GA

Senior Beat
Eastern Area Agency on Aging / Bangor, ME

Tell Me a Story...and We'll Spread the Word!
Area Agency on Aging of Palm Beach/Treasure Coast, Inc. / West Palm Beach, FL

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