

August 2008



Allegan County Commission on Aging 2007 Annual Report

Allegan County Dept. of Senior Services

COA Members

Theresa Lynn
Chairperson

Judith Graff
Vice Chairperson

Don Black
County Commissioner

Sally Brooks
Member at Large

Terry Burns
County Commissioner

Susan Gawaluch
Member at Large

Doris Hawkey
Senior Member

Patricia Pera
Senior Member

Becky Rininger
Member at Large

George Smeenge
Senior Member

Naomi Whetzel
Senior Member

Seniors Enjoying a Meal at the Congregate Meal Site in Hopkins

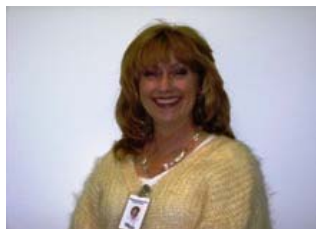


Left to right: Bob Runkel, Bill Snoeyink, Don "Butch" Cummins, Dorothy Hitzler, Glenn Rankens, and Margaret Myers

The Mission of the ACCOA is dedicated to serving Allegan County seniors by developing and coordinating services that support their independence, maintain their dignity, and preserve their quality of life.

Allegan County Commission on Aging

Letter to Our Community



Theresa Lynn, Chairperson

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the Allegan County Commission on Aging (ACCOA), I am pleased to present the 2007 annual report to the community.

Many Allegan County seniors have enjoyed an improved quality of life because of programs funded by the Senior Millage. Delivered meals offer seniors good nutrition and congregate meals provide the added benefit of connecting socially with peers. Transportation programs have provided increased independence. Seniors in the adult day care program enjoy mental and physical stimulation, social interaction and balanced meals. Homemaking and personal care give seniors the assistance they need to continue to live in their own homes. In-home respite gives our more frail elderly companionship and assistance and provides a break for caregivers. The outreach program helps seniors find the resources they need.

“Our unity of purpose ensures that quality of life for seniors remains the focus of our efforts.”

The ACCOA is honored to help serve Allegan County seniors. In coordination with the Allegan County Board of Commissioners, we strive to be good stewards of the Senior Millage funds. Our unity of purpose ensures that quality of life for seniors remains the focus of our efforts.

We genuinely appreciate the support of the Allegan County community. We know that the programs funded by the Senior Millage truly make a difference. For some, I believe it makes all the difference.

Sincerely,

Theresa Lynn
Chairperson

Original Ballot Language

“A Quality of Life Millage Proposal for Services to Senior Citizens”

The Allegan County Senior Millage Proposal was voted upon in 2006 to secure funds to help develop and coordinate services to Allegan County’s senior citizens. Such services would include, but are not limited to, home delivered meals, personal care, transportation, adult day care, caregiver support, and outreach. On the average residential property in Allegan County having a taxable value of \$48,670, the .24 mill levy (\$0.24 per \$1,000) would increase taxes by \$11.68 the first year.

The amount of taxes imposed on taxable property in the County of Allegan for a period of four years, 2006 through 2009, inclusively, as a new, additional millage to fund services to senior citizens through the Allegan County Commission on Aging, amounted to \$928,008. for 2007. Services provided to seniors (age 60 and over) will be delivered by private non-profit and for-profit businesses under contract to Allegan County and the Commission on Aging as a result of a request-for-proposals process.



August 8, 2006 the Senior Millage passed with overwhelming support.

History of the Commission on Aging

The Founding Members of the Commission on Aging dedicated themselves to the development and expansion of services to seniors regardless of economic status. Due to the efforts of these community leaders, senior citizens, professional service providers and civic minded individuals the Senior Millage Proposal was passed. These tax funds would support independence, maintain dignity and provide services to help seniors live independently by giving the help they need at little to no cost to the senior.

Demographic studies that indicated that:

- 16,000+ seniors reside in Allegan County
- 42% of Allegan County seniors are disabled
- 13.4% of seniors cannot drive and/or have no vehicle or form of transportation
- 8.7 % Allegan County senior households live below poverty level
- Family caregivers need assistance, respite and training.

