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Join Us in Recognizing the National Day of Service and Remembrance

September 11, 2010 is the third National Day of Service and Remembrance. This special day, created by the families of those who lost loved ones on 9/11, is recognized in the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act signed into law by President Obama in April 2009.

The National Day of Service and Remembrance is a day to honor those who perished that tragic day, thank those courageous heroes who stepped forward to help, and salute the brave men and women who are defending our freedom at home and abroad. On this day, Americans of all ages and backgrounds will stand together to engage in meaningful service to, for and with others.

I would like to ask you join the Administration on Aging in recognizing this special day by giving some of your time to help others. You can do almost anything for your Day of Service event. You can create your own project or find existing volunteer opportunities. No matter what sort of service you choose to do, the important thing is to get involved, inspire others, and show everyone in your community that service is one of America's greatest traditions and has the power to change lives.

There are a number of websites which will help you find volunteer opportunities in your community on 9/11 and throughout the year. These sites will help you create your own volunteer opportunities, provide inspiring stories or allow you to share your own experiences.

United We Serve – 9/11 National Day of Service and Remembrance <http://www.serve.gov/sept11.asp>. This website, managed by the Corporation for National and Community Service, provides links and other resources for volunteer opportunities.

ServiceNation <http://www.servicenation.org/start> is a national campaign to increase service opportunities and elevate service as a core ideal and problem-solving strategy in American society.

AoA Civic Engagement Webpage http://aoa.gov/AoARoot/AoA_Programs/Special_Projects/Civic_Engagement/index.aspx#resources is a resource for volunteer opportunities, including volunteer opportunities assisting seniors.

I encourage you to create new service projects, to find service projects in which you may want to participate and to share stories about projects that are

making a difference in your community. Please share stories with us that we can highlight on the AoA website. Please go to http://aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press_Room/For_The_Press/medadv/Share_Story.aspx.

AoA News

AoA Staff to Participate in September 11 National Day of Service and Remembrance Activities

Administration on Aging (AoA) staff at headquarters and Regional Offices will again participate in a range of service projects in observance of the September 11 National Day of Service and Remembrance. Since September 11 falls on a Saturday this year, they will volunteer on Friday, September 10. The consensus among staff who volunteered last year is that participating provided a wonderful opportunity to work as teams and to have a better understanding of those we serve.

Central Office staff will return to Emmaus Senior Services in Washington, DC. Like last year, AoA volunteers will be assigned to one of the nine Emmaus sites throughout the city. They will assist in the computer training program, unloaded and delivered groceries to residents at a seniors housing facility and provided “reassurance” calls to homebound seniors.

In the regions, staff members will build on the services they provided last year. Some will work in a thrift store or deliver meals and others will help with serving lunches and socializing with seniors.

Family Caregivers to Receive Federal Respite Support

Assistant Secretary for Aging Kathy Greenlee recently announced grant awards totaling approximately \$2.25 million to twelve states to implement the Lifespan Respite Care Program. The 12 states receiving awards were: Delaware, Kansas, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nebraska, New York, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Washington, Wisconsin, and Utah.

The 12 states awarded Lifespan Respite Program grants today join the twelve that received grants in 2009, for a total of 24 states. All are working to improve the availability and quality of respite services across the lifespan.

For more information about the implementation of the Lifespan Respite Care Program and to learn more about the key activities of each of the grantees, please visit AoA’s web site at:

http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/AoA_Programs/HCLTC/LRCP/index.aspx

Learn about Caregiver Statistics in AoA's September Widget

Have you ever wondered what percent of grandparents are supporting their grandchildren in the U.S.? To learn this and other facts on grandparents, check the September update of AoA's statistical widget at http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Site_Uilities/Widget/index.aspx. To share this data with visitors to your site, click the "share" button on the widget and the code of the widget will display.

Be sure to check AoA's e-cards while you're on the AoA Social Media page http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press_Room/Social_Media/index.aspx. You can send a colorful e-card with a health message to friends and family. Tips on the healthiest foods to eat are featured in the nutrition e-cards http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press_Room/Social_Media/eCards/nutrition.aspx. Information on fun exercises are available in the Get Active e-cards http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press_Room/Social_Media/eCards/active.aspx.

