



A Publication of the Georgia Department of Human Services Division of Aging Services

Georgia Interfaith Aging Action

Division of Aging Services | 1-866-552-4464 | www.aging.ga.gov



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Welcome to **Georgia Interfaith Aging Action**, a quarterly e-newsletter for faith communities, featuring aging program news, current volunteer opportunities, training and resources, and inspiring best practices from the field. Together, we'll explore topics such as how to identify aging needs in your congregation, ways for your faith community to fight senior hunger, how your members can get the most from Medicare, how to start or expand a nursing home visitation program, and much more.

Georgia Interfaith Aging Action is an outgrowth of the Department of Human Services' **Faith and Community Alliance**. This rapidly growing statewide initiative gives faith-based organizations tools and information for serving congregations and surrounding communities in areas such as aging services, children and vulnerable families, parental responsibility, fatherhood and child support, mental health, and community reentry

To request a free subscription, [click here](#).

Dates to Remember

Looking for newsletter and bulletin content, program ideas, and discussion topics for groups? Plan ahead for these spring dates:

April: National Parkinson's Awareness Month
National Parkinson's Foundation - www.parkinson.org

April 3-9: National Careers in Aging Week
Gerontological Society of America - www.careersinaging.com

April 17-23: National Volunteer Week
The Points of Light and Hands on Network - www.PointsofLight.org

May: Older Americans Month (2016 Theme: Blaze a Trail)
Administration for Community Living, HHS - www.aoa.acl.gov

May: National Mental Health Month
National Mental Health Association - www.nmha.org



Highlighted Volunteer Opportunities

This issue's volunteer service ideas have one thing in common: they help people age successfully right in their homes and neighborhoods. For more options, contact your region's Area Agency on Aging (AAA). Search our AAA listings at <http://aging.dhs.georgia.gov/local-area-agencies-aging-aas>.



Home Safety: A broken hip or ankle can change an elder's life permanently. Distribute safety checklists or, better yet, host a presentation on fall prevention. (Tip: Occupational therapists in universities and hospitals can provide needed expertise.)

Learn more! -- **Check for Safety: A Home Fall Prevention Checklist for Older Adults** http://www.cdc.gov/HomeandRecreationalSafety/pubs/English/booklet_Eng_desktop-a.pdf

Battery & Bulb Replacement: Shine the light in your neighborhood by organizing a battery and bulb replacement team. Many older adults can no longer safely reach smoke detectors or ceiling lights, and this leads to dangerous home hazards. Work with the fire department, American Red Cross, and community leaders to offer free smoke detector batteries, light bulbs, and installation.

Learn more! -- **“Home Fire Work: Meet. Greet. Install. Repeat.”**
<http://www.redcross.org/news/article/Home-Fire-Work-Around-the-Country-Meet-Greet-Install-Repeat>

Home Repairs & Modifications: Looking for an easy-to-organize, high-impact project that may require just a few hours of your time? Recruit a team to volunteer with an established nonprofit that provides home repairs and/or home modifications. The nonprofit will provide training, materials, and supervision at the project site. To find organizational partners, contact your local Area Agency on Aging.

Learn more! -- **Home Modification Fact Sheet** - (U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services)
http://gero.usc.edu/nrcshhm/resources/fs_home_mod.pdf

Learn more! -- **“Is a Home Repair Team Right for Your Church?”** - (Home Repairs Ministries)
<http://homerepairs.org/blog-right/>



Resource Spotlight

Free Aging Publications

Take a visit to the Division of Aging Services' Publications page for booklets to help older adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers get the most out of life. Popular titles include the following:

- *Benefits Guide for Older Georgians*
- *Distance Caregiving*
- *Medicaid Information for Long-Term Care*
- *A Guide to Funeral Homes, Crematories, and Cemeteries.*

Go to the Publications page to find out more:
<http://aging.dhs.georgia.gov/publications-0>

Call for Stories

Readers, please share your success stories with us! In each issue, Georgia Interfaith Aging Action will feature faith-based communities making a difference in the lives of older Georgians. Let's hear from you! Write the Division of Aging Services' [Community Affairs Manager](#) or call 404-657-1515.

Free Subscriptions

To request a free subscription, visit our online form [here](#).