



May is Older Americans Month

President John F. Kennedy recognized May as “Senior Citizens Month” for the first time in the spring of 1963. This tradition began not long after his meeting with representatives from the National Council of Senior Citizens, and the custom has been sustained by every president since that time. The intent of President Kennedy’s declaration was to encourage people across the nation to pay tribute to older adults living in their communities.

Although the vernacular has changed—President Jimmy Carter replaced “senior citizens” with “older adults” in 1980—and, while change remains a constant with each year’s new theme, the premise for the commemoration continues to be consistent with President Kennedy’s ideology. Older Americans Month is dedicated to honoring the contributions made to society by older persons, remembering the endeavors of people from past generations, while recognizing the accomplishments of older adults in current times.

2007: Older Americans Month Theme & Logo



A Selection of Past Themes for Older Americans Month:

- 1978: Older Americans and the Family
- 1986: Plan on living the rest of your life
- 1995: Generations of experience
- 1999: Honor the past, imagine the future: Towards a society for all ages
- 2001: The many faces of aging
- 2002: America: “A community for all ages”

Older Americans Month is a program that falls under the auspices of the Department of Health & Human Services’ Administration on Aging. A host of activities are suggested, and promotional materials made available, to assist groups in promoting and celebrating Older Americans Month.

Since the nation’s attention is focused on older adults this month, May could offer a unique opportunity for EngAgeMent participants to encourage and promote aging philanthropy. Perhaps this year’s theme will inspire some interesting ideas/activities!

SAVE THE DATE



ANNUAL CONFERENCE

“Breaking Away: Charting a New Course in Aging Philanthropy”

10/31/07 — 11/02/07

*"My interest
is in the
future
because I am
going to
spend the rest
of my life
there."*

Charles F. Kettering
Inventor
(1876—1958)



Grantmakers In Aging

Your personal
connection to key
people, high
quality resources
and state-of-the-art
ideas about aging
and all issues

7333 Paragon Road
Suite 220
Dayton, OH 45459

Phone: 937.435.3156
Fax: 937.435.3733
Web: www.GIAging.org

ITNAmerica®

www.itnamerica.org

*dignified
transportation for
seniors*

ENGAGEMENT SITE UPDATES

Michigan: A fond farewell to [Rachel Dunn](#), the Michigan EngAGEMENT liaison, who will be “graduating” from her position as Public Policy Fellow for the **Council of Michigan Foundations** this month. Rachel’s last day in her Michigan office will be May 9, but she will be completing work offsite through the end of this month, in addition to training her successor, [Jaclyn Miel-Uken](#). Jaclyn is a recent graduate of the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy at the University of Michigan. She will become the Public Policy Fellow for the Council of Michigan Foundations effective May 21, 2007.

As for Rachel, she will be returning home to Tennessee to enjoy her summer, and then will proceed to a tour of duty with AmeriCorps. Rachel isn’t sure what type of work she will be assigned to do with the service organization but she does know she will be in California initially for training that will prepare her for a rigorous 10-month assignment. Best wishes for a happy and successful future, Rachel!

Florida: The **Donors Forum of South Florida** held their annual conference in Ft. Lauderdale on April 26. Staying true to his efforts to promote aging in the region, Scot Marken planned a session on aging intended to highlight one of the issues which Pam Gionfriddo (former EngAGEMENT representative for DFSF) had identified as a concern for older adults in their region. Consequently, transportation was chosen as a topic for this year’s aging session. The session was entitled, “Getting There: The Challenges of Transportation.”

There were two presenters for the session. The first was Katherine Freund, the founder—and current President and Executive Director—of the Independent Transportation Network (*ITNAmerica*), a program that originated in Maine but is being replicated in a number of communities across the United States. Ms. Freund discussed details of *ITNAmerica*, which provides a sustainable, community-based transportation service specifically targeted for senior adults.

The second presenter was Jean M. Sherman, EdD, RN, Director of the Center on Aging and Disabilities at the University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine. Dr. Sherman has extensive experience in aging, having served as the director of a senior center and assistant director of an Area Agency on Aging. Her compelling presentation focused on transportation challenges for people with disabilities.

The EngAGEMENT Initiative, funded by The Atlantic Philanthropies, is a pilot program to introduce new funders to aging through a partnership between GIA and Regional Associations of Grantmakers

EngAGEMENT’s National Outreach Director,
Pamela S. Tyler, PhD — ptyler@GIAging.org