Have a suggestion or comment on AoA's social media? Feel free to send a message to Augustina.Howe@aoa.hhs.gov.

Other HHS News

HHS Launches First of Its Kind Website in Spanish to Give Consumers More Control of Their Health Care

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recently unveiled CuidadodeSalud.gov, the first website in Spanish of its kind to help consumers take control of their health care. The website connects the public to new information and resources that will help them access quality, affordable health care coverage.

Consistent with the mandate in the Affordable Care Act, CuidadodeSalud.gov is the partner site of HealthCare.gov, which was launched in July 2010. It is the first website in Spanish to provide consumers with both public and private health coverage options tailored specifically for their needs in a single, easy-to-use tool.

To learn more about the website, please read the entire press release at <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2010pres/09/20100908a.html>

To access the website, please go to <http://www.cuidadodesalud.gov/enes/>

New Web Tool Simplifies Search for Health Coverage

The US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recently announced the release of a new HealthCare.gov web tool available for download that makes searching for health care insurance coverage options even easier than before.

Making the announcement, HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius stated “HealthCare.gov is a valuable resource for small businesses, consumers, and their families to search for coverage options and understand the new benefits under the Affordable Care Act. By putting the power of information at your fingertips, HealthCare.gov is helping American families everywhere to take control over their health care and make the choices that are right for them.”

To learn more about this new tool, including how to access the information, please go to <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2010pres/08/20100824a.html> to read the press release associated with this announcement.

For more information on a range of health care issues, including specifics of the Affordable Care Act, please visit Healthcare.gov at <http://www.healthcare.gov/>

HHS Launches New Website to Register Volunteer Health Professionals During an Emergency

To make volunteering in an emergency easier for health professionals, the Department of Health and Human Services’ Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response recently launched Emergency System for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals (ESAR-VHP). This website is a national network of state-based programs that verifies the identity, licenses, and credentials of health professionals before an emergency happens. The national ESAR-VHP website provides a single point of entry for potential volunteers, connecting them with each state’s ESAR-VHP program, so health professionals can volunteer quickly without losing time waiting to have their credentials verified.

To learn more about this new tool or to register, please go to <http://www.phe.gov/esarvhp/Pages/default.aspx>

NIH Call for Abstracts

The National Institute of Health (NIH) is inviting researchers to submit abstracts on current and emerging issues in women's health, in any domain of women’s health, including basic science, clinical, translational, behavioral, epidemiologic, disparities, and health services.

Successful applicants will present their research at the *Women’s Health 2011: the 19th Annual Congress* in Washington, DC April 1-3. Accepted abstracts will

also be published in the March issue of *Journal of Women's Health*. The deadline for submitting an abstract is December 1, 2010.

To learn more about this opportunity, please go to http://www.whcongress.com/abstract_submission.html

Federal Funding Opportunities

Rural Health Network Development Grant Program

The Department of Health and Human Services' Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) will award 25 grants to support rural providers who work in formal networks, alliances, coalitions or partnerships to integrate administrative, clinical, technological, and financial functions. The ultimate goal of the Rural Health Network Development Grant Program is to strengthen the rural health care delivery system by 1) improving the viability of the individual providers in the network, and/or 2) improving the delivery of care to people served by the network. to expand access to, coordinate and improve the quality of essential health care services, and enhance the delivery of health care in rural areas. The amount of each grant will be \$180,000.00. The application deadline is November 12, 2010, 8:00 PM EST.

To learn more about this funding opportunity, please go to <http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=GXswM3HcX8BpmDPbgntkyFGLM7sJ5DGnfTqhp6NXJQQt1h6rGGyY!520440642?oppId=56932&mode=VIEW>

More News

SSA to Implement Change in Assigning Social Security Numbers

Beginning June 2011, the Social Security Administration (SSA) will no longer assign Social Security numbers based upon the mailing address of the applicant. This change may necessitate the need for changes to organizations' computer systems.

