



News Release

July 25, 2008

Contact: Brian Gregg, HCJFS – 946-1728; Laurie Petrie, COA – 345-3393

Caregivers and seniors to be honored at Reds game

Caregivers, seniors and staff of social service agencies who work with them will be honored during a presentation before the Reds-Houston Astros game on Friday evening, Aug. 8 at Great American Ballpark.

The presentation, which begins at 6:50 p.m., is sponsored by the Hamilton County Department of Job and Family Services (HCJFS) and Council on Aging of Southwestern Ohio (COA).

In addition to the Aug. 8 presentation, HCJFS and COA will have information booths on the third base concourse at the following upcoming games: Aug. 6, Sept. 2, Sept. 4, and Sept. 18.

The dozen to be honored are standing in as ambassadors for the thousands of local residents who devote countless hours to the care of disabled seniors. The care they provide helps seniors avoid unnecessary institutionalization and is a vital component of the nation's health care system and economy.

The honorees include:

- Caregiver Deborah McCharque, of Northside, and her mother, Maria Molina
- Caregiver Angela Shupert, of Franklin, Ohio (cares for her father, Jerry Neal, who will not be present at the event)
- Caregivers and sisters, Rhoda Thompson and Bess Johnson of Middletown (care for their mother, Linetta Johnson, who will not be present)

HCJFS and COA provide numerous public services to older adults, their families and caregivers, including:

- Protection from abuse, neglect and exploitation (HCJFS – Adult Protective Services, 421-LIFE reporting hotline)
- Medicaid (HCJFS and COA – health insurance for the poor and PASSPORT home care services)
- Supplemental Security Income (HCJFS – services to people with disabilities)
- Caregiver Education and Support (COA)
- Services to keep seniors independent in their homes (COA - Meals on Wheels, homemaker help, etc.)

- Information and resources (HCJFS and COA)

“So many people need the services of both Hamilton County Job and Family Services and Council on Aging, but often they don’t become aware of all we offer until they’re in some kind of crisis,” said HCJFS Director Moira Weir. “Senior Services and Caregiver Night will spread the word and at the same time honor some very giving and selfless people.”

About Hamilton County Department of Job and Family Services

The Department of Job and Family Services administers federal, state and local programs for those in need. The Department helps with local child protection, elderly protection, child care, child support enforcement, workforce development, cash assistance, food stamp disbursement and Medicaid disbursement. Servicing Hamilton County since 1947, the Department helps hundreds of thousands each year and is accredited by the Council on Accreditation, an international, independent, not-for-profit child and family service accrediting organization.

About Council on Aging

Council on Aging of Southwestern Ohio (COA) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for older adults and their families.

Founded in 1970, COA is designated by the state of Ohio as the Area Agency on Aging for Butler, Clermont, Clinton, Hamilton and Warren counties. COA plans, coordinates, funds and administers programs for an area that is home to more than 252,000 adults age 60 and older.

Through its programs and services, COA promotes choice, independence, dignity and well-being of older adults through a range of community-based services that help them remain in their homes for as long as possible.

For Answers on Aging:

Council on Aging of Southwestern Ohio
175 Tri County Parkway, Cincinnati, OH 45246
513-721-1025 Toll-free 1-800-252-0155
E-mail: info@help4seniors.org.
Website: www.help4seniors.org

Facts about aging, elder abuse and caregiving

- One in twenty older Americans are victims of elder abuse. If you are concerned for an older adult in Hamilton County, call 421-LIFE.
- In 2007, Hamilton County's Adult Protective Services unit investigated more than 700 reports of elder abuse, neglect or exploitation.

- It is estimated more than 30,000 Hamilton County residents, many of them elderly, qualify for free health care but don't take advantage of it. If you know an elderly person who needs medical care, have them call 946-1000.
- Did you know that in the past year in the State of Ohio, there were over 16,000 reports of elder abuse, neglect or exploitation? The most frequent concern was for seniors who were self-neglecting.
- Unpaid (usually family) caregivers provide 80 percent of home care services. This care had an estimated economic value of about \$350 billion in 2006. (AARP)
- More than 50 million Americans provide care for a chronically ill, disabled or aged family member or friend
- Ninety percent of older adults want to remain in their homes for as long as possible. (AARP survey)
- In-home care preserves independence and dignity for seniors and is much less expensive than nursing homes.
- American businesses can lose as much as \$34 billion each year due to employees' need to care for loved ones 50 years of age and older. (Metlife)
- Ohio has more than two million people age 60 and older. Every month, another 12,000 Ohioans turn 60.
- About 175,000 Ohioans are age 85 and older, including 50,000 over age 90.
- By 2010, more than half a million older Ohioans will need someone to help them with at least one activity of daily living, such as bathing, dressing or getting out of bed.
- In Hamilton County, almost 15 percent of people age 60 and older live in poverty.
- Over one-third of Hamilton County residents age 60 and older have at least one disability.