

COMMUNITY AGENDA: SELECTED HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR LOCAL PARTNERS

In 2012, Grantmakers In Aging (GIA) launched Community AGEnda to help American communities become great places to grow up and grow old. With funding from the Pfizer Foundation, GIA made grants to five community organizations to help accelerate their age-friendly efforts. Here are some of the highlights from the first year of work by Community AGEnda's local partners.

Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) (Atlanta, GA): Atlanta Lifelong Community Initiative

Walkability assessment and planning

- ARC sponsored a one-day workshop and walkability assessment in Avondale Estates with [Dan Burden](#) of the Walkable and Livable Communities Institute. The event resulted in a 100 Day Action Plan. Four new crosswalks and ramps have already been installed.
- Nearly 400 Avondale residents [participated](#) in a Lifelong Communities Citizen Assessment Survey to identify priorities to support healthy and independent aging.
- The community of Rountree Forest held a [walkability workshop](#) featuring Sally Flocks of PEDS (Pedestrians Educating Drivers on Safety). The community has added several new streetlights.

Health and wellness

- ARC hosted multiple health and wellness events to connect community members with needed services such as [Sickness Prevention Achieved through Regional Collaboration](#) (SPARC) and the [Chronic Disease Self-Management Program](#) (CDSMP).
- The Tucker Civic Association and Tucker Lifelong Community [improved](#) three community gardens.

Housing

- 200+ people responded to a [housing survey](#) on aging in place from the Clayton County Departments of Senior Services and Community Development. Results will inform the County's five-year Consolidated Plan and Comprehensive Plan on future housing needs for older adults.

Health Foundation of South Florida (HFSF) (Miami, FL): The Miami-Dade County Age-Friendly Initiative

Health and wellness

- Urban Health Partnerships (UHP), a partner of HFSF, and residents of the Miami neighborhood of East Little Havana held a [walkability audit](#) and three associated workshops.

—Representatives from the community and from police, Neighborhood Enhancement Teams, and Metropolitan Planning Organization [attended](#).

—Future projects include improving sidewalk safety by reducing tripping hazards and assessing feasibility of a dedicated bike lane.

- UHP produced the [Safe Routes to Age in Place Digital Resource Guide](#).
- Miami-Dade County Parks and Recreation Department identified 12 parks as potential age-friendly pilot sites and implemented a walking incentive program.

Transit and transportation

- Urban Health Partnerships led a review of Miami-Dade's Comprehensive Development Master Plan and the Metropolitan Planning Organization's Long Range Transportation Plan. This work has contributed, and rallied public support for, age-friendly goals, policy recommendations, and performance measures on land use, transportation, housing, community health, and design elements.

Older adult employment

- Health Foundation of South Florida led a large group of sponsors that supported two workshops on employing older adults. Major employers in Miami-Dade County sent 100 representatives. A legal monograph examining myths about hiring and retaining older adult employees was developed by ReServe, the Greater Miami Society of Human Resource Managers, and the law firm of Jackson Lewis.

Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) (Phoenix, AZ): Greater Phoenix Region Aging in Place Network

Regional response to aging

- MAG launched the Regional Aging in Place Network, in partnership with Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust and many other partners, to coordinate the region's response to aging, specifically how to leverage the talents of older adults to make communities better for people of all ages. Recent Network accomplishments:

- Produced a 30 minute video titled [“Connections to Community: Empowered Choices for Older Adults.”](#)
- Published a book, [Champions](#), with local stories in English, Spanish, and Chinese about aging in place.
- Launched a new website, [www.Connect60Plus.com](#), to connect older adults with opportunities to be meaningfully engaged in their communities.
- Hosted a conference, [“Connecting Caring Communities.”](#) with 222 attendees and national speakers from AARP, Atlantic Philanthropies, Grantmakers In Aging, Partners for Livable Communities, and the Village to Village Network.

Local place-based strategies

MAG worked with three pilot communities to develop aging in place models and ensure their long-term sustainability by conducting extensive community engagement, developing a detailed market analysis, and creating business plans. The following communities are preparing to launch projects in late 2013:

- The City of Phoenix and All Saints Episcopal Church and Day School are partnering to create Central Village to assist older adults in aging in place by utilizing a time bank.
- The Tempe Community Council is supporting Tempe Neighbors Helping Neighbors to evolve into a village serving older adults with a variety of services to help them live independently.
- Benevilla and Sun Health, two nonprofit agencies, are partnering to meet the transportation needs of older adults by establishing Northwest Connections as an affiliate within the Independent Transportation Network (ITN).

Indiana Grantmakers’ Alliance (IGA) (Indianapolis, IN): Indiana Age-Friendly Communities: Moving from Voice to Vision to Action

IGA’s work is focused in three communities in Indiana.

Huntington, IN

- Huntington held a design charrette to propose community improvements.

Bloomington, IN

- 300 stakeholders and residents attended a design workshop, meetings, and workshops for the proposed Bloomington Lifetime Community District (LCD).

- The Bloomington City Commission on Aging is supporting the LCD project and a community task force is under development.

Indianapolis, IN

- Three community meetings have been held in the Martindale-Brightwood neighborhood. Traffic flow along Keystone Avenue (a major artery) has been improved, allowing older residents easier access to food and health services.

Age-friendly education and outreach

- The Center on Aging & Community at Indiana University hosted a workshop titled *“Places with a Purpose: Communities for a Lifetime.”*
- The Indiana Grantmakers Alliance held two [webinars](#) for grantmakers and other regional associations of grantmakers across the country on age- and ability-friendly communities.
- IGA published two *Aging Issues in Brief*, on [Communities for a Lifetime](#) and [philanthropy’s role](#) in helping to support and develop them.

Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) (Kansas City, MO): KC4 Aging in Community Initiative

Transportation and mobility

- MARC hosted the *“Moving Forward: Older Adult Transportation and Mobility Summit”* attended by nearly 100 stakeholders. It also developed and approved a final regional [Transportation and Mobility Action](#) plan for the Kansas City region.

Planning and design

- KC Communities for All Ages and the First Suburbs Coalition published *“Making Your Community Work for All Ages — A Toolkit for Cities”* and an *“idea book”* on aging in place and held a [workshop](#) where the Toolkit was presented and discussed.
- MARC conducted a universal design workshop and published a related [white paper](#) with the First Suburbs Coalition.

Age-friendly public education and outreach

- MARC co-produced a 30-minute segment titled *“Age, Engage”* for the local PBS series IMAGINE KC, on older adults as community resources.
- It also produced a public awareness campaign on caregiving and older adult civic engagement which ran for six weeks.