In preparation for this change, SSA is inviting interested parties to participate in a conference call on **Wednesday, September 22, 2010 at 1:00 pm EST**. SSA officials will explain the forthcoming change in more detail and give participants an opportunity to share their questions and concerns.

Please RSVP to Alfredo Padilla at alfredo.padilla.jr@ssa.gov or by calling 410-965-7610 by **Friday, September 17th, 2010**. Once SSA receives your RSVP, you will receive an e-mail confirmation with the call-in number, pass code and a fact sheet on the change to take place next year.

National Hispanic Heritage Month

September 15 marks the beginning of National Hispanic Heritage Month; the observance will continue through October 15. This annual month-long observance is an opportunity for all Americans to celebrate the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America.

September Is National Senior Center Month

National Senior Center Month is sponsored by the National Council on Aging's National Institute of Senior Centers (NISC). It is celebrated throughout the month of September and provides an opportunity for senior centers to showcase their center and promote the programs, activities and services the center has to offer. This year's celebration theme highlights senior centers as the place to connect—a place to build new skills, join a community and stay healthy & active.

In celebration of National Senior Center Month in September, CVS/Pharmacy, the national sponsor for NISC, is offering seniors an exclusive savings pass to use at CVS stores from Sept. 1-Oct. 15. Seniors should visit their local CVS/Pharmacy to sign up for a savings pass.

To learn more about National Senior Center Month and to access promotional materials and the program guide which highlights proven ideas for activities to showcase your work and involve the community, please go to <http://www.ncoa.org/strengthening-community-organizations/senior-centers/national-senior-center-month-1.html>.

September Is National Preparedness Month

This September marks the seventh annual National Preparedness Month (NPM). Led by the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) *Ready Campaign* in partnership with Citizen Corps and The Advertising Council, NPM is a nationwide effort encouraging individuals, families, businesses and communities to work together and take action to prepare for emergencies.

NPM Coalition members will sponsor events and activities throughout the month highlighting the steps that individuals, families and communities can take to prepare. FEMA recently announced that more than 1,900 national, regional, tribal, state, and local organizations and businesses have pledged their support and joined the 2010 National Preparedness Month Coalition. The registration for the Coalition continues through September. To register for membership in the coalition or to learn more about the *Ready Campaign*, including how to make an emergency plan and items to be included in an

emergency supply kit, please go to
<http://www.ready.gov/america/npm10/index.html>

To download the *Ready Campaign* widget, please go to
<http://www.fema.gov/help/widgets/index.shtm#5>

To learn more about FEMA, please go to <http://www.fema.gov/>

To learn more about Citizen Corps, please go to <http://www.citizencorps.gov/>

To learn more about The Advertising Council, please go to
<http://www.adcouncil.org/>

Get Ready Day 2010

Sponsored by the American Public Health Association (APHA), Get Ready Day is held each year on the third Tuesday in September. It is timed to coincide with National Preparedness Month. This year, Get Ready Day is Tuesday, September 21. The Get Ready campaign helps Americans prepare themselves, their families and their communities for all disasters and hazards, including pandemic flu, infectious disease, natural disasters, and other emergencies.

For more details on Get Ready Day, including information on taking the Get Ready Pledge, how to sign up to receive the Get Ready Now! e-newsletter and to add your event to the Get Ready Day calendar, please go to
<http://www.getreadyforflu.org/getreadyday/index.htm>

September 12 Is Grandparents Day

On September 12, 2010, Grandparents Day will reach its 31st anniversary. Like Mother's Day and Father's Day, it's a time for family celebration. It is also a chance to honor the important role grandparents play in families and society. In 1979 when President Jimmy Carter signed the proclamation creating a National Grandparents Day he noted the holiday would recognize "the importance and worth of the 17 million grandparents in our nation." Today, there are more than 70 million grandparents in the United States.

In recent years, many grandparents have assumed daily responsibility for grandchildren. According to AARP, 4.5 million children are being raised in households headed by grandparents. For those kids and millions of others, grandparents create special relationships and impart lessons that last a lifetime. As Carter wrote, "Grandparents are our continuing tie to the near-past, to the events and beliefs and experiences that so strongly affect our lives and the world around us."

