



#NYSENIORS MATTER

E-Newsletter July 2019

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Thank you Governor Andrew Cuomo and State Legislators for \$15 Million

Governor Andrew Cuomo included in his 2019-2020 Executive budget \$15 million to address the unmet needs of older adults who are on waiting for services. Thank you for hearing requests for support and responding to the needs of our family members, neighbors, and friends. These funds and will directly benefit 9,000 New Yorkers!

Working Together to Realize Positive Outcomes

In this Issue:

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- Aging Concerns Unite Us (ACUU) Conference 2019
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- Calendar



AAA Directors from across the state and AgingNY staff met with legislators on Advocacy Day 2019.



pictured above: Chautauqua County United Senior Council advocating for the over 400 people on the OFA waiting lists for services. Some people have been waiting for over 3 years.



AARP held a press conference in March and was joined by AgingNY's Executive Director, Michele Roberts, as well as Senator Rachel May, and Assemblymember Harry Bronson, Chairs of the Aging Committees, to join with AARP in advocating for funding to help older New Yorkers Age in place.

Older New Yorkers around the state wrote letters, made calls, and met with their legislators asking them to make sure the Governor's proposed \$15 million for unmet need remained in the Budget. Efforts paid off.

Honoring Volunteers - Recognizing Unselfish Acts of Kindness

On Tuesday, May 21, 2019, Older New Yorkers' Day was celebrated in Albany when volunteers gathered at the invitation of NYSOFA, who honored the volunteers in a lovely luncheon ceremony.



Older New Yorkers Volunteer in their Communities

935,060 older New Yorkers contribute
495 million hours of service at an
economic value of **\$13.87 billion***

Older New Yorkers Provide Vital Caregiving Services

*There are over 131,000 grandparents
raising their grandchildren in New York.
(www.nysnavigator.org)*

** Sources: Corporation for National and Community
Services NYS Data 2015 and the American Community
Survey 2015 Five-Year Estimates.*



Congratulations to all awardees and thank you for giving so freely of your time and talents in the support of others.

Each year, AgingNY in collaboration with NYSOFA, recognizes a AAA for innovative use of volunteers in providing services that further their mission, provide high-quality service, and assist older adults in maintaining their independence. The Volunteer Innovations Award was presented to the NYC Department For the Aging for their Volunteer Resource Center.

The center has managed to recruit volunteers using multiple methods, and engage volunteers in a variety of experiences, that are well-matched to their personal goals and abilities. For such a large AAA that serves thousands of folks in the NYC each year, they not only fill several thousand hours of support needs, but have managed to customize a process that is focused on individual volunteer satisfaction. Congratulations.



Pictured above left: Greg Olsen greets Rockland County Awardee Betty Meisler; lower left: Celebration in the Hart Lounge - The Egg, Albany; and above right: AgingNY's Michele Roberts (Executive Director), Monica Seale (Director of the NYC Department for the Aging Volunteer Resource Center) and Greg Olsen (Acting Director, NYSOFA)

This Year's ACUU was a Huge Success. Thanks go out to our Partner Agency, NYSOFA, and community partners who were part of the planning committee.



**Encouraging Partnerships
Enriching Lives**

**2019 Conference June 11 & 12
Desmond Hotel - Albany, NY**



New York's network of aging services professionals convened on June 11th in Albany for the 23rd annual two-day ACUU conference, which highlights the policy and program direction New York State is taking to improve the lives of older adults and their families. The conference presented 32 training workshops on best practices, innovative programs, and service delivery reforms that enhance services and programs for older adults, their families, and caregivers.

This year's workshops and keynote sessions focus on the changing landscape within New York State as health care and social service delivery begin to come together to provide higher quality, comprehensive, and more cost-effective services.



ACUU
Advisory
Committee

AARP
Albany Guardian Society
Alzheimer's Association, NYS Coalition
Fullton County OFA
Lifespan of Greater Rochester
LiveOn
Mental Health Association of NYC
Monroe County OFA

NYS Office for the Aging
NYS Adult Day Services Association
Oneida County OFA
Orange County OFA
StateWide Senior Action Council
Suffolk County OFA
The ARC of New York

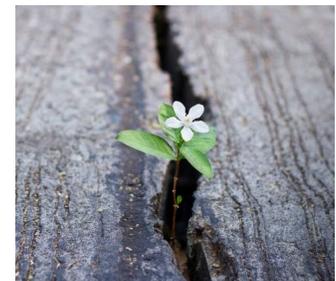
Services & Stories

Services: Social Adult Day Care (SADC), Case Management (CM), Home Delivered Meals (HDM), & Caregiver Respite

