

SENIOR CHOICES UPDATE

During the month of December, staff members spoke with **361** people who were interested in obtaining information and assistance, SENIOR CHOICES services or advocacy. Our staff enrolled **39** new clients and disenrolled **21** clients, bringing our total to **859** clients at month's end. We are pleased to report that we served **1,224** clients in our community in 2010.

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. Upcoming workshops include:

February 8: "Take A Walk on the Senior Side," presented by Sandy Miller and Joan Hatcher with Senior Citizens Inc., Tuesday from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

March 8: "How Not to Fall Head Over Heels," presented by Susan Sutherland and Anne Goodman with the Delaware General Health District, Tuesday, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Workshops are free and will be 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 the Council for Older Adults will be offering snow plowing services to Senior Choices clients ONLY, and co-pays will apply toward the cost of those services. For those residents of Delaware County who are 60 years old or older and have no other means to complete their snow shoveling, we have youth in our community who wish to perform service projects and will be assisted by an adult supervisor. 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

Beginning February 1, AARP Tax-Aide Coordinator Phillip Packard and several IRS-trained tax counselors will start preparing taxes for those individuals needing assistance with filing their income taxes. AARP's Tax Aide is a free annual program, brought to you by your local AARP chapter and Council for Older Adults. The program makes tax assistance available to older adults in Delaware County. Local AARP volunteers have successfully completed a rigorous training program, which is offered in cooperation with the Internal Revenue Service. All volunteer counselors have been specifically trained to prepare returns for older adults.

There are five locations this year:

- 1) **Center for Older Adults**, 800 Cheshire Rd. in Delaware - Wednesdays & Thursdays from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- 2) **Sunbury Library**, 44 Burrer Dr. in Sunbury - Tuesdays from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- 3) **Westerville Senior Center**, 310 W. Main St. in Westerville - days and times to be determined. Tax appointments for this location can be made by calling (614) 901-6560.

- 4) **Dublin Community Center**, 5600 Post Rd. in Dublin - days and times to be determined. Tax appointments for this location can be made by calling (614) 410-4550.
- 5) **Andrew's 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

On the day of your appointment you should bring:

- Social Security card and photo ID
- last year's tax return
- W-2s
- 1099s
- information on sales tax paid on purchase of new car if purchased in 2009
- billing statements for new windows, doors, insulation, etc. purchased in 2010
- the amount that you paid in real estate taxes for 2010 even if you do not itemize
- any other tax-related materials

This service is provided by appointment only. 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 the weather and 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 three local television stations, NBC channel 4, WBNS channel 10, WSYX channel 6, radio station 610 WTVN and five 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.



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

