

Community Best Practices

Health and Wellness - In 2006, the department, along with the Department of Health Bureau of Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, obtained grant funding to train 100 teams to deliver chronic disease self-management courses in Palm Beach, Broward and Miami-Dade counties by the end of 2007. These evidence-based health promotion and chronic disease self-management programs are carried out at the community level through senior centers, nutrition programs, senior housing projects and faith-based groups.

Transportation and Volunteerism - Volunteers in Motion is an innovative transportation service in Brevard County coordinated by Space Coast Area Transit, the Senior Resource Alliance and the Community Care for the Elderly program. This successful program began in 1996 in an effort to provide reliable transportation to Brevard County's elderly citizens. The program links volunteers with county vehicles, and is an important example of community-based programs that provide important services to seniors and impacts their quality of life in a positive way. In 1997, the Governor's Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged honored Volunteers in Motion with the Innovative Transportation Program of the Year Award.

Employment - At the age of 60, unemployed, and desperately seeking employment, Ms. B. moved from Florida to Connecticut to join relatives. She wanted to stop using her credit cards to pay her bills. Four years later, she applied for the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) and was assigned to work at the Lake County Sheriff's Department in the Sheriff's Road Patrol Division. During her assignment, she received upgraded computer training and created a computer-generated statistical report for traffic violations. Her supervisors were so impressed with the report, they started using it during their monthly meetings. Because of Ms. B.'s skills, positive attitude and her high level of productivity, she was asked to apply for an unsubsidized job with the sheriff's office. Due to her work ethic, Ms. B. was hired to work full-time at \$9.74 an hour with full benefits. The SCSEP program helped Ms. B. re-enter the workforce, gain new skills, and maintain her independence within her community, as it does for many elders throughout Florida.

Housing – *Miracle Hill Nursing Home and Convalescent Center* was recently awarded a \$4.7 million dollar grant by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD's) Section 202 program to build affordable housing for seniors in Tallahassee who meet the low income guidelines. Miracle Village is an independent living apartment community which provides housing to those who are age 62 and older. This 33,900 square foot complex is designed to meet the comforts of those it houses by providing safe and secure living. Special features include a library and community center. Residents pay only 30 percent of their adjusted gross income for rent and HUD subsidizes the remainder. Miracle Hill Nursing and Convalescent Center is owned by the Florida State Primitive Baptist Association, Inc.

Intergenerational Connections - Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University College of Law students participating in the law school's Legal Clinic Program in partnership with the Town of Eatonville are working to develop the town's needs assessment to identify areas of improvement to support the independence and care of Eatonville seniors. This unique partnership between the Town of Eatonville and Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University College of Law gives the students first hand insight into a process that will become beneficial toward improving the quality of life for the Town of Eatonville seniors.