Story details provided by Fulton County OFA

Mrs. S. was referred to the Office for the Aging by her husband to find out what services were available as his wife had mild to moderate early onset Alzheimer's Disease and he was her caregiver. She was 61 years old, he was 67, and they had been happily married for 38 years. She and her husband lived at home and she was being followed closely by a neurologist and her primary care doctor and was prescribed medication to help with the dementia and with anxiety. Mrs. S had been a school teacher along with her husband, which was how they met. The couple had two adult children, both of whom live out of state so they were unable to provide care support.

Mrs. S. and her husband were interested in Home Delivered Meals as she had been the one to cook, but could no longer do this. They were also interested in the Social Adult Day Care Program. A COMPASS assessment was completed for both of them by the Caseworker assigned. Initially, Mrs. S began attending the Social Adult Day Care Program (SADC) at the Johnstown Senior Center (1) day per week and both began receiving Home Delivered meals 3 days a week. Over time, Mrs. S. increased her attendance to 3 days a



week. Her OFA Caseworker visited her regularly at SADC and kept in touch with her husband to monitor services, supports and needs. She thoroughly enjoyed attending the SADC program and this provided much needed respite for her husband.

Her husband was provided information on Caregiver Services available to him through OFA. He was (and remains) a very caring and attentive caregiver who made sure his wife was engaged in her community and led a full life. They went to local plays together, attended Yankee Games, concerts, Super Bowl games, went to the US Open, visited 48 states and also went on trips together with the local Johnstown Senior Center. He was then able to attend the annual Hats Off to Caregivers program, which is a day of workshops and information for Caregivers. His wife was able to be in the Respite Care area while he attended the workshops. At one of the workshops, he made a contact with presenting partner agencies and was able to arrange in home respite for his wife, through Catholic Charities and Eddy Alzheimer's Services. The respite care was available several times a week; (Mr. S. had also utilized some private hire aides to help at home). This care made it possible for him to attend a Support Group regularly and benefit from the information and the support offered by other attendees. The in home respite care also made it possible for him to participate in social activities that gave him some much needed contact with friends. Using these services he was able to keep his wife home, safely, for quite some time.

As the disease progressed and Mr. S found it very difficult to care for his wife at home, and Mrs. S was placed in a Nursing Home four years after Fulton Co. OFA met her. Mr. S. continues to visit his wife on a daily basis at the nursing home and attends the Caregiver Support Group monthly meetings here at OFA when he is able to do so.

Benefits

Being able to reside at home with a loved one, priceless

Estimated Savings: \$104,269

Social Adult Day Care (SADC), Case Management (CM), Home Delivered Meals (HDM) = cost for a year \$8,881

Nursing Home cost for a year= \$113,150

Training for AAA's

- Business Acumen Training
- HIICAP Certification
- Case Management
- Leadership

[Aging-NY
Calendar of Events](#)

Field Resources

- [NY State Office for the Aging](#)
- [Administration for Community Living \(ACL\)](#)
- [National Association of Area Agencies on Aging \(n4a\)](#)

Announcing a brand new Aging-NY website!

Aging-NY started the new year with a brand new website! Our new website will give our members and visitors an enhanced viewing experience. We know our visitors access our website on both computers and smart devices. Upgrading to a modern, responsive platform ensures that all of our visitors have a positive experience.

Visit the new site, then tell us what you think. Are there other changes you'd like to see? Can we combine information and make fewer pages? Send an email to [Evelyn Stilson-Ouderkirk](mailto:Evelyn.Stilson-Ouderkirk) with your comments and suggestions.

For AAA Directors:

[Log in on our website](#) to view exclusive members-only content! New topics available now include:

- **Members Only Grant Funding resources**
- **2019 Board of Directors Meeting Schedule (*Board Only*)**
- **2019 AAA Directors Call Schedule**
- **2019 Leadership Institute (*AAA Directors only*)** will be held October 29 - 31, 2019 at Gideon Putnam in beautiful Saratoga Springs, New York)

*For assistance signing on to the Members Only page,
contact evelyn@agingny.org or give our office a call at 518-449-7080.*

Do you have news?

Is there something exciting happening at your organization? Do you have interesting aging news you would like to share? Is there something important we didn't mention?

[Email Michele Roberts](#) for consideration in our next newsletter!

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