



*The Area Agency on Aging of Suburban Cook County*  
**Connecting Older Adults with Community-based Resources and Options**

## 2009 IN REVIEW

A Letter from Jonathan Lavin and Teresa Bousky

AgeOptions responded to many unusual situations in 2009 and the beginning of 2010. Because of the state fiscal crisis, Illinois virtually stopped paying obligations under the state budget, resulting in delays of more than four months before partial payments were received.

In response, we used every available resource during the first half of the 2010 fiscal year to avoid cutting off services. We made up for some of the missing state dollars by advancing federal funds to the community agencies that provide meals and social services in suburban Cook County. We continued to provide timely information to our service provider partners detailing our plans and actions. This included a New Year's Eve phone call explaining that, for January of 2010, we would be forced to provide partial reimbursements if state funds were not forthcoming. Consequently, some agencies reduced staff, cut back on the number of meals they provided and stopped accepting new clients who needed meals and social services.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) reduced the impact of state service cuts at some agencies. We received \$626,850 for 21 new or enlarged meal programs, and established service to a number of culturally isolated populations. ARRA provided special, temporary funding for several key programs, resulting in new opportunities to provide meals as well as employment experience to older workers, while on-going services received partial reimbursements because of the state situation.

Even with the state challenges, 2009 included many outstanding successes:

- Through a successful proposal in national competition, AgeOptions was awarded one of 14 Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation three-year grants. The \$515,357 award is allowing us to create **Caring Together, Living Better**, a community partnership to increase access to culturally appropriate support services for family and friends who care for older adults in the south suburbs. The partnership is working to expand and improve current services while providing new services through churches and other local organizations.
- The Chicago Community Trust provided a special \$500,000 Unity Challenge Grant effective in calendar year 2010. This award saved the **Red Tape Cutters** program, which helps older adults gain access to benefits to which they are entitled. Red Tape Cutters, which had been funded by the state since 1994, was cut from the 2010 state budget despite a collective effort by our aging services network to retain the program. The Unity Grant also provides funds for 18 senior service agencies to help older adults purchase medications, pay utility bills, buy necessary assistive devices and pay for other needs.

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## *Unusual Situations (continued)*

- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois and the Illinois Department of Public Health continued to fund and expand **Take Charge of Your Health**, which offers very successful chronic disease self-management classes throughout suburban Cook County.
- The **Make Medicare Work Coalition** (MMW), a collaborative project with Health & Disability Advocates and Progress Center for Independent Living, received funding from the Chicago Community Trust, the Michael Reese Health Trust and the Retirement Research Foundation. MMW provides Medicare prescription drug and healthcare education, outreach and policy development.
- AgeOptions, one of the original national **Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP)** programs, received continuation funding from the U.S. Administration on Aging.
- We began a new initiative in 2009 - **Benefits Enrollment Centers** - with a grant from the National Council on Aging.
- We received funding in 2009 to provide education and information on two timely programs, the transition to digital television (**DTV**) and the **2010 Census**. DTV funding from the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging allowed us to provide information and assistance to ensure older adults would not lose their television signals in the national digital conversion. And with a grant from the Illinois Census Funders Initiative, AgeOptions worked with partners throughout the state to increase census participation, especially among older adults.

AgeOptions and partners at community service agencies visited home offices of many of the Illinois elected Representatives and Senators in our region. One outcome was the passage of key legislation to train Illinois financial institution staff on the signs of financial exploitation of the elderly. Another success was the enactment of major nursing home reform legislation. Our visits resulted in a heightened sensitivity to the impact on older persons of continued inaction by elected officials to improve Illinois financial standing and preserve its covenant to vulnerable populations.

The past year was witness to the importance of community partnerships even when the odds are against us, the wisdom of inclusive and transparent planning, and the strength of our dedication to the values that make AgeOptions and the aging network so valuable to older persons. We greatly appreciate that our staff, Board of Directors, Advisory Council, and provider network were there with us all the way.

