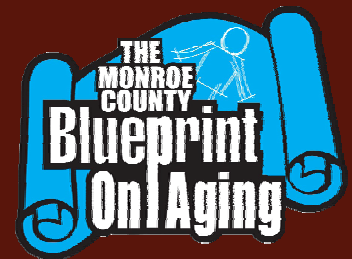


The Monroe County Blueprint on Aging



2009 Annual Report
On enhancements to quality of life
For older Monroe County residents



The Monroe County Blueprint on Aging

A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT OF LEADERSHIP ORGANIZATIONS WORKING TO ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR OLDER MONROE COUNTY RESIDENTS

In 2008, the Monroe County Blueprint for Aging published a Report to the Community, which assessed the existing and future needs of older Monroe County residents and their caregivers. The report contained findings and recommendations for addressing identified problems that seniors face in meeting basic needs, as well as attaining the highest level of independence and quality of life possible. Each recommendation included a detailed implementation strategy to achieve the desired program or systems change. Since the release of the report, Blueprint organizations and other community partners have undertaken a number of efforts to implement the recommendations. This report summarizes the activities and accomplishments of these efforts in 2009:

Health and Nutrition Workgroup

A PRESCRIPTION FOR BETTER LINKAGES TO COMMUNITY RESOURCES

The Health and Nutrition Workgroup developed the innovative Prescription for Wellness concept that will work in collaboration with county physicians and Mercy Memorial Hospital System. Under this project, physicians will be provided with “prescription” tablets that list common community resources that many seniors need to maintain their health, safety, and independence. When the physician identifies a patient that needs help from any of the many community organizations serving seniors, he or she simply checks off the pre-printed resource organization, and issues this prescription for wellness to the patient!

Housing Workgroup

HELPING SENIORS FIND THE BEST HOUSING OPTION

Housing-related resources were added to the Senior Source booklet. A housing resource listing was also created and disseminated through various events and networks in 2009.

A Housing Trust Fund was developed and unveiled in March 2009. This is a collaborative partnership between the Monroe County Association of Realtors, Monroe County Network on Homelessness, Monroe County Opportunity Program, and the Community Foundation for Monroe County.

A Housing Resource Coordinator was added to the Monroe County Opportunity Program staff in September 2009.

The Monroe County Blueprint on Aging

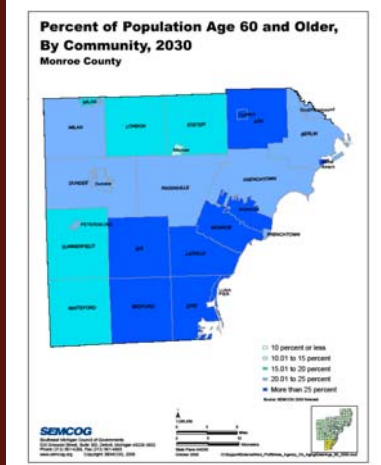
- Area Agency on Aging 1-B
- County of Monroe Planning Department
- Fairview
- Faith in Action
- Frenchtown Senior Center
- Lake Erie Transit Services
- Living Independence for Everyone
- Mercy Memorial Hospital System
- Monroe Community Mental Health Authority
- Monroe County Commission on Aging
- Monroe County Commissioner Floreine Mentel
- Monroe County Health Department
- Monroe County Opportunity Program
- Monroe County Senior Legal Services
- Retired & Senior Volunteer Program of Monroe County
- The Monroe Center for Healthy Aging
- United Way of Monroe County

SENIORS BOOST LOCAL ECONOMY

In 2007, the aggregate income of Monroe County seniors was \$487 million, approximately 92% of which is spent locally. Most of this income was generated into our county's economy, from sources such as Social Security, pensions, and earnings from investments.

MONROE COUNTY IS AGING FAST

In 2010 Monroe's senior population (age 60+) will reach over 30,000, and more than 2,000 residents will celebrate a 60th birthday. And in 2011, there will be more Monroe seniors than school age children.



Quality of Life Workgroup

ACCESSIBILITY AUDITS HELP PUBLIC SERVICES AND BUSINESSES ENHANCE THEIR ELDER FRIENDLINESS

The committee has surveyed the larger senior centers in the county asking a series of questions to measure their 'elder friendliness'. Next older adults and baby boomers who have volunteered to be on the "Senior Majority Audit Patrol" will visit and advise local places whether their business are elder friendly and accessible for older adults.