Data source: Us census and 2004-2005 Allegan County Senior Citizen Survey and Demographic Reports of the Carl Frost Center for Social Science Research.



Signs supporting the Senior Millage-Aug. 8, 2006

Highlights and Accomplishments of the COA

- ◆ August 2006 Grass roots effort to pass the Senior Millage
- ◆ October 2006 Hired staff to develop policies and start-up operations
- ◆ January 2007 Published the first Request For Proposals
- ◆ March 2007 Reviewed twenty-eight proposals from potential service providers
- ◆ May 2007 Eleven contracts were signed with five different agencies to provide services to seniors
- ◆ June 2007 Developed and distributed ACCOA brochure with summer tax mailings throughout Allegan County
- ◆ August 2007 Launched website– www.allegancountycoa.org with first newsletter
- ◆ September 2007 Allegan County restructured Commission on Aging, creating the Department of Senior Services
- ◆ October 2007 New Commission on Aging members appointed by the Allegan County Board of Commissioners
- ◆ Spring 2008 Completed the contract analyses regarding the contractors' performance from May 1-December 31, 2007
- ◆ June 2008 Hired Jeanne Silvers as the Director of Senior Services

“I like the people and being able to drive my electric chair here (meal site) is something I can still do by myself,”
Joyce L.



Judy K. and Alice J. enjoying a game of cards at the Hopkins meal site.

Allegan County Commission on Aging

Allegan County Commission on Aging (ACCOA)

The Allegan County Board of Commissioners appointed the eleven members of the Commission on Aging, consisting of five senior citizens, two county commissioners, and four members at large. It is responsible for the development and coordination of programs and services for Allegan County residents age 60 and over. The purpose of the ACCOA is to provide leadership, consultation, assistance and outreach to interested groups or individuals to foster the well-being of our aging citizens. The ACCOA will cooperate and engage in planning with existing public and private organizations to develop and make available needed resources for aging citizens throughout Allegan County. The ACCOA recommends how funds are distributed for senior services funded by the Senior Millage, monitors and evaluates contracted services, accumulates and studies data related to aging services for senior Allegan county citizens.

Allegan County Commission on Aging Members

*“It means the world to me to be involved on COA,”
Naomi Whetzel.*



Theresa Lynn, Chair
Cheshire Twp



Judith Graff, ViceChair
South Haven, Casco Twp



Don Black
Shelbyville, Allegan Co.
Commissioner



Terry Burns
Saugatuck, Allegan Co.
Commissioner



Susan Gawaluch
Fennville, Clyde Twp



Doris Hawkey
Martin, Martin Twp



Patricia Pera
Fennville, Ganges Twp



Becky Ringer
Allegan, Allegan Co.
Drain Commissioner



George Smeenge
Holland, Laketown Twp



Naomi Whetzel
Hopkins, Hopkins Twp

Photo not available

Sally Brooks
Allegan, Allegan Co.
Treasurer

The Allegan County Department of Senior Services and the Commission on Aging are dedicated to the fundamental right of independence for senior citizens throughout the aging

process. The COA is strongly committed to listening, understanding and addressing the needs of senior citizens in Allegan County. Significant efforts were made as a direct result from the millage, and services were instituted to preserve the quality of life of older adults. We will continue to focus on the important issues of adequate nutrition, healthy functioning and to the premise that senior citizens want to remain in their home and be as independent as possible.

“The COA is strongly committed to listening, understanding and addressing the needs of senior citizens in Allegan County.”

Professional staff of Department of Senior Services

The Director is a full-time Allegan County employee that works directly with the ACCOA to provide advocacy, expertise, leadership and support. She oversees the day-to-day operations, executes the goals and objectives of the ACCOA, prepares grants, develops programs, and supervises the program staff. She participates in the strategic planning of COA priorities, helps identify service providers and is responsible for overseeing the compliance of contract service providers with contractual obligations.