Sincerely,



Teresa Bousky  
Chairperson of the Board of Directors



Jonathan Lavin  
President and Chief Executive Officer

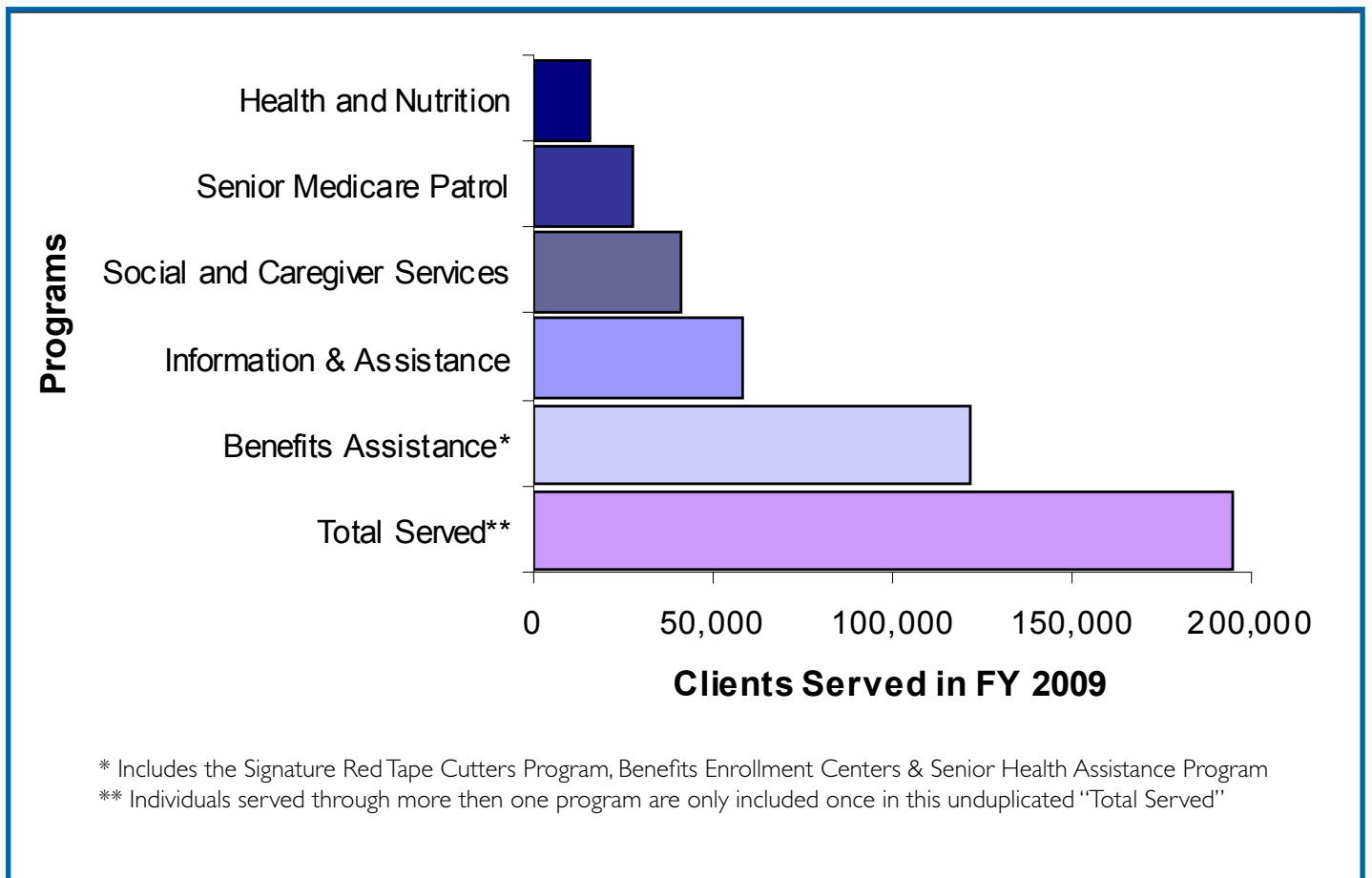
## The Reach of AgeOptions Programs and Services

AgeOptions served a total of 195,088 clients in Fiscal Year 2009. Individuals who were assisted through more than one program are only included once in this total.

