

# Amazing Aging!

For Seniors and Those Who Love Them

Jayhawk Area Agency on Aging, Inc. • December '02 -January '03

JAAA • 1720 SW Topeka Blvd. • Topeka, KS 66612 • Phone: 785-235-1367  
(toll-free 800-798-1366) • Fax: 785-235-2443

## Jayhawk Area Agency

### on Aging:

- Is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization
- Is an advocate on aging issues, building community partnerships and implementing programs to help seniors live independent and dignified lives in Douglas, Jefferson and Shawnee counties in Kansas
- Is funded by tax-deductible contributions, federal funds, the Kansas Health Foundation, under state general funds and funds through local governments
- Does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, religion, or disability

### Inside this issue

Pharmacy Assistance 2

Information & Referral 3

Memorials 5

Caregivers' Corner 5

## From the Executive Director's Desk

### Practicing Compassion: Turning Challenge into Mission

**O**n November 26, Governor Bill Graves announced budget cuts for the current Fiscal year. Graves' plan is designed to help close a projected \$312 million gap in the current \$4.4 billion state budget. The Department of Aging will be cut by about \$5.7 million. Because the Senior Care Act is state-funded and receives no federal financial support, it is a likely target for elimination if there are additional cuts. Those seniors who participate in the services provided by the Senior Care Act will be affected.

The challenge is to prepare for the future of the seniors we serve as efficiently and effectively as possible. But while some things will change, our commitment to area seniors will not. Our mission remains "to build community

partnerships and implement programs within Shawnee, Jefferson and Douglas counties to help seniors live independent and dignified lives."

Jayhawk Area Agency on Aging, Inc. will continue to provide the highest level of services possible based on the funds available. Our immediate future includes finding new funding sources to support our many programs and services.

We will continue to keep you informed on issues related to our services. Your active involvement, as always, is appreciated and necessary for the carrying out of our mission.

Wishing you all the best in the holiday season.

Sincerely,

Maria  
Russo



# The Pharmacy Assistance Program

## A How-To Guide for Seniors



Due to the expense of many of the prescription drugs given to seniors, “some of our clients are being forced to make very tough decisions regarding their health - even choosing between food for the month and the prescription drugs that may be keeping them alive and well,” said Rita Miller, Prescription & Insurance Counselor. “Many of our clients are so grateful for assistance. The Prescription Assistance Program is a God-send.”

### How Does it Work?

“The process for obtaining Prescription Assistance is relatively simple,” Rita said. “The first step is to give us a call, and we’ll get the process started for you.”

The next step is the gathering of information from the client, getting a list of the prescribed drugs she/he is receiving. Rita then finds a fact sheet on each prescription, as well as an application for assistance for each drug.

After this information is obtained, Rita comes back to the client to have him/her sign the applications for each drug. She sends the information directly to the client’s primary care physician, who completes the necessary paperwork and forwards it to the pharmaceutical company for final approval.

### What Kind of Savings Can a Client Expect?

“I have seen savings of up to \$1,000 per month for some clients, and there are likely others who would save much more than that.”

### How Often Does the Paperwork Need to be Completed?

“The renewal process varies with each prescription, but our responsibility includes researching that information so the client doesn’t have to worry about it. Our program not only obtains the assistance for our clients but also provides for tracking and renewal of the process.”

“Prescription drugs are an essential part of the healthy aging process. The Prescription Assistance Program will be a key component in making health care for seniors more affordable,” said Maria Russo, Executive Director of Jayhawk Area Agency on Aging. “We are grateful to AmeriCorps, the Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved and the Kansas Health Foundation for this grant-funded assistance program and we encourage all seniors to seek more information on the Program to let us help them determine her or his eligibility.”

**“I have seen savings (for prescription drugs) of up to \$1,000 each month for some clients, and there are likely others who would save even more every month.”**

**For more information or to find answers to any questions you may have about the Prescription Assistance Program, please call Rita Miller, Prescription & Insurance Counselor, Jayhawk Area Agency on Aging at 785-235-1367, ext. 154.**

## “I&R” Gives Service Details, Makes Referrals

**F**ROM MAKING A REFERRAL FOR adult day care to lending an ear to a senior in need, Information and Referral at Jayhawk Area Agency on Aging is here for you.

### WHAT IS “I&R?”

“I&R” (Information and Referral) provides confidential help with information about services and referrals to the agencies that can best help. “This is the starting point for the services we can provide for seniors and their families,” said Jocelyn Lyons, Program Coordinator for Jayhawk Area Agency on Aging. “The main purpose of this service is to offer outreach and public education to anyone who contacts our agency, to help them get the help they need as well as the information they are looking for. If a senior receives information regarding aging issues that they do not understand, if they are interested in a particular service and would like to know more about it, or if they simply need a sounding board for an aging issue, the Information and Referral service is here to provide.”



### CURRENT, TIMELY INFORMATION

The Information and Referral service maintains resource files on aging services within Shawnee, Jefferson and Douglas counties in Kansas, and the information is constantly being updated. “It is a priority for Information and Referral to have the most current information available to our seniors,” said Maria Russo, Executive Director for Jayhawk Area Agency on Aging. “It can be frustrating for anyone to wade through all the information that is out there and to get factual answers in a timely manner,” she added. “Our commitment is to respond to all calls received within two business days and to *always* find an answer to the question.”

**If you would like more information on the services available to seniors in Shawnee, Jefferson and Douglas counties, call Jayhawk Area Agency on Aging at 785-235-1367, or toll free at 1-800-798-1366.**

*“Our commitment is to respond to all calls within two business days and to always find an answer to the question.”*

*- Maria Russo,  
Executive Director*

# Ensuring A Bright Future for Seniors

**J**AYHAWK AREA AGENCY ON Aging, Inc. (JAAA) must continue to meet the ever-increasing needs of the growing senior population. But we can't do it without the support of people like you. A Year-End Gift will ensure a brighter future for the lives of our seniors.

The services JAAA provides help to ensure that living an independent, dignified life remains a *right* - not a *privilege* - no matter what the age, or socio-economic status, race, religion, gender, national origin, or religion of the individual.

Area Agencies on Aging are the only agencies designated in federal law to serve seniors, but the ever-increasing state and federal budget creates new challenges for the future funding of Jayhawk Area Agency on Aging.

JAAA seeks to remove the conditions that create barriers for those who wish to live independently in the community and to live full and meaningful lives. Your generous, tax-deductible gift of \$25, \$100 or more will be one of the most rewarding investments you make this year.

Become an advocate and partner in the mission of Jayhawk Area Agency on Aging, Inc. Please fill out the form below and return it with your donation.

The year 2003 is full of hope and possibilities. Thank you for being an invaluable part of the future of Jayhawk Area Agency on Aging, Inc. With your support, we can ensure a brighter future for our seniors.

***Happy New Year!***

***Jayhawk Area Agency on Aging, Inc.***

Yes, I will support programs that help seniors live independent and dignified lives with the following gift:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Contribution: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Check or money order only, please, payable to Jayhawk Area Agency on Aging, Inc.).

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

**Please mail this form with your contribution to:**

**Jayhawk Area Agency on Aging, Inc, 1720 SW Topeka Blvd, Topeka KS 66612**