Jeanne Silvers will perform administrative duties as well informational outreach to be in touch with seniors in all 24 townships and will serve as a spokesperson for the COA and programs related to senior issues in Allegan County.



Jeanne Silvers
Director of Senior Services

Senior Services Program Assistant

The Program Assistant is a part-time Allegan County employee that works under the supervision of the Director of Senior Services. She serves as a resource to answer inquiries from senior citizens, provides administrative support to the delivery of senior services and produces the Senior Millage Newsletter. Tammy Grigg has been the Program Assistant to the COA since 2006 and was instrumental in the development of the Policies and Procedures Manual, Request For Proposals, forms and establishing the office. She is a native to Allegan County and her knowledge of community resources helped launch the initial services awarded by the Senior Millage.



Tammy Grigg
Program Assistant

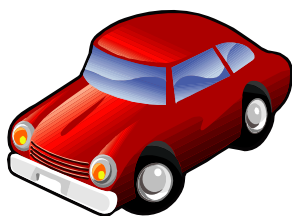
Allegan County Commission on Aging

The Senior Millage funds the following services to senior citizens throughout Allegan County:



Meals prepared by JA Food Service and delivered by ACRDC.

“This volunteer transportation service (Casco Twp Senior Care Program) is the best,” Maggie M.



- **Adult Day Services** – provides professional health care monitoring, stimulating activities, and a safe supportive social environment to enhance the lives of adults in need of care or supervision during the day. Family caregivers are able to receive a break or the opportunity to continue to work as a result of these programs. Contract provider: **Generations Adult Day Care** at Allegan County Medical Care Facility
- **Congregate Meals** - provides nutritious, well-balanced meals at five meal sites in Allegan County: Allegan, Hopkins, Wayland, Fennville, and Otsego. This gives the senior an opportunity to socialize, receive free health screenings, play cards and engage in volunteer activities. Contract provider: **Allegan County Resource Development Committee (ACRDC)**
- **Hot Home Delivered Meals** – provides well-balanced meals delivered hot to homebound seniors. The social contact with the deliver staff or volunteers helps to monitor the health and welfare of seniors on a routine basis. Contract provider: **Allegan County Resource Development Committee (ACRDC)**
- **Homemaking services** – provides light housekeeping, errand running and meal preparation services. Contract providers: **Evergreen Commons** – serves the Western half of Allegan County **ACRDC** - serves the Eastern half of Allegan County
- **In-Home Respite Care**– provides companionship, supervision and/or assistance with activities of daily living for mentally or physically disabled and frail elderly persons in the absence of the primary caregiver(s). Contract provider: **Evergreen Commons**
- **Outreach, Assistance and Referral** – provides a caseworker to meet face-to-face with seniors in their own homes to address their overall needs and offer support services to meet their individual needs. Referrals are made to coordinate other services as needed or as requested if concerns arise. Contract provider: **Allegan County Resource Development Committee (ACRDC)**
- **Personal Care** – provides in-home care assistance with eating, bathing, dressing, personal hygiene, medication reminders and activities of daily living. Contract providers: **Home Helpers** – serves the Eastern half of Allegan County **Evergreen Commons** – serves the Western half of Allegan County
- **Transportation** – provides volunteer drivers to medical, nutritional, legal, and social appointments. Contract providers: **Casco Township Senior Care Program**– serves Casco, Lee, and Ganges Townships and **Allegan County Resource Development Committee (ACRDC)** serves seniors in the rest of Allegan County

Testimonials from Seniors Receiving Services Funded by the Senior Millage

“If more people who service Vets were this industrious we could all get more done. Thank you.”-David H. referring to Casco Twp. Senior Care Program-Volunteer Transportation.

“Written communication is amazing and telephone contact very commendable. Beyond our expectations. Management is fantastic also. The apartment was kept impeccable. Loved all of the ladies.”-Margaret A. referring to Personal Care Service provided by Home Helpers.