Numbers of individuals who received services in the program areas shown in the chart are:

Health & Nutrition	16,171
Senior Medical Patrol (SMP)	28,068
Social & Caregiver Services	40,893
Information & Assistance	58,519
Benefits Assistance	121,291

*(Benefits Assistance includes the Signature Red Tape Cutters Program, Benefits Enrollment Centers and Senior Health Assistance Program)*



  
**AGEOPTIONS**  
*Celebrating Aging*

**2009 Fundraiser**

More than 270 friends and supporters of AgeOptions attended the fifth annual fundraiser, Celebrating Aging, on September 17, 2009, in the Winter Garden of Chicago's Harold Washington Library.

The event was dedicated to raising awareness and support for the growing and diverse aging population of suburban Cook County, which AgeOptions serves with a variety of programs and services. More than 40 sponsors and 270 guests at the fundraiser enthusiastically supported those programs, donating more than \$83,000 through their participation, silent auction purchases and contributions to support specific services enhancing the quality of life for older adults.



Merri Dee, a longtime champion of charitable work, was the guest emcee. One of the first African-American women to anchor broadcast news in the state, and a former anchor at WGN-TV, she now serves as a member of the AARP Illinois Executive Council.

Spirited music and dance by the rumba Flamenco group Guitarra Azul set the tempo for a lively evening.

In addition to the fundraiser, Project P.R.O.T.E.C.T. in Chicago Ridge donated all proceeds from its 5K run/walk on October 3 to AgeOptions for the second consecutive year. Project P.R.O.T.E.C.T. was started 11 years ago by Chicago Ridge Chief of Police Tim Baldermann as a way for people in the community to help others.

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*Sponsors current as of  
 September 8, 2009.  
 We regret any omissions.*

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### *Retirement Congratulations*

Congratulations to Bruce Matson, who has retired after 13 years as AgeOptions chief financial officer and treasurer of the Board of Directors. Bruce was responsible for the finance, grants and administration functions of AgeOptions and served as staff support to the Finance Committee. Prior to joining AgeOptions, Bruce, who is a CPA, worked in finance for a public accounting firm, a retail company and a home health agency.

When we asked Bruce to describe his feelings about retiring, this is what he said:

“Thirteen years ago I came to AgeOptions looking for a job and found a cause: giving dignity and relevance to older people. And I found an intelligent and very dedicated staff that I have had the privilege of working with every day for those 13 years. I intend to continue my association with AgeOptions in some capacity for many years to come. I am also enjoying the free time which allows for babysitting my grandson, reading, traveling and following the Cubs (well, maybe not that).”

We wish Bruce a long and happy retirement.



## *Volunteer Profile - Lora Oldham*

Lora Oldham's work in the insurance industry, along with what she describes as "a strong passion for our senior citizen population," led her to AgeOptions where she has been a member of the Advisory Council for three years.

"Working in the Medicare arena, I read articles about seniors and have learned about things that I wouldn't have been aware of – things like elder abuse and long-term care – and developed a passion for these issues," she said.

Attending an AgeOptions fundraiser piqued her interest in learning more about the agency. "I came to AgeOptions," she explained, "because I'm not just an insurance person; I was thinking about how I can give back to the community."

It would be easy to describe Lora as an "insurance person" because she has worked in the industry in various capacities for 23 years. She was an American Airlines ticket agent when her son, Shawn, was born 25 years ago. "I wanted to move into an industry that had more 'normal' hours," she said wryly. "But I found myself wrapped up in it; it became my passion."

Starting in the property and casualty side of the insurance industry, she was promoted first to district manager and then regional sales manager. After 14 years, she moved to another company as vice president of marketing. "This move allowed me to focus primarily on the health insurance industry, which has always been my true passion," she said.

In 2006 Lora joined Aetna Medicare as director of sales. She is responsible for distribution of Medicare and Medicare Part D (the prescription drug plan) products throughout Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Missouri and Wisconsin and also works with Aetna's business partners in Texas.

"I love talking with people about Medicare and helping them better understand it," she says.