To learn more about Grandparents Day, please go to <http://www.grandparents.com/gp/content/activitiesandevents/everyday-activities/article/its-grandparents-day.html?Else>

National Falls Prevention Awareness Day 2010

National Falls Prevention Awareness Day (NFPAD) is the first day of fall. This year, it will be observed on September 23. Falls is the leading cause of fatal and nonfatal injuries to older adults. NFPAD was established in 2007 to promote and increase public awareness about how to prevent and reduce falls among older adults.

A range of tools and resources to recognize Falls Prevention Awareness Day are available at the Falls Prevention Awareness Day Resource Center housed at the National Council on Aging (NCoA) website. Included among the provided information are guidance on writing a press release, promotional materials and activity ideas. For these helpful tips on planning and implementing Falls Prevention Awareness Day in your community, please go to <http://www.healthyagingprograms.org/content.asp?sectionid=149>

Additional information on National Falls Prevention Awareness Day is also available at the American Occupational Therapy Association website. To access these materials, please go to <http://www.aota.org/News/AOTANews/Falls-Prevention.aspx>

The Falls Free Coalition, sponsored by NCoA, is a group of national organizations and state coalitions working to reduce the growing number of falls and fall-related injuries among older adults. To learn more about this organization, including how to join and a list of organizations represented by coalition members, please go to <http://www.healthyagingprograms.org/content.asp?sectionid=113&ElementID=243>

National Women's Health & Fitness Day

Women's Health & Fitness Day is the nation's largest annual health promotion event for women of all ages. The 2010 event and all future observances will be held on the last Wednesday in September. This year's celebration will be on September 29th. The goal of this event is to encourage women to take control of their health: to learn the facts they need to make smart health choices, and to make time for regular physical activity. National Women's Health & Fitness Day is a public/private good health partnership organized by the Health Information Resource Center (HIRC)sm, a national clearinghouse for consumer health information professionals.

The day focuses attention on the importance of regular physical activity and health awareness for women. On the 29th more than 1,400 groups across the country will host women's health and fitness events at senior centers, hospitals, health clubs, park and recreation sites, local health and service organizations, schools, retirement communities, houses of worship, and other community locations. An estimated 40,000 to 100,000 women are expected to participate in these local activities.

To learn more about this program, including how to register your activity as an official Women's Health & Fitness Day event, please go to <http://www.fitnessday.com/women/>

New Resources Available at Disability.gov

The Department of Labor's Disability.gov website was recently updated with several new resources about communicating with, and about, people with disabilities. It provides examples of appropriate and inappropriate phrases to describe persons with disabilities. Also included is information about the importance of using person-first language and tips for interviewing applicants with disabilities. To access the updated Disability.gov website, please go to http://www.disability.gov/community_life/disability_etiquette

Recovery.gov—A “One Stop Shop” for US Government Recalls

To provide better service in alerting the American people to unsafe, hazardous or defective products, six federal agencies with vastly different jurisdictions have joined together to create Recovery.gov, a "one stop shop" for U.S. Government recalls. The six agencies—US Consumer Product Safety Commission, US Coast Guard, Environmental Protection Agency, Food and Drug Administration, US Department of Agriculture, and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration—are leading Federal agencies in monitoring the safe production and distribution of consumer products.

The site provides detailed updates on the latest recalls and allows for consumers to report a dangerous product or to learn important safety tips. Follow the tabs above to obtain the latest recall information, to report a dangerous product, or to learn important safety tips.

At the site, consumers can also sign up to receive new recalls and safety information electronically. Enrollment for direct notification of recalls in one or all of the six agencies' subscription list is free.

To learn more about this effort, please go to <http://www.recalls.gov/>

Submit a Story!

Do you have a story aboutClick on the link below to share your story with us, and it may appear on our website or in this enewsletter!

http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press_Room/For_The_Press/medadv/Share_Story.aspx

Conferences

Stay up to date with the latest aging meetings and conferences by visiting the AoA events calendar at:

http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press_Room/events/events_List_Day.aspx#title

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