

SAVE
THE
DATE!

Lifespan's 9th Celebration of Aging

Featuring national news correspondent
Hugh Downs

March 31, 2005

Noon, Rochester Riverside Convention Center

\$50 per person, \$500 per table of 10
Early reservations available!
Call 244-8400 ext. 182 or contact
khill@lifespan-roch.org

Special thanks to our
Super Hero sponsor
MedAmerica Insurance Company of
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Call 244-8400 ext. 182 today for information about sponsorship opportunities or to make a reservation.

Sharing the Lifespan Story

More than a hundred new and old friends attended a series of house parties designed to help potential donors learn more about Lifespan's leading edge services and programs that help frail elders, older adults, and caregivers take on the challenges and opportunities of longer life.

Major Gifts Chairperson Carl Carballada shared his deep appreciation of Lifespan's work in the community. Via a new short video, guests heard directly from clients and staff about the critical need for Lifespan's programs. President and CEO, Fran Weisberg, spoke about Lifespan's efforts to create innovative programs that anticipate service trends and needs.

Lifespan would like to thank our gracious hosts — Buz Code, Bob and Sarah Hurlbut, and Carl Carballada; Anne and Bill Buckingham; and Dutch and Jayne Summers — for opening their homes and giving us an opportunity to share Lifespan's inspiring story with the community.

*Please include Lifespan in your year-end giving by sending your tax-deductible contribution to:
Lifespan, 1900 S. Clinton Avenue, Rochester, NY 14618.*

*To discuss gifts of stock or planned giving options,
please call Kari Hill, 244-8400 x182.*

Thank you.

This newsletter is published by Lifespan of Greater Rochester, Inc. Lifespan is Monroe County's number one resource to help older adults and their caregivers take on the challenges and opportunity of longer life.

Fran Weisberg, *President and CEO*
Ann Marie Cook, *Chief Operating Officer*

Mary Rose McBride, *Vice-President, Organizational Development and Communications*

Lifespan is a not for profit agency that relies on community support. Please consider a tax-deductible gift.



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NEWSLETTER



Lifespan Convenes Statewide Elder Abuse Summit

At least half a million older Americans are subjected to physical, psychological and financial mistreatment each year. Yet, recognition of elder abuse is reminiscent of the domestic violence issue as it was 30 years ago. It is under-recognized, under-reported and under-prosecuted.

In New York, as in most other states, the increasing prevalence of elder abuse is outpacing both public policy and direct service innovations. The problem lacks adequate funding for prevention, intervention and data collection.

That is why Lifespan, with assistance from a federal grant obtained by Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY), convened in May a first-of-its-kind statewide summit on elder abuse in Albany.

At the end of the Summit, the 100 invited participants (from government, health care, law enforcement, media, academics, human services, law and

financial services) issued their top six recommendations to ensure that New York State is a leader, rather than a follower, in all facets of elder abuse identification and prevention.

Key recommendations include:

- Enacting and/or reforming laws that protect elders from abuse, neglect and financial exploitation (for example, mandated reporting and power of attorney protections).

"Statewide Summit" continues on page 2

*It is time to ensure that the victims of elder abuse are **always** recognized as victims*

*It is time to take on the scammers who **prey** on our elders.*

*It is time to tell everyone...that tying an elderly woman to the bed for six hours at a time **is** a crime.*

It is time for zero tolerance with sons who use a POA to withdraw \$500 a month from their mothers' accounts.

It is time to recognize that elder abuse exists at every socio-economic level, that it exists in every community and in every neighborhood, and that it could exist right next door.

*It is time — **no, it is past time** — to **target** elder abuse.*

— **Fran Weisberg** in remarks at the May 2004 Summit on Elder Abuse

"Statewide Summit" continued from page 1

- Developing training for first responders (i.e. EMTs) & community partners (i.e. banks)
- Creating a statewide resource center for best practice work with elders
- Conducting a statewide prevalence study to define the nature and scope of elder abuse
- Carrying out a statewide public information campaign
- Developing mandatory multidisciplinary training to help identify abuse

Participants also recommended the formation of a Statewide Elder Abuse Coalition charged with ensuring action on the recommendations. According to Art Mason, Director of Lifespan's Elder Abuse Prevention Program the Coalition will work with policy-makers and keep elder abuse in the public eye. Lifespan is now convening Coalition meetings.