Lora is committed to lifelong learning. She has earned many industry designations and in 2006 obtained her master's degree in management with an emphasis on leadership from The American College in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania. Describing

*continued page 14*

## *Volunteer Profile - Murray Gordon*

Murray Gordon has been a member of the AgeOptions Board of Directors since 1998. "I've always had an interest in older adults," he said. "Volunteering and doing things for seniors is a way of giving back."

A pioneer in the long term care insurance (LTCI) industry, Murray's business life has focused on older adults since he started MAGA, Ltd. in 1975 out of his family room in Des Plaines. He and his wife, Esther, have long since moved to Northbrook and MAGA is now a thriving company based in Riverwoods. Along the way, long term care insurance exploded from something few people had heard of to an important form of coverage and Murray gained national recognition as a visionary in the industry.

The Chicago native's success is self-made. After graduating from Sullivan High School, where he played football and baseball, he attended community college for a couple of years while helping to support his mother and brother.

He started his career at a large insurance company, working his way up from clerk to sales manager and then joining a large California-based company as regional vice president. But a year-and-a-half later that company closed its regional offices and Murray vowed to never work for someone else again.

There was only one company in the long term care insurance business when he started MAGA as an independent LTCI agency. "Long term care insurance was not like it is today," he said. "Originally there was no home care benefit available, only skilled nursing facilities, and plans were very limited in benefits and length of time the benefit would pay. I call that the Model T version of long term care insurance."

Over the years, MAGA has played a vital role in the evolution of LTCI, working with insurers to develop innovative features and benefits that have become standard. In 1980, the company was instrumental in gaining the first discounts for affinity groups such as associations and corporations.

As LTCI evolved, so did interest in this benefit. "There are a number of reasons," Murray explained. "People are living longer, the cost of care has increased dramatically and has created not



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## AgeOptions, Inc.

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

September 30, 2009

(With Summarized Financial Information for the Year Ended September 30, 2008)

	Unrestricted		Total Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	2009	2008
	General Funds	Special Funds		Special Funds		
<b>ASSETS</b>						
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>						
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 339,630	\$ 1,828,477	\$ 2,168,107	\$ 188,404	\$ 2,356,511	\$ 1,826,461
Grants receivable - current	-	538,129	538,129	484,459	1,022,588	1,042,304
Other receivables	128,547	84,907	213,454	31,713	245,167	489,143
Prepaid expenses and deposits	65,596	-	65,596	-	65,596	77,451
Total current assets	533,773	2,451,513	2,985,286	704,576	3,689,862	3,435,359
<b>LONG-TERM ASSETS</b>						
Investments	335,889	-	335,889	-	335,889	334,152
Grants receivable - non-current	-	-	-	301,056	301,056	75,460
Furniture and equipment, net	75,042	-	75,042	-	75,042	106,760
Total long-term assets	410,931	-	410,931	301,056	711,987	516,372
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 944,704</b>	<b>\$ 2,451,513</b>	<b>\$ 3,396,217</b>	<b>\$ 1,005,632</b>	<b>\$ 4,401,849</b>	<b>\$ 3,951,731</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>						
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>						
Accounts payable	\$ 8,390	\$ 1,168,015	\$ 1,176,405	\$ 34,728	\$ 1,211,133	\$ 1,294,928
Other payables	189,936	566,109	756,045	29,684	785,729	602,077
Total current liabilities	198,326	1,734,124	1,932,450	64,412	1,996,862	1,897,005
<b>NET ASSETS</b>						
Unrestricted	746,378	717,389	1,463,767	-	1,463,767	1,407,459
Temporarily restricted	-	-	-	941,220	941,220	647,267
Total net assets	746,378	717,389	1,463,767	941,220	2,404,987	2,054,726
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 944,704</b>	<b>\$ 2,451,513</b>	<b>\$ 3,396,217</b>	<b>\$ 1,005,632</b>	<b>\$ 4,401,849</b>	<b>\$ 3,951,731</b>

## AgeOptions, Inc.

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

For the Year Ended September 30, 2009  
 (With Summarized Financial Information for the Year Ended September 30, 2008)

