



## Georgia Interfaith Aging Action

Division of Aging Services | 1-866-552-4464 | [www.aging.ga.gov](http://www.aging.ga.gov)

### Welcome to our first issue

Welcome to **Georgia Interfaith Aging Action**, a monthly 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.

### Aging Program News

Looking for newsletter and bulletin content, program ideas, and discussion topics for groups? Fall 2015 is chock-full of observances. Note these September dates:

- Kinship Care Month in Georgia – [Georgia Department of Human Services](#)
- National Preparedness Month – [www.Ready.gov](http://www.Ready.gov)
- National Service and Remembrance Day (Sept. 11) - [www.911dayofservice.org](http://www.911dayofservice.org)
- National Grandparents Day (Sept. 13) - <http://www.grandparents-day.com/>
- National Assisted Living Week (Sept. 13-19) - [www.nalw.org](http://www.nalw.org)
- Take a Loved One to the Doctor Day (Sept. 15) - [Sample](#) – [FL Dept of Health](#)
- Fall Prevention Awareness Day (Sept. 23) – [National Council on Aging](#)
- Active Aging Week (Sept. 25 - Oct. 3) – [International Council on Active Aging](#)

## Highlighted Volunteer Opportunities

### September is Kinship Care Month!



Do you know children in your neighborhood who live without their parents nearby? How is your congregation supporting the grandmas, grandpas, aunts, uncles, and other family members who have stepped in to care for young relatives? Ask the kinship caregivers in your community how you can help. For example, lend a hand with babysitting, tutoring, school supplies, camp scholarships, meals, clothing, or self-advocacy. Behind every successful child, there's a loving family and a village of people who care.

### Partnering to Build Medicare Awareness

Medicare Open Enrollment begins this October. Are your members ready to make important decisions about Medicare plans, supplements, and prescription coverage? Sign up now to be a GeorgiaCares Partner Congregation. We'll provide you with bulletin announcements, newsletter articles, and support to help your congregation host its own Medicare awareness activities. If you want to equip one or more members to serve as in-house community Medicare experts, our aging network offers intensive Medicare education to individuals who agree to volunteer with GeorgiaCares for at least six months. For more information, contact David Watkins ([David.Watkins@dhs.ga.gov](mailto:David.Watkins@dhs.ga.gov) / 404-657-5253)

## Training & Resources

### CSRA Faith & Aging Conference – Sept. 24

Every faith leader will want to attend the CSRA Area Agency on Aging's 12th Annual Faith & Aging Conference on Thursday, Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>. The event, which is scheduled from 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at the Doubletree Hotel, 2651 Perimeter Parkway in Augusta, features the dynamic Rev. Dr. Willie Myles, statewide coordinator of the Georgia DHS Faith & Community Alliance. Participants will also enjoy lunch, local speakers, and time to learn about area resources available to older adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers. Fees are \$50 for professionals and \$30 for retired persons, caregivers, students, and grandparents raising grandchildren.



Checks should be made payable to the CSRA Regional Commission and mailed to Dina Conklin, CSRA Regional Commission, 3626 Walton Way Extension, Suite 300, Augusta, GA 30909.

### Planning or Expanding a Senior Ministry Program

Presbyterian Older Adult Ministries Network offers tools to help congregations recognize the assets of older members, understand needs, and develop ways to connect people through service.

- [Developing and Planning an Ongoing Older-Adult Ministry in Your Congregation](#)
- [Congregational Profile](#) (Includes sample older-adult activities and community partnership options)
- [POAMN Adult Ministry Survey](#) (Includes sample volunteer options, programs, and activities)

## Helping Youth Build Bonds with Seniors



DOROT, a nonprofit that promotes generational bonds and volunteerism in New York City's Jewish community, conducts several programs for young volunteers. Children and teens can serve as phone pals, friendly visitors, card makers, traveling musicians, computer helpers, and more.

[Opportunities for Schools and Youth Organizations](#)

## Inspiration from the Field

### Catholic Youth Support Meals on Wheels of Atlanta (MOWA)

This summer, forty students from the Catholic Heart Work Camp volunteered in many different areas of MOWA. Together, they cleaned up the yards of six seniors, prepared and packed 2,400 meals, and assisted the Emergency Pantry Program. Volunteers also worked in four different Senior Centers, engaging our seniors in games, performing arts and crafts, and helping with various administrative tasks. Others worked on Special Projects, including the beautification of the Meals on Wheels Atlanta office, Northside Senior Activity Center and the MOWA kitchen.

