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**National Association of Area Agencies on Aging**

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**FOR RELEASE**

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## **13 Programs Honored for Innovative Programs That Capitalize on the Abilities of Older Volunteers**

**Washington, D.C.** – The National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a) has announced the recipients of the 2008 MetLife Foundation *Older Volunteers Enrich America* Program Awards. The awards, now in the third year, recognize organizations nationwide for effective recruitment and engagement of volunteers age 50 and older. Administered by n4a in partnership with MetLife Foundation, the awards are intended to strengthen the capacity of service organizations to capitalize on the knowledge, skills, and time of older adults.

Award selections were made from nominations submitted by volunteer programs and agencies across the country. Three *Awards of Excellence in Older Volunteer Program Management* were given to outstanding volunteer programs whose practices in recruitment, training, retention and recognition of older volunteers set a standard of practice for others. Each program will receive a monetary award to help further its work. In addition, ten exemplary programs were recognized with *Awards of Achievement in Older Volunteer Program Management*. All of the award-winning programs will be profiled in a publication that will be shared with volunteer programs nationwide.

“The growing older population represents a valuable, but underutilized volunteer resource,” said Sibyl Jacobson, president of MetLife Foundation. “We are pleased to join n4a in recognizing programs for excellence in recruiting and engaging older volunteers to build healthy communities.”

According to Sandy Markwood, CEO of n4a, “Older volunteers offer incredible resources to community agencies. By learning more about how their services are sought and used, we hope to help other organizations harness the energy of older adults who stand ready to give back to society. We are delighted to partner with MetLife Foundation to recognize the promising practices of outstanding volunteer programs.”

The recipients of the 2008 *Awards of Excellence in Older Volunteer Program Management* are:

- Workforce Academy for Youth, sponsored by the San Diego County, CA Human Resources Department, which uses older volunteers as Life Skill coaches to mentor foster care youths who are about to be emancipated from the system.
- Seniors Out Speaking on Medicare, sponsored by the Medicare Rights Center in Westchester County, NY, which uses presentations in a variety of settings (including a drama troupe that acts out difficult situations with health care providers) to train volunteers to educate other older adults on Medicare.

- Senior Adults for Greater Education, SAGE, which provides a range of opportunities for older volunteers to serve as mentors in three school districts in Pennsylvania. Activities range from one-on-one tutoring to involvement in school activities such as spelling bees, choir, and history.

Recipients of the 2008 *Awards of Achievement in Older Volunteer Program Management* are:

- Meals on Wheels Drivers, Loaves and Fishes Centers, Portland, OR
- Foster Grandparent Program, Audubon Area Community Services, Owensboro, KY
- RSVP-Your Invitation to Volunteer, Senior Services, Inc., Kalamazoo, MI
- SOAR Nonprofit Management Consulting Group, SOAR 55, West Newton, MA
- Mature Worker Connection, Pima Council on Aging, Tucson, AZ
- Red Tape Cutters, Age Options, Oak Park, IL
- RSVP-Mentoring Children of Incarcerated Parents (Mentor CHIP), New York, NY
- RSVP-The Senior Force of Generations, Vincennes, IN
- Southwest Michigan Senior Net Computer Learning Center, Region IV AAA, St. Joseph, MI
- Baltimore County Volunteer AARP Tax Aide, Baltimore County Dept of Aging, Towson, MD

The National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a) is the leading voice on aging issues for Area Agencies on Aging across the country and a champion for Title VI Native American aging programs in our nation's capital. For more information about n4a, visit [www.n4a.org](http://www.n4a.org).

MetLife Foundation was established by MetLife in 1976 to carry on its longstanding tradition of corporate contributions and community involvement. Grants support health, education, civic and cultural programs throughout the United States. For more information about the Foundation, visit [www.metlife.org](http://www.metlife.org).

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