Summit sponsors included: New York State Office of Children and Family Services, Bureau of Adult Services, New York State Office for the Aging, New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, Excellus Blue Cross Blue Shield and MedAmerica Insurance Co. of NY.

Notable News from Lifespan



Wow!

Carol D'Agostino, manager of Lifespan's Geriatric Addiction Service (GAP) just received the "Individual Distinction in Addictions Education Award" from the Institute for Professional Development in Addictions. Carol was selected for her dedication to teaching and direct practice, demonstration of a high personal level of commitment to addictions education and for being a positive role model in the addictions field. Congratulations Carol!



Eldersource Expands Reach to People with Disabilities...of any age!

Eldersource, a service of Lifespan and Catholic Family Center, now provides information, referral and advocacy regarding home and institutional long-term care for people with disabilities *of any age*. Call Eldersource at 325-2800 to speak with a specialist about caring for people with disabilities.



Officers to Take Elder Abuse Training

Lifespan just received a \$211,000 two-year grant from the U.S. Department of Justice to train more than 1000 local police officers to recognize, investigate and prosecute instances of abuse, neglect and exploitation of older adults and people with disabilities.



More Advocate Volunteers

Lifespan's Ombudsman Program certified 11 new volunteers to act as advocates for residents of nursing homes and adult homes in Monroe and Ontario Counties. The volunteers participate in an intensive 36-hour training. We now have 66 wonderfully active volunteers and come this fall Lifespan will take over management of the Livingston County Ombudsman Program!

Total Retirement? Not for some! Lifespan Launches New Employment Service

I am 59 years old and took an early retirement from Xerox Corp two years ago. I'm interested in working part-time. Does Lifespan know of any openings?

Yes!

Lifespan just launched a new job matching service for people who want to work in "retirement" and for employers who need reliable part-time workers or consultants.

"Career bridging," as it's called, is a new trend — more and more people are seeking jobs that provide a "bridge" into full retirement. They want to reduce their hours and perhaps do something that is a change from their main career. They are seeking jobs that provide fulfillment and/or additional income.

Our new Bridge Employment Service helps clients define their job search, update resumes and assess skills. We help employers access a uniquely educated and qualified labor pool. Our clients are experienced, they are talented, they have work ethic, and they aren't seeking career ladder jobs.

We are taking both job openings and new clients! For more information call Jim Monte at 244-8400 ext 478, email Jim at jmonte@lifespan-roch.org or fax 244-9114.

Bridge Employment Service

Connecting Experienced Workers to Part-time Jobs & Connecting Employers to Experienced Part-time Workers

Call Jim Monte at 244-8400, ext. 478

Donor Spotlight — Catherine Carlson

Every day of every year Lifespan oversees the lives of about 30 older adults who no longer have the capacity to act for themselves. We act, when appointed by the Court, as their guardian. Our commitment to a ward lasts as long as the person lives. Sometimes, the Court reimburses our services using the ward's assets. Often though resources are depleted within a short time. No other public entity provides funding. None.



Catherine Carlson

very generous support — a two-year grant in the amount of \$100,000.

Michelle Scipioni is in a unique position to see the results of Catherine's support. Michelle is the social worker assigned to our guardians. "It's very sad," Michelle says, "to see these people end up the way they have. Sometimes they don't have anyone else. And sometimes, because of their impairment, they've been taken advantage of. Being guardian for an incapacitated older adult is a serious responsibility. We make legal and financial decisions on behalf of the person, we decide where the person lives, and sometimes we have to make life and death medical decisions."

Two years ago, Lifespan approached a very special woman, **Catherine Carlson**, about the mission of our guardianship service and about the lack of public funding. Catherine understood the need and offered very wonderful,

In her role, Michelle says she often thinks, "What in the world would happen to these people if it weren't for this service?"

What indeed. Thank you Catherine.