Social Services Workgroup

COLLABORATION WITH MONROE EVENING NEWS BRINGS RESOURCE INFORMATION TO SENIORS' DOOR

This committee was responsible for producing and publishing the first **Monroe County Senior Resource Guide** as part of a collaborative effort with the Monroe Evening News (see image on back cover). Committee compiled community resource information for the guide, and the Monroe Evening News secured advertising sponsors, published the guide, and distributed it as an insert in the June 26 edition. Additional copies have been distributed at community events, by nonprofit agencies, and at business outlets. Look for a new 2010 edition of the Guide to be published in the summer of 2010.

The committee has also been responsible for organizing a 'traveling show' of community resources and experts that have conducted presentations at places like senior centers and senior housing throughout the county to inform seniors about the resources that are available to them.

Transportation Workgroup

WORKING WITH LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS TO EXPAND TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS FOR MONROE COUNTY SENIORS

The transportation sub-committee has met with the Monroe Township Association to begin the dialogue on a county-wide buy in for public transportation. The interest in having the service is certainly there, however cost is the largest concern. The Commission on Aging will take the lead in this area by expanding the Essential Transit System (ETS) to areas previously un-served. Beginning March 1, 2010, seniors in Monroe will have on-demand ETS service throughout Monroe County. Seniors will need to schedule their own rides; however areas like Carleton, South Rockwood, Newport, Erie, LaSalle and Luna Pier will now see service availability in their areas. This availability will also allow non-seniors to use the service as long as enough seniors are riding. The plan is to increase ridership, popularity of the service and the demand for a county-wide transit millage.

This 2009 Guide was produced by the
Blueprint Social Services Workgroup in
partnership with the Monroe Evening News

WORK WITH US

TO MAKE MONROE COUNTY A GREATER PLACE TO LIVE AND
AGE IN PLACE

JOIN ONE OF OUR ACTIVE WORKGROUPS AND HELP MOVE
SENIOR SERVICES FOR MONROE COUNTY FORWARD

Ways that Monroe County can get involved:

- Join the Senior Majority Audit Patrol

Call Barb Mazur, Frenchtown Senior Center 734.243.6210

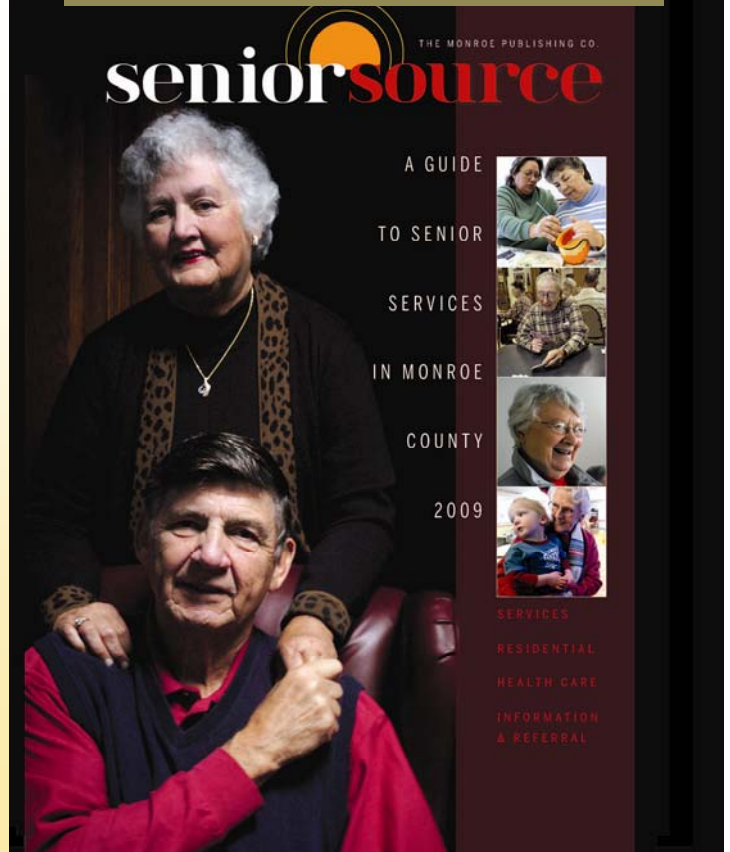
- Join a Monroe County Blueprint on Aging Committee

Call Terri Hamad, Monroe Commission on Aging 734.240.7363

- Join the Mercy Memorial Hospital Guild
- Sponsor a food drive through your church

THIS IS YOUR COMMUNITY

IT IS TIME TO GET MORE INVOLVED



The Monroe County Blueprint on Aging

www.themonroeagingblueprint.com

For information contact:

Ms. Terri Hamad, Director
Monroe County Commission on Aging

Stoner Kemmerling Building
29 Washington Street
Monroe, MI 48161

734.240.7358

e-mail terri_hamad@monroemi.org