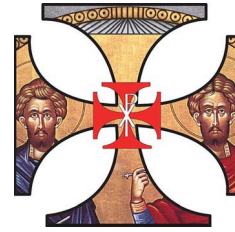


National Philoptochos Society 2014-2016 Committee Report



Aging

Co-Chairs: Katherine Kostis and Carol Stamas
Liaison: Evangeline Mekras Scurtis
Members: Despina Denne Aphrodite Skeadas
 Toula Georgiopoulos Billie Zumo
 Katherine Siavelis

The following information is from the National Philoptochos Social Services Department Facts and Resources section on the website. The resources cited in this report are specific to the needs of our older adults. There is, of course, additional resource information for all ages from children to adults.

A BRIEF GUIDE TO FINDING LOCAL RESOURCES, PROGRAMS & SERVICES

FINDING OLDER ADULT SERVICES & PROGRAMS:

· *ELDERCARE LOCATOR:*

Local resources, programs and services for older people and their families can be found at the "Eldercare Locator" a public service of