

CYF NEWS

JULY 2006

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

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QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“It is possible to fail in many ways...while to succeed is possible only in one way.”

— **Aristotle**



THE MICHIGAN VITAL AGING THINK TANK was established to provide a forum for networking, learning, teaching, planning, collaborating and, when appropriate, implementing programs that will help seniors achieve vital aging.

Vital aging is an individual process of embracing aging and every challenge and opportunity it brings with the firm knowledge and certain belief that challenges can be overcome, opportunities can be seized and life can be lived with zest and expectation. Vital aging means approaching later life from a strength-based perspective.

The strength of the Vital Aging Think Tank comes from the unique partnership it represents. In addition to MSU Extension, participants include the Michigan Department of Community Health and Office of Services to the Aging; the MSU Family Resource Center, Department of Family and Child Ecology, Department of Community Agriculture Recreation and Resource Studies, and Department of Social Work; AARP; American Red Cross; Elder Law; Wayne State Institute of Gerontology; AGEWISE magazine and the Tri-County Office on Aging. Linda Cronk and Paul McConaughy co-chair the Think Tank.

The Vital Aging Think Tank uses these strategies to accomplish its goals. Accomplishments related to each strategy are included.

Present challenging speakers:

- Dr. Bill Thomas, Eden Alternative
- Dr. Jackie Sieppert, Calgary Elder Friendly Community Project

Encourage information sharing:

- E-mail information sharing – elderfriendly listserv
- Monthly Think Tank meetings
- Statewide Elder Friendly Community Assembly, November 29, 2005

Provide training:

- Advance Care Planning and Financial Security in Later Life
- PATH Leader Training
- Steps to a Healthier You – Medicaid Home Care Project
- Elder Friendly Communities project training

Develop tools and resource materials:

- Elder Friendly Community Assessment Tool

Test tools, materials and approaches:

- Otsego Elder Friendly Community project
- North Ottawa County Elder Friendly Community project
- Medicaid Home Care Self Assessment project

Encourage expansion of successful local approaches statewide:

PATH (Personal Action Toward Health) project expansion

Senior Project FRESH partnership with MSUE

Secure support and build partnerships:

Grants prepared for:

- Advance Care Planning and Financial Security in Later Life
- MSU Community Vitality Grant
- Michigan Safe Routes for Life
- Senior Food Stamp Nutrition Education

Relationships formed with:

- Michigan Commission on Services to the Aging
- State Advisory Council on Aging

To be included on the elderfriendly listserv or to receive regular information on the Vital Aging Think Tank contact Paul McConaughy at mcconaul@msu.edu. Submitted by Paul McConaughy.

FOOD SAFETY AOE will be sending each county two food safety posters for free – one on *Handwashing* and the other on *Summer Food Safety*.

Additional copies will be charged a minimal fee to cover printing, shipping and handling. Please contact the Extension Bulletin Office for details.

Submitted by Lillian Oceaana.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES:

The annual Georgia Financial Counseling Seminar will be held July 25-27, 2006, in Columbus, GA. The Financial Counseling Seminar, which began in 1989, is designed for both beginning and experienced counselors. Previous attendees and those new to the seminar will benefit from the hands-on, realistic approach to resource and skills sharing. As military, business and industry continue to restructure, counselors and educators need to keep their skills updated to be able to help individuals, families, businesses, agencies and creditors in an uncertain environment. Additional information including the full program, local arrangements, and online registration are available at <http://www.caes.uga.edu/campus/tifton/conferences/events.html>. Hope to see you there! Submitted by Erica Tobe

GREAT CONFERENCE FOR ANYONE WORKING WITH EITC INITIATIVES – Building Prosperity for Working Families; October 11-13, 2006, in Los Angeles, CA. This conference is hosted by the National Community Tax Coalition, with a special focus on Asset Building, Innovation, Leadership, Scale and Sustainability, New Workshop Levels and Exhibitor Hall. Contact information: J. Kuzemsky, Center for Economic Progress, Ph: 312.252.0280 ext. 257, e-mail at jkuzemsky@centerforprogress.org or via Web at <http://www.centerforprogress.org/>
Submitted by Erica Tobe.

BLUE RIBBON Q&A

Q. When is the next Blue Ribbon training scheduled?

A. Blue Ribbon Fundamentals (6418) is scheduled for Tuesday, August 22nd. ES-237 and Enhanced Blue Ribbon Features (6419) are scheduled for Wednesday, August 23rd. Both sessions will begin at 9:30 a.m. and end at 3:00 p.m., and will be held in room 211 Bessey Hall on the MSU campus.

NOTE: Classes may be changed to a portal session.

For more information contact Judy Bishop at lentzbis@msu.edu or Laura Allen at lacourse@msu.edu. Please note our new e-mail addresses.



Deadline for Next Edition of “CYF NEWS”

August 7, 2006, is the deadline for submitting articles for the August 11, 2006, edition of “CYF News.” Please submit articles to Gail Hebert at hebertg@msu.edu



Happy
Summer!