	Unrestricted		Total Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	2009	2008
	General Funds	Special Funds		Special Funds		
<b>SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>						
Federal and other grants	\$ -	\$ 14,875,188	\$ 14,875,188	\$ -	\$ 14,875,188	\$ 15,040,224
Foundation grants	-	-	-	795,640	795,640	454,754
In-kind professional services	14,863	-	14,863	-	14,863	12,618
Interest income	2,081	-	2,081	-	2,081	43,631
Loss on disposal of assets	(1,205)	-	(1,205)	-	(1,205)	(1,060)
Investment income (loss)	1,737	-	1,737	-	1,737	(67,807)
Miscellaneous income	1,100	-	1,100	-	1,100	10,326
Fundraising event	80,446	-	80,446	-	80,446	82,021
Subtotal	99,022	14,875,188	14,974,210	795,640	15,769,850	15,574,707
Net assets released from restriction	-	501,687	501,687	(501,687)	-	-
Total support and revenue	99,022	15,376,875	15,475,897	293,953	15,769,850	15,574,707
<b>EXPENSES</b>						
Program expenses	14,868	13,268,007	13,282,875	-	13,282,875	13,555,519
Management and general expenses	120,896	1,974,161	2,095,057	-	2,095,057	2,261,592
Fundraising	41,657	-	41,657	-	41,657	31,451
Total expenses	177,421	15,242,168	15,419,589	-	15,419,589	15,848,562
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>						
Unrestricted	(78,399)	134,707	56,308	-	56,308	(156,944)
Temporarily restricted	-	-	-	293,953	293,953	(116,911)
Total change in net assets	(78,399)	134,707	56,308	293,953	350,261	(273,855)
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	824,777	582,682	1,407,459	647,267	2,054,726	2,328,581
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	\$ 746,378	\$ 717,389	\$ 1,463,767	\$ 941,220	\$ 2,404,987	\$ 2,054,726

## AgeOptions, Inc.

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the Year Ended September 30, 2009

(With Summarized Financial Information for the Year Ended September 30, 2008)

	2009	2008
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Change in net assets	\$ 350,261	\$ (273,855)
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash from operating activities		
Depreciation expense	44,260	44,524
Loss on disposal of equipment	1,205	1,060
Unrealized (gain) loss on investments	(30,191)	38,971
Realized loss on investments	40,836	28,836
(Increase) decrease in		
Grant receivable	(205,880)	(280,571)
Other receivables	243,976	(217,038)
Prepaid expenses and deposits	11,855	(5,567)
Increase (decrease) in		
Accounts payable	(83,795)	(225,326)
Other payables	183,652	255,815
Deferred revenue	-	(188,775)
Total adjustments	205,918	(548,071)
Net cash from operating activities	556,179	(821,926)
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Proceeds from sale of investments	31,605	380,123
Purchase of investments	(43,987)	(381,492)
Purchase of equipment	(13,747)	(19,467)
Net cash from investing activities	(26,129)	(20,836)
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>		
None	-	-
<b>NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>	530,050	(842,762)
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	1,826,461	2,669,223
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, END OF YEAR</b>	\$ 2,356,511	\$ 1,826,461
Supplemental disclosure:		
No interest or taxes were paid during the year.	\$ -	\$ -

## *In Memory*

### *Pat Connelley - Advisory Council*

Patricia Connelley of Oak Park died in 2009, just a few months after joining the AgeOptions Advisory Council. While she served on the Council only a short time, Ms. Connelley was a long-time friend of AgeOptions.

Her relationship with AgeOptions started in the early 1970s when she helped develop training sessions for Information and Assistance and the Senior Companion program.

A local newspaper said “her life goal was ‘to love and to heal’ and she did that well.” A registered nurse, she worked for many years as a psychiatric nurse. In addition to her nursing diploma, she had a bachelor of science degree from Clayton University in St. Louis, a master’s in public health from George Williams College in Downers Grove and received post-graduate training at the Family Institute at Northwestern University.

Pat was program coordinator and psychotherapist at Proviso Family Service from 1967 to 1978 and had a private practice in marital and family therapy from 1978 to 2004. An educator and consultant, she was also director of the Triton College School of Continuing Education older adults program, and an instructor at College of DuPage and the National College of Education.

