

Accomplishments & Community Impacts

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The Knox County Mayor's Senior Summit Initiative has, from the beginning, focused on a total community awareness approach and response to senior needs and expectations. We are pleased to know that the public/private partnerships, in regard to meeting the needs of seniors, have had a community-wide impact over the past four years and are on target for the immediate future and beyond.



PAWS Program (Placing Animals with Seniors)

Knoxville-Knox County CAC Office on Aging Accomplishments for Seniors

- Knox County provided \$70,000 over two years to the Affordable Medicine Options for Seniors (AMOS) program. Primarily focusing on the Medicare Part D prescription drug program, AMOS staff and trained volunteers provided information to 3,390 individuals, with 1,370 receiving detailed personal advising.
- Knox County provided additional funds for Mobile Meals to eliminate the waiting list of 135 people in 2005. Mayor Ragsdale has pledged to continue funding to ensure the "no-waiting list" status. About 770 meals are delivered each weekday to seniors who cannot cook for themselves and have no one to cook for them.
- Funding that supports the Knox County CAC Transit program, which averages more than 1,000 rides per day, providing safe transportation to community resources and services for 4,000 Knox County residents who have no other means. Knox County also provided matching funds for eight propane-powered vehicles.
- The John T. O'Connor Senior Center's expanded North Wing has made it possible to expand the number and kind of programs available. An average of 200 people per day enjoy recreational, educational and health programs. More than 8,000 individuals per year participate.
- Mayor Ragsdale participated in the launch of the PAWS (Placing Animals with Seniors) program, a joint partnership of the Knox County Office on Aging and Young-Williams Animal Center. The



John T. O'Connor Senior Health System



program places adoptable animals from the animal center with low-income seniors.

- Knox County support for the Senior Citizens Information and Referral Service (SCIRS) has made it possible for it to expand. SCIRS now partners with East Tennessee 211 and is responsible for the 211-resource database for the 16-county East Tennessee region.
- Gift of Sight and Hearing (GOSH) has been designated by a private foundation as the agency through which low-income individuals of all ages can apply for eye examinations and glasses. An average of 50 eyeglasses are provided each month. Each year 50 hearing aids are provided through GOSH to low-income individuals age 50+.
- The number of available Senior Companions has more than doubled in recent years. Knox County provides part of the required local matching funds for the program. Receiving a small stipend, 130 Senior Companions work 20 hours a week to provide respite and in-home assistance to 260 seniors.
- The Senior Employment Program provides job search assistance and

counseling to help seniors return to the work world. The program served 120 people this year, with 75 of them finding employment.

- The changing role of grandparents assuming the role of primary caregiver has resulted in a marked increase in participants in the Grandparents as Parents program. Currently there are more than 300 grandparent families registered with the program.
- Project LIVE (Living Independently through Volunteer Efforts) provides a much needed resource for exceptional and extensive care management for low-income Knox County seniors. More than 600 seniors receive assistance each year through Project LIVE.
- Bringing assisted living-type benefits to Summit Towers, the CAC Office on Aging is partnering with property owner Lawler-Wood to provide transportation, lunch and case management for residents. Morningside Gardens receives lunch and transportation through the same partnership.
- The Mobile Meals kitchen prepares and packages about 1,200 meals each day. Snacks are provided for children participating in public after-school recreation programs.

The Daily Living Center is the only adult day care center in Knox County that provides free or reduced-fee daily care for 22 income-eligible seniors.



Senior companions



**The Knox
County Public
Library collection
includes nearly
20,000 large
print books and
12,000 talking
books.**

Knox County Public Library Accomplishments for Seniors

Reference Department

- Scheduled to speak on Tuesdays to employees of Shannondale Retirement Center about Books for the Homebound (for people who cannot get out), online databases, large print books and books on tape and CD
- Has attended and spoken to Office on Aging groups and other senior groups about library services
- Many seniors attend the free computer workshops
- Reference staff have helped many seniors get the new Knox County prescription discount card
- Staff have been doing storytimes for residents of Shannondale Retirement Center

Homebound Services

- Delivered books monthly to 50 shut ins, most of whom are senior
- Senior Volunteer Recognition Event recognized senior volunteers and their contributions to the community. Sponsored by RSVP.
- Helping Hands Home Assistance Fair for Seniors
- Northgate Fair: The New Age of Northgate was an information fair for seniors, sponsored by RSVP
- Information fair for seniors at Cagle Terrace

Communications/Marketing

- Senior Lectures
 - Archaeology and the Native Peoples of East Tennessee (13 lectures)
 - Our Traumatic Past: The Civil War in Tennessee (8 lectures)
 - Financial workshops for long-term care issues
- Tradeshows and Workshops
 - Covenant Health Systems Senior Services Lady Vols Day at the Hall (February, 2006)
 - Knox County Senior Summit (November, 2005)
- Collateral Materials
 - Created posters and bookmarks promoting reference services to seniors
 - Created brochures, bookmarks for Homebound Services
 - Created television ads for Homebound Services (won Silver Addy for PSA)

