What is the community saying about Aging Care Connections?

“I think it’s very holistic. They have support for not only keeping older individuals independent, but there is also education around that. They also, obviously, serve the entire family... We say it takes a village to raise children, but it really takes a village to take care of all of our citizens and our neighbors.”

Meredith Onion
Associate Minister
First Congregational Church of Western Springs
Community Partner

“They give you options. They have so many more connections with companies and agencies that can really give you the help that your loved ones need.”

Katelyn
Caregiver Support Client

“We give [older adults] hope. We give them care. We give them happiness. We really do. I see it every day.”

Jerry Burjan
Board of Directors
Burcorp Properties

“The services for Aging Care Connections go right outside of the La Grange area. I know I was amazed when I saw how large their scope really is.”

Kathleen Ferket
Vice President
Care Continuum at AMITA Health
Community Partner

“We need to keep Aging Care Connections in this community in order to age well. That’s why I support them now. Frankly, they’re my insurance policy for healthy aging.”

Ken Grunke
Executive Director
West Suburban Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Community Partner

“What we need to do is make sure we are continually letting [older adults] know that resources are available and how they can access them. Aging Care Connections is an absolutely marvelous gatekeeper for a lot of wonderful information.”

Marcy Minshall, MSW, LCSW
Aging Program Coordinator
Helping Hands
Community Partner
Dear Friends,

The quote in the upper right hand corner of this page has inspired generations of artists, entrepreneurs, and social changers to think big. It was said by Chicago’s visionary architect and public planner Daniel Burnham almost one hundred years ago and its inspiration and energy can still be felt today.

For us, that quote resonates deeply. That’s because we never make small plans. In Fiscal Year 2015 our agency made big plans and took bold steps. We looked forward, saw areas of need, recognized opportunities, and took action; all to improve the experience of aging for older adults and their families.

One course of action we took was the establishment of The Aging Well Neighborhood. Funded by a grant from the Community Memorial Foundation, this innovative program’s mission is to “join medical and social service providers to deliver coordinated care by tapping into our community assets and resources to address how older adults, now and in the future, live, work, and age in the Greater Lyons Township area.” This visionary program has already recruited and united nearly twenty regional civic, medical, professional, and social service organizations into the program. Also, many local business partners have completed older adult awareness training and now proudly display The Aging Well Neighborhood decal in their window.

When the Illinois Department on Aging (DOI) and AgeOptions needed a local agency to step-up as the Care Coordination Unit for three hospitals as well as for Leyden and Norwood Park Townships, they didn’t hesitate to contact Aging Care Connections. The hospitals are Gottlieb Memorial Hospital (Melrose Park), Westlake Hospital (Melrose Park), and Kindred Hospital (Northlake). Our care coordination begins with individual and personalized assessments with physical, emotional, and financial needs of the client in mind. The result is a plan of care utilizing public/private resources, family support, and the older adults preferences. Ongoing care coordination and management are provided to ensure services are appropriate and able to change as needs may change.

Our agency brought together hundreds of seniors as well as for profits, nonprofits, hospitals, townships, villages, churches and others for five successful days of fun and information for older adults during our 3rd annual Celebrating Seniors Week. This week of senior empowerment and recognition included dozens of events and activities at locations across our service area.

And the $600K bequest given by long-time friends and supporters, John and Evelyn Kilker, which we received in FY2014, was key to help us plan for our future and help sustain our financial stability. But little did we know just how important this gift would be when in the final three months of Fiscal Year 2015, the budget impasse in Springfield began (and continues at press time).

Although Fiscal Year 2015 ended with unexpected challenges, we know we can meet those challenges. Aging Care Connections spent these twelve months not only providing outstanding programs and services, but also taking action to break new ground in the area of aging. Take a look at our numbers. We think you’ll agree.

We don’t make small plans. We take action.

Debra Verschelde  
Executive Director

William S. Wilson  
President, Board of Directors
2015 by the Numbers
Actions speak louder than words
Between October 1, 2014 and September 30, 2015...

10,951 phone calls taken from 5,492 individuals seeking help with aging issues. It may have been a simple question, or it may have been quite complex requiring more intense assistance. Our Information and Assistance staff often are the point of first contact with an older adult or family member with questions.

3,506 individuals were provided care coordination assessments in a hospital, nursing home, or within the older adult’s home. Multiple factors, such as physical, emotional, and financial needs, as well as the strength and support systems unique to each older adult are considered in developing a plan of care utilizing public and private resources. The Care Coordination Unit provides ongoing care management and ensure that it is appropriate to the changing needs of the older adult.