She is survived by her son, Kevin, daughter, Kathy, grandchildren and her beloved cat.

## *In Memory*

### *Wayne Berzon - Board of Directors*



Wayne Berzon, a member of the AgeOptions Board of Directors, died unexpectedly in his Northbrook home on January 22. Mr. Berzon, who was elected to the Board of Directors in 2006, served on the Finance Committee and Advocacy Task Force.

He was vice president of GCG Financial in Bannockburn, but his local newspaper reported he was “far better known as a member of an almost endless number of community efforts.”

A graduate of The Ohio State University, his community activities included serving as chairman of the Village of Northbrook Senior Citizen Housing Commission and the Youth Commission, and as director of the International Service Committee.

He was a member of the Rotary Club of Northbrook, the Illinois Association of School Boards and numerous other community and service organizations, and was active in education-related charities.

We miss Wayne and his many contributions to AgeOptions.

## 2009 Grants Awarded to AgeOptions

- “Count Me In” funded through the Illinois Census Funders Initiative
- “Caring Together Living Better” funded through the Harry S. and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation
- “Benefits Enrollment Center” funded by the National Council on Aging with U.S. Administration on Aging funding
- “Take Charge of Your Health” funded by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois and the Illinois Department of Public Health with U.S. Administration on Aging funding
- “Make Medicare Work (MMW)” funded by Chicago Community Trust, The Michael Reese Health Trust and The Retirement Research Foundation
- “DTV” funded by the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration
- “SMP - Senior Medicare Patrol” funded by the U.S. Administration on Aging
- “Aging and Disability Resource Center” funded by the U.S. Administration on Aging
- “New Demands on the Safety Net: Helping Older Adults Survive the Recession” a forum funded by the Retirement Research Foundation with support from Adventist La Grange Hospital

## 2009 Media Coverage

AgeOptions is enjoying increased visibility in the news media. The agency and programs we offer with our community partners were featured in newspapers and on television and radio more than 50 times in just the last six months.

Jonathan Lavin, AgeOptions president and CEO, addressed legislative issues affecting older adults in interviews and letters to the editor. They include:

- An interview on WTTW’s “Chicago Tonight” in January about how state budget cuts will affect older adults. Rob Green of West Suburban Senior Services hosted the taping and provided expert commentary for the segment.
- Quotes about the budget this spring in the Daily Herald and suburban Pioneer Local newspapers, and in the Daily Herald in December when AgeOptions joined home care agencies, AARP and state representatives in a news conference calling attention to the delay in state payments.
- Letters to the editor on state budget reductions in Pioneer Local papers and the Wednesday Journal of Oak Park and River Forest.
- Letters on the need for legislation to improve quality of care in nursing homes in the Chicago Tribune and Wednesday Journal.

Other coverage included:

- A Chicago Tribune Primetime story quoted Elizabeth Lough, Red Tape Cutters specialist, on how the program assists older adults.
- Editorials and stories on Red Tape Cutters in the Daily Herald and Pioneer Local suburban papers, and The Chicago Community Trust grant for the program in Pioneer papers.

