



VISIONEERING
WICHITA

Visioneering Wichita Older Adults Strategic Alliance

Mission

The Older Adults Strategic Alliance (OASA) umbrella goal statement is to “Make the Wichita Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) a Mecca for retirees.”

History

OASA and its Leadership Team have been meeting since December, 2006. The Alliance incorporates members of the Central Plains Area Agency on Aging’s Community Service Advisory Board as well as other leading organizations, professionals, and volunteers with an interest in the well-being of older adults. (See back for listing of OASA member organizations.) OASA members continue to make strategic invitations and plan to vary meeting sites to broaden the alliance membership with particular emphasis on increasing participation from surrounding Harvey, Butler and Sumner Counties. Capturing the perspectives of these valuable community members is important as we seek to understand the essence of our region.

Strategies

Three strategies to help achieve this goal have been identified:

- **Integration Across Age Cohorts**
- **Marketing**
- **Influencing Community Planning**

Actions

In recent meetings, OASA has set in motion a number of activities supporting these strategies:

Advocacy

- Earlier this year, OASA members helped ensure that older adults of all cultures and races were appropriately represented in the critical Community Identity Survey
- Members also played a key role in supporting and promoting the CMS bus stop on July 13, 2007
- Members will soon begin sharing the identified needs of older persons and their care givers in the Wichita MSA with elected officials, including members of the Unified Legislative Agenda Alliance/South Central Kansas Delegation and the Silver Haired Legislature

Housing Summit

- Projected for late spring, 2008, the summit will bring together universal design, aging, and community design specialists, local builders, developers, architects, realtors, seniors housing organizations, and government officials to look at opportunities for making our homes, neighborhoods, and communities more friendly across the life span

Identify and learn from intergenerational communities

- Reduce the fear and stigma of aging through education and projects which bring together people of all ages

Mentoring/volunteering Opportunities (long-term project)

- Long-term project researching older adults’ involvement in, and opportunities to engage in, meaningful, civic-minded pursuits

Surveys/focus groups (long-term project)

- Include alumnus of Wichita MSA schools, colleges, and universities and local Baby Boomers nearing retirement age

An Invitation

Anyone interested in the well-being of older adults and committed to making the Wichita area an even better place to live is invited to attend OASA meetings.

For more information, call 316.265.7771 or email info@visioneeringwichita.org



**Members of the
Older Adults Strategic Alliance**

Organizations

Access to Health
Active Aging newspaper
Active Life, *Wichita Eagle* newspaper
Alzheimer's Association
American Red Cross
Arthritis Foundation, Kansas Chapter
Butler County Department on Aging
Catholic Care Center
Central Plains Area Agency on Aging
Envision Rehabilitation Center
Friends University
Harry Hynes Memorial Hospice
Home Design For Life
Home Instead Senior Care
Humana
Infinite Growth Opportunities
Junior League of Wichita
KWCH TV
Larksfield Place Retirement Community
Medical Services Bureau
Presbyterian Manor
Professional Pharmacy
Sedgwick County Extension
Sedgwick County Housing Department
Self-Help Network Center for Community Support & Research
Senior Services of Wichita
SHICK
Social and Rehabilitation Services
United Way of the Plains
Wesley Medical Center
Wichita Lifeline, Inc.
Wichita Metro Chamber of Commerce
Wichita State University
Wichita State University Regional Institute on Aging

Individuals

Judy Finnell
James Mendenhall

