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Volunteer Teams Receive National Awards

Six Teams Recognized for Innovative Service to Older Adults

WASHINGTON—At a time when our nation’s aging population is growing at a faster pace than ever before yet funding for aging services is eroding, many communities are relying more than ever on volunteers to help deliver critical home and community-based services to older adults who need some support to remain healthy and independent at home. This week, the [National Association of Area Agencies on Aging](#) (n4a) and its U.S. Administration for Community Living (ACL)–funded [Aging Network Volunteer Resource Center](#), announced the six teams that will receive monetary awards as part of a national competition to recognize and support the work that trained volunteer teams are playing in communities across the country in making sure that older adults get to critical medical appointments, are counseled in Medicare options and more.

“The teams that were selected help demonstrate what a difference a group of empowered, organized and driven volunteers can make,” said Tom Endres, Director, Aging Network Volunteer Resource Center. “More Aging Network organizations are turning to volunteer-led teams to create and maintain or expand needed services in their communities when funding diminishes or runs out.”

The six volunteer teams will each receive \$4,000 to help further their missions:

- Area Agency on Aging 1-B, [Medicare Medicaid Assistance Program \(MMAP\)](#), Southfield, MI
- Blount County Office on Aging, [Senior SMiles: Neighbors Driving Neighbors](#), Maryville, TN
- Caregiver Volunteers of Central Jersey, [Easing Hunger Volunteer Team](#), Toms River, NJ
- Newark Senior Center, [Senior Surfers Computer Club](#), Newark, DE
- Pima Council on Aging, [Green Valley-Sahuarita Volunteer Clearinghouse \(GVSVC\)](#), Tucson, AZ
- Rides For Ridgefield, [Rides For Ridgefield](#), Ridgefield, CT

To be considered for the awards, volunteer teams from across the country submitted stories detailing how the team directly contributed to the organization's mission, how volunteer team members benefitted from their service experience and how the team made a measurable difference in their community. Submissions were judged on effectiveness, impact, sustainability of the program, replicability and perceived value to the community.

"Volunteers have always played a critical role at Area Agencies on Aging and throughout the Aging Network," said Sandy Markwood, CEO, National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a). "With the growth of volunteer teams taking on lead roles, agencies will be better equipped to tackle the challenges of serving our nation's growing aging population."

About n4a and the Aging Network Volunteer Resource Center

The **National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a)** is a 501c(3) membership association representing America's national network of 618 Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) and providing a voice in the nation's capital for the 246 Title VI Native American aging programs. The mission of n4a is to build the capacity of its members so they can better help older adults and people with disabilities live with dignity and choices in their homes and communities for as long as possible.

The **Aging Network Volunteer Resource Center** is funded by a grant the Administration for Community Living (ACL) and is administered by the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a). The national center helps leaders in the aging and disability networks engage talented older adult volunteers to meet growing needs for services. The Volunteer Center offers online resources, comprehensive training and opportunities for leaders to learn best practices from each other.

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