

AARP Virginia Recognizes *Aging Together* With Community Partner of the Year Award

Richmond, Virginia, November 20, 2008 – *Aging Together* received the Community Partner of the Year award for its outstanding contributions to the work of AARP by collaborating with AARP volunteers and staff to benefit members of the community.

Their projects “enhanced the quality of life for members in the Rappahannock-Rapidan region as well as increase AARP’s presence in the community,” noted the *Aging Together* nomination. The presentation was made at the annual AARP Virginia Volunteer Recognition Banquet in Charlottesville on November 19, 2008. More than one million Virginians are AARP members.

Accepting the award for *Aging Together* was Christiane Miller, Project Manager. “Receiving this award from AARP has special meaning for us because *Aging Together* shares the same values as AARP – bringing the voices of seniors to the community and working through collaboration, at the local and regional level.”

Aging Together, a broad consortium of 100 organizations and individuals, unites five counties of the Rappahannock-Rapidan region (Culpeper, Fauquier, Orange, Madison and Rappahannock). This collaborative effort helps these localities prepare for unprecedented growth in elder populations and to assure that local residents have the services and supports they need as they age. Members include older persons and their families, caregivers, community hospitals, service providers, schools, local government, representatives of the faith community and other concerned citizens.

Aging Together initiatives cited by AARP Virginia include:

- Support of the development or expansion volunteer transportation networks in all 5 counties of the region

- Assistance in establishing “Daybreak”, the area’s first regional adult day healthcare program.
- Free family caregiver training programs in all five counties and increased recognition of the value and needs of family caregivers in the region through community outreach and special recognition events..
- Assisting seniors in all five counties obtain free or low cost medical IDs and arranging local medication review sessions by cooperating pharmacists.
- Engaging the community in ongoing dialogue on aging issues through annual Community Conversations held in each of the five counties. This year’s focus was the gifts and values seniors bring to the community.
- Publishing monthly articles in local newspapers with resource information for seniors and their caregivers.

AARP initiatives in which *Aging Together* has been a proud partner include introducing the CarFit program to the area, endorsement of the Divided We Fail platform and participating in Project Energy Save.

“With its broad participation and emphasis on collaboration and coordination, *Aging Together* is changing the way business is done in the region. *Aging Together*’s vision is for *citizens living in the area to retain their sense of place and community, serve and contribute to that community and be assured of help when needed.*” AARP Virginia Associate State Director Amber Nightingale said in presenting the award.

Aging Together Recognizes by AARP Virginia as Community Partner of Year - *Aging Together* Project Manager Christiane Miller (second from right) receives the Award from AARP Virginia Associate State Director for Community Outreach Amber Nightingale (center). *Aging Together* Advisory Group member and AARP Virginia Volunteer Marilyn Portis, AARP Virginia State President Warren Stewart, Ed. D. and State Director Bill Kallio (l) also participated in the presentation.

