

SENIOR CHOICES UPDATE

During the month of January, staff members spoke with **573** people who were interested in obtaining information and assistance, SENIOR CHOICES services or advocacy. Our staff enrolled **27** new clients and disenrolled **25** clients, bringing our total to **861** clients at month's end. So far this year, we have served **886** clients.

CAREGIVER WORKSHOPS

The Council for Older Adults provides monthly opportunities for caregivers to learn, grow, and gather support. Presentations are provided by various members of our community and focus on a host of topics. Workshops are held on Tuesdays from 9:30 -11:30 a.m. Upcoming workshops include:

March 8: "How Not to Fall Head Over Heels," presented by Susan Sutherland and Anne Goodman with the Delaware General Health District.

April 12: "Nutrition and The Older Adult," presented by Lindsey Bills of Worthington Christian Village. Workshops are free and are held at the Center for Older Adults, 800 Cheshire Rd., Delaware. Please feel free to bring a friend! To register, please RSVP to Jen Spicer at (740) 203-2377.

SNOW REMOVAL

Do you or someone you know need help with snow removal? This year, we are offering snow plowing services to SENIOR CHOICES clients ONLY, and co-pays will apply toward the cost of those services. For county residents age 60 years old or older who have no other means to complete their snow shoveling, we will provide supervised youth to accomplish this service. You must furnish the tools necessary to complete the job. If you have questions or would like to request this service, please contact the Council for Older Adults at (740) 363-6677 or (800) 994-2255 when your walkways/driveway are covered with snow. The Council for Older Adults will determine each caller's eligibility at the time of the request.

AARP TAX AIDE

IRS-trained tax counselors are preparing taxes for individuals needing assistance filing their income taxes. This free annual program is brought to you by your local AARP chapter and Council for Older Adults. Those making appointments will need to bring their Social Security card and photo ID; last year's tax return; W-2s, 1099s; information on sales tax paid on the purchase of a car if purchased in 2009; billing statements for new windows, doors, insulation, etc., purchased in 2010; amount paid in real estate taxes for 2010, even if you do not itemize, and any other tax-related materials. **This service is provided by appointment only.**

There are five locations this year:

- 1) Center for Older Adults**, 800 Cheshire Rd., Delaware, Wednesdays and Thursdays, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- 2) Sunbury Library**, 44 Burrer Dr. in Sunbury, Tuesdays, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- 3) Westerville Senior Center**, 310 W. Main St. in Westerville. Tax appointments for this location can be made by calling (614) 901-6560.
- 4) Dublin Community Center**, 5600 Post Rd. in Dublin. Tax appointments for this location can be made by calling (614) 410-4550.
- 5) Andrews House**, 39 W. Winter St. in Delaware, Tuesdays, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Tax appointments for this location can be made by calling (740) 369-4520. Please call the Council for Older Adults to schedule tax appointments for the Center for Older Adults and Sunbury Library locations at (740) 363-6677 or (800) 994-2255, weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. In the event of inclement weather, please contact the Council for Older Adults to verify if tax appointments will still take place that day.

HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (HEAP)

The Ohio Department of Development (ODOD) offers several programs to help low-income residents pay their utility bills and improve the heating efficiency of their homes. These programs include a credit on the heating bill account each year, a special payment plan that requires eligible customers to pay a portion of their household income each month to maintain utility service, or assistance in the form of reducing the energy use by providing insulation, air leakage reduction, heating system repairs, safety inspections and testing as well as other services. Applications are available at the Council office at the Center for Older Adults, 800 Cheshire Rd., Delaware. Call your Care Consultant for more information. **Completed applications should be mailed to: Office of Community Services/Home Energy Assistance Program, P.O. Box 1240, Columbus, Ohio 43216.**

FOOD AND NUTRITIONAL SERVICES

When there is inclement weather, the Meals On Wheels program will monitor road conditions to make a decision about whether to close the program. Periodically throughout the winter months, we will deliver shelf stable emergency packs of food for you to use in the event of an emergency or a meal delivery closing. Please listen to our telephone voicemail (740) 203-2432 or (740) 203-2433, on all 3 local television stations, NBC 4, WBNS 10, WSYX 6, radio station 610 WTVN and 5 other area radio stations for the closing announcement. Anytime we close, all meal clients will be called using a "One Call" system, an automated message that will ring to your phone announcing, "Meals will not be delivered today due to the inclement weather." Please call us with any questions at (740) 203-2432.

NEW TO MEDICARE CLASSES

Do you know someone who is about to turn 65? If so, please have them call COA! The Council for Older Adults is offering "New to Medicare" classes monthly. This class is open to anyone who is about to turn 65 or wants to learn more about Medicare. Information will focus on enrollment time frames; Medicare Parts A, B, C, and D; Medicare supplemental policies; and extra help programs. The classes will be in the board room at the Council for Older Adults on the second Wednesday of each month from 10 a.m. to noon. Participants should bring their Medicare card (if they have one), a list of prescription medication with dosage and frequency, and any questions they have pertaining to Medicare. Please call the Council for Older Adults at (740) 363-6677 to register or get more information.

PROGRAM TO HELP FIGHT SENIOR HUNGER IN DELAWARE COUNTY

We are still taking applications for the monthly Commodity Supplemental Food Program. Qualifying individuals must be age 60 or older, a county resident and have an income of no more than \$14,079 per year. Income proof is not required. Applications may be picked up at the Council for Older Adults or from our website. For more information, call (740) 363-6677 or visit www.growingolder.org. The next commodities distribution will take place Tuesday, February 22.

SENIOR CHOICES SERVICES

Please remember that if you have any problems with the services you are receiving, contact your Care Consultant immediately so we can help intervene and resolve the problem. You can reach your Care Consultant at (740) 363-6677.



Center for Older Adults
800 Cheshire Rd.
Delaware, OH 43015
(740) 363-6677 or 800-994-2255