“I feel very lucky to have my care provider. She makes my day-makes me feel myself. Myself and my home are better for her visits.”- Arlene B., In-home Respite Client of Evergreen Commons.

“I commend the staff for coming up with the idea of this program in the first place, for investing the time, \$\$\$, and energy to make it happen, for finding such excellent and qualified staff to run it, and for making it FUN!”- satisfied senior who participates at the Generations Adult Day Care program.

“Mom is so pleased with the help she is getting. We couldn’t ask for more. Thanks for all you are doing!”-Jeff L., referring to Evergreen Commons’ Personal Care Service.

“So many things the doctor won’t like me to eat. You were so nice to me-so good to me I thank all of you.”-Virginia B., Hot Home Delivered Meal client of ACRDC.

“In 2 days time, our dad went from not wanting to go at first, to loving it and anxiously waits for the bus. Thanks so much.”-family member referring to the Generations Adult Day Care program.

“I have been with ACRDC 20 yrs. My homemaker does a great job.”-Edith H., Homemaking client of ACRDC.

“I heard about your services through an enclosure with our tax bill otherwise I wouldn’t have known about it. I have nothing but good words for your transportation service and I am very happy I found you.”-Violet S., referring to Casco Twp. Senior Care Program-Volunteer Transportation.



Another happy senior receiving a meal delivered by Dick from ACRDC.

“Very good (service), could not exist without them (Home Helpers),”
Christian D.



There are five Congregate Meal sites located in Allegan County.

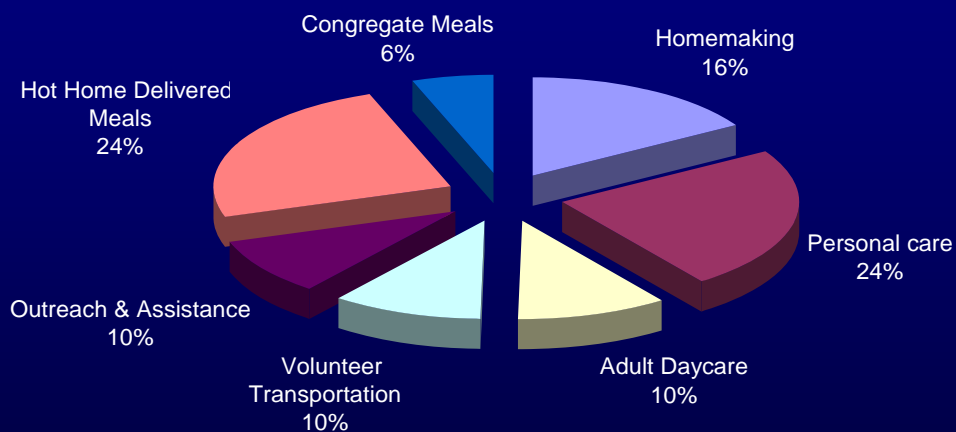
Allegan County Commission on Aging

Services provided May 1-December 31, 2007

- ◆ 10,415 Hot Home Delivered Meals were delivered to homebound seniors
- ◆ 6,312 Congregate Meals were provided at five meal sites
- ◆ 3,840 Hours of Personal Care were provided to seniors
- ◆ 2,145 Hours of Homemaking Service and In-Home Respite were provided to seniors
- ◆ 1,884 Hours of Adult Day Care were provided at the Generations Day Care program
- ◆ 1,479 One way trips were provided by Volunteer Transportation

569 seniors received services funded with the senior millage in 2007.