Collection

- Has nearly 20,000 large print books
- Has 12,000 talking books



Knox County Health Department Accomplishments for Seniors

The Knox County Health Department (KCHD) received more than 40,000 visits from senior citizens. These visits included:

- More than 10,000 flu shots
- More than 1,600 medically needy senior citizens received care through the Knox County Indigent Medical Care Program
- More than 200 female senior citizens received screening for breast and cervical cancer.
- Nearly 6,500 senior citizens received TennCare advocacy services.
- There were over 1,200 visits by senior citizens to the KCHD East Clinic to get immunizations and other services.
- There were more than 8,000 visits by senior citizens to the KCHD main Preventive Health/Traveler's Clinic to get immunizations and travel shots for travel abroad.
- There were more than 6,100 visits to KCHD Social Services by senior citizens for assistance in getting

medical care and medications.

- There were more than 6,200 clinic visits by senior citizens to get primary care services.
- There were more than 1,800 visits by senior citizens to the KCHD West Clinic to get immunizations and other services.
- Nearly 400 senior citizens attended classes on senior nutrition, healthy eating and diabetes offered by KCHD.
- Seniors have participated in numerous health education outreach activities concerning senior health issues and health disparities.
- Prior to Medicare Part D coverage, KCHD Pharmacy has consistently filled an average of 500 prescriptions per month for senior citizens at a cost of approximately \$50,000 per month.
- KCHD helped enroll more than 400 senior citizens onto the Medicare Part D program, where they get extra help to pay for premiums and co-pays.

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GRANTS

For the 2006 program year, 25 organizations received funding totaling \$243,750.

Alzheimer's Association - \$2,000
 CAC - \$4,000
 CAC - \$7,500
 CAC - \$35,000
 Community School of Arts - \$5,000
 Contact of Knoxville - \$2,000
 Corryton Super Seniors \$5,000
 East Tennessee Technology Access Center - \$5,000
 East Tennessee Veterans Honor Guard - \$2,000
 Frank H. McClung Museum - \$8,000
 Helping Hands Home Assistance - \$4,000
 John T. O'Connor Senior Center - \$16,000
 Knox Housing Partnership - \$10,000
 Knoxville Regional Minority Health Coalition - \$12,000
 KORRnet - \$10,000
 Little Tennessee Valley Educational Cooperative - \$1,000
 Lonsdale Community Development Association - \$2,250
 Love Kitchen - \$6,000
 Mental Health Association of East Tennessee - \$8,000
 Senior Citizens Home Assistance Service, Inc. - \$70,000
 Seniors' Night Out - \$2,000
 Sertoma Center, Inc. - \$20,000
 Tennessee Valley Fair - \$3,000
 Volunteer State Honor Guard - \$2,000
 YWCA of Knoxville Phyllis Wheatley Center - \$2,000

Knox County Community Development Accomplishments for Seniors

- **Funding to Knox Housing Partnership for Willow Place Senior Apartments** – New 20-unit senior complex with certificate of occupancy by June 30, 2006. \$1,833,351.33 in HOME and HOME CHDO funds for this project with an additional \$150,750 in CDBG funds for the Senior Center. The Senior Center will serve both Willow Place and Riverbirch Village Senior Apartments.
- **CAC Minor Home Repair Program** – 46 senior households were provided with minor rehabilitation through May 2006. The program was awarded CDBG funding in the amount of \$200,000 through June 30, 2006.
- **CAC North Neighborhood Center** – 15 senior households were provided with essential services for the prevention of homelessness. This program was awarded \$15,000 in CDBG funds through June 30, 2006.
- **InterFaith Health Clinic** – InterFaith serves the working uninsured and through May 2006,

medical care and prescriptions were provided on a sliding fee scale to 20 seniors. This program received \$86,000 in CDBG funding.

- **Parkridge Harbor** – Parkridge Harbor provides services for low-income citizens including the homeless, mentally ill, elderly, veterans, disabled, alcohol and drug addicted, and victims of violence. They assisted three seniors with food. Parkridge was awarded \$50,000 in CDBG funds.
- **Volunteer Ministry Center** – VMC serves the homeless through The Peoples Clinic. Services include dental, medical (including prescriptions), and treatment one Saturday per month for the Hispanic population. To date, 46 seniors have received treatment at The Peoples Clinic. The program received \$30,000 in CDBG funds for the year.
- **Knox County Housing Authority** – KCHA receives approximately 564 vouchers each year to assist not only their Section 8 residents, but also those with vouchers who transfer. Through May 2006, 87 seniors received housing through the program. KCHA received \$2,728,524 for the Federal Voucher Program.