3,459 hours of support were given to 433 caregivers of older adults. This included much needed respite. Family members and others play important roles in caring for older adults, which may give rise to questions and concerns, as well as stress and exhaustion. Caregivers Specialists suggest resources, lead support groups, and arrange respite, so that caregivers are able to tend to and take care of themselves.

351 cases of alleged abuse in 38 communities involving older adults or disabled adults were investigated. Abuse can include physical, emotional, financial, neglect, abandonment, and self-neglect. Self-neglect cases are rising to become the most common form of elder abuse. If you suspect abuse, you can report Adult Protective Services cases to Aging Care Connections five days a week by calling 708-354-1323. Or the State of Illinois 24-hour Hotline, 1-866-800-1409.

792 older adults were assisted in making a smooth transition from the hospital or a skilled nursing facility. Helping older adults and their families explore and secure community resources and services prior to discharge from Adventist La Grange Memorial Hospital is the focus of the Aging Resource Center (ARC) Program. Staff provide on-site assessment for services, connection to information about community resources, and follow-up in the community.

665 older adults were provided help with energy costs, pharmaceutical benefits, and Medicare issues. Navigating the ever-changing world of benefits can be confusing and intimidating. Our trained Benefits Assistance staff and volunteers educate and assist older adults about benefits and services to which they may be entitled.

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Other Programs and Services
In partnership with the AARP, Aging Care Connections served 476 older adults through the AARP Foundation Tax-Aide Program, which resulted in.

The Aging Well Program brought together 476 older adults and community-based organizations to further community awareness of issues facing older adults.

7,541 home delivered meals were provided to 82 older adults with special dietary needs through a partnership with Cantata Adult Life Services.

138 older adults in need of assistance with light housekeeping, shopping, and laundry, which is equal to 4,243 hours of assistance.

More than 8,207 hours of service, equivalent to $189,335, were provided by our dedicated volunteers.

Cover photo by Linda Hussey
Part of the Aging Well Neighborhood program is the Aging Well Neighborhood Prevention Team, most of whom are pictured above. They are, from left to right: Joan Sessions, community member; Amy Crawford, ACC ARC (Aging Resource Center) Manager; Jack Gavin, Blue Cab Co.; Isabel Lopez, Sweets by Aracely’s; Richard “Dick” DeVries, DeVries Grocery & Market; Alana Aziz-Bradley, ACC Aging Well Neighborhood Coordinator; Linda Kunicki, BrightStar; Joan O’Brien, Independence 4 Seniors; Jessica Grabowski, ACC Social Services Director.  

Celebrating Seniors Week 2015

A splendid time was had by all during the 2015 Celebrating Seniors Week!

Whether you were participating at one of several presentations and information sessions (left); were speaking with Mr. Mike Corrigan, Proviso Township Supervisor, and Board Member Anne Shannon at the “70 Over 70” luncheon (center); or if you just sat back and took notes on how to cook delicious and healthy meals from a pro chef (right) at any of these or the other numerous events, we’re sure you had fun and learned something. 

Photos by Glenn Kaupert
Fiscal Year 2015
Revenue and Expenses

REVENUES FY2015
- Federal Grants $516,661
- State Grants $1,067,245
- Local Government $77,270
- Fundraising $316,580
- Foundations $331,170
- Bequests $10,000
- Other $26,500
- Program $22,776

*Total = $2,368,202
* Total revenue does not include unrealized losses.

EXPENSES FY2015
- Program $1,938,864 (81%)
- Management and General $170,927 (7%)
- Fundraising $275,273 (12%)

Total = $2,385,064

Fiscal Year 2015 is from October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015
Fiscal Year 2015 is from October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015.
**Programs & Services**

Our mission is to enrich the quality of life of older adults and their families through a range of programs and services that enhance their well-being and independence. We do this by providing comprehensive programs and services for older adults and their families. Please contact us to learn more about the following:

- Adult Protective Services (for those 60+ and disabled 18+)
- Aging Well
- Aging Well Neighborhood
- Alzheimer’s & Related Dementia Caregivers Support Group
- ARC – The Aging Resource Center Program (Transitional Care)
- Benefits Assistance
- Caregiver Support Program
- Chore Housekeeping
- Community Care Program
- Comprehensive Care Coordination
- Congregate Meals & Home Delivered Meals
- Friday Morning Regulars
- Grandparents Raising Grandchildren
- Health & Wellness
- Information & Assistance
- Transitional Care
- Transportation

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