Categories of Services and Percentages of Funding for Direct Services



Senior Millage Financial Report

Revenues

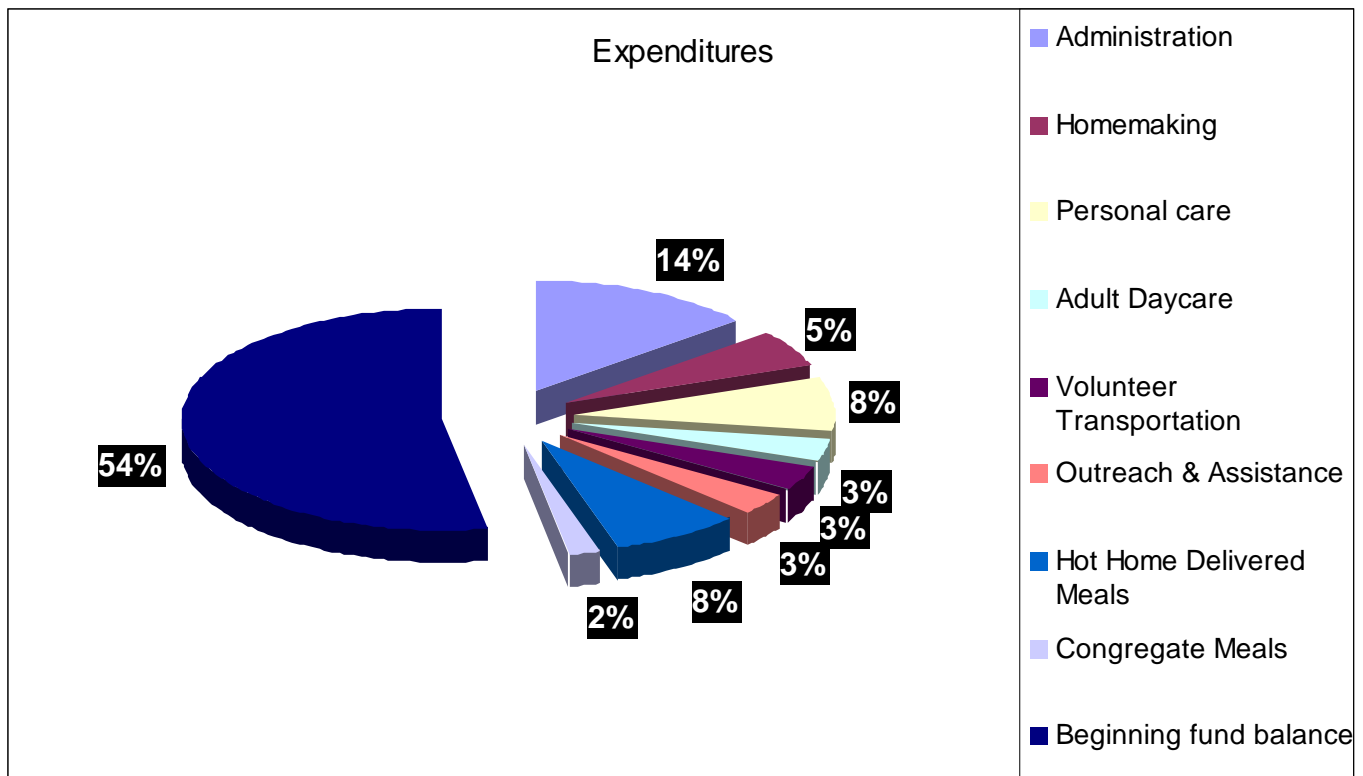
Senior Millage	\$928,008.
Program Income/Donations	\$ <u>11,398.</u>
Total	\$939,406.



Expenditures

Direct Services	\$307,084.
Administration	\$ <u>129,995.</u>
Total	\$437,079.
Beginning Fund Balance 2008	\$502,327.

Expenditures for October 1, 2006-December 31, 2007





Allegan County Dept. of
Senior Services
325 Water Street
Allegan, MI 49010

We're on the web!

www.allegancountycoa.org

The Commission on Aging meetings are open to the public. Meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month at 1:30 p.m. in the Board Conference Room located at the County Services Building.

The County Services Building is located at 3283 122nd Ave., Allegan, MI 49010.

Please call 269-673-3333 or toll free 877-673-5333 if you have any questions or would like to receive services.