- Lisa Parker, the NBC 5 consumer reporter who will speak at the 2010 AgeOptions fundraiser, did a story titled “Target: Grandma.” She interviewed Erin Weir, healthcare consumer protection coordinator, who was also interviewed by the Spanish-language television network Univision about Medicare fraud and SMP (Senior Medicare Patrol).
- Erin Weir was also quoted by television stations in Chicago and St. Louis, a radio station in Salem, Illinois, an online publication and other media as the Associated Press distributed an AgeOptions news release about Medicare scams. Her letter to the editor on avoiding Medicare fraud appeared in the Southtown Star, Wednesday Journal and Pioneer papers.
- Diane Slezak, AgeOptions chief operating officer, provided detailed background for a BBC America story on the effects of state budget cuts, and the network showed meal services at South Suburban Senior Services of Catholic Charities. The story ran internationally.
- Sarah Stein, AgeOptions caregiver coordinator, was quoted in the Chicago Tribune’s Primetime section about options for older adults who can no longer live alone. La Raza, the largest Spanish-language newspaper in the Chicago area, quoted Sarah on caregiving in a story that was distributed nationwide by New America Media.
- The Chicago Tribune had stories on Caring Together, Living Better, and programs to make home maintenance more affordable for older adults.
- A Sun-Times editorial quoted Elizabeth Lough on the problematic new state annual application requirements for the senior citizen property tax exemption.
- For National Nutrition Month, Ellin Learned, AgeOptions dietitian, was quoted in several Pioneer papers about challenges older adults face in getting proper nutrition.
- El Dia News ran a story on grandparents in Harvey supporting the AgeOptions Count Me In 2010 Census campaign.
- CBS 2 interviewed Kerry Finegan, AgeOptions employment specialist, on how the program assists older adults in finding employment. Smart Money also mentioned AgeOptions in a story about older adults going back to work.
- The Ethnic Media Workshop hosted by AgeOptions to increase awareness of aging issues among reporters and editors has resulted in coverage of AgeOptions and our partner agencies. These include a Chicago Tribune article on Arab American Family Services and stories on caregiving and the Oro Latino network in La Raza.

## *Volunteer Profile - Lora Oldham*

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herself as dedicated to the insurance industry, she has served as president of the Chicago Southland Association of Health Underwriters.

Volunteering is another of her commitments. “I think it’s the right thing to do,” she said. “It just makes me feel good.” She’s a silent auction volunteer for the AgeOptions fundraiser, and is especially proud of Aetna’s sponsorship of the annual Volunteer Recognition luncheon.

“People don’t understand that the majority of volunteers in this country are senior citizens,” she said. “I admire them and hope to do the same someday.”

In addition to her activities with the Advisory Council, Lora also takes advantage of volunteer opportunities at a senior center through Aetna. And she recently helped with Operation Care Package which sends items to troops stationed overseas. “I stood outside a grocery store and collected money,” she said. That project is especially dear to her since her son, a second lieutenant in the Army, is stationed in Germany.

Lora and her husband of 15 years, Rick, live in Mokena where she grew up. When she’s not working or volunteering, she loves to work out because “it decompresses you.”

## *Volunteer Profile - Murray Gordon*

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only a financial burden on families but also physical and mental stress. Many caregivers are juggling a job and family along with caregiving. In addition, families are not the unit they once were. If they’re scattered all over the country, where is the care going to come from?”

A stroke 10 years ago and subsequent surgery to remove the tumor on his heart that caused it barely slowed him down. Murray is committed to educating people about LTCI, and over the years has spoken to organizations, retirement communities and senior centers, among others, on topics such as Medicare and supplemental insurance. He has found there is a lot people still don’t understand. “For example, people still think Medicare supplement insurance takes care of long term care,” he said. “But it doesn’t.”

Terry Savage, Sun-Times columnist, author and nationally known financial expert, calls MAGA “my advisor on long term care policies.” Murray has also been quoted in many local and national newspapers and financial publications, and the MAGA team has appeared on radio and television.

The team, in addition to Murray, who is CEO, includes his son Brian, who has been with the company 20 years, and son-in-law, Peter Florek, who joined 15 years ago. “They’re a big part of the growth of the business,” Murray said.

His family also includes another son, a daughter, and seven grandchildren – six girls and a boy ranging in age from 4 to 10. Two of the children have autism, leading Murray to expand his volunteer activities to that area in addition to older adults. “You want to give back,” he says. “You can’t just take and not give back.”



## *Making a Difference for 35 Years*

In 2009, AgeOptions celebrated 35 years of planning, funding, coordinating and advocating on behalf of older adults in suburban Cook County.

AgeOptions connects older adults throughout suburban Cook County with resources and options for care so they can live their lives to the fullest. Together with a network of partner organizations, we ensure that our clients maintain access to vital services such as: in-home care and adult day services; telephone and in-person assistance; aging resources and education; and nutrition and health care programs.

AgeOptions is one of 655 Area Agencies on Aging throughout the country and one of 13 in Illinois. Our primary service area, suburban Cook County, includes 130 communities within 30 townships surrounding Chicago — home to more than 2.5 million people and more than 454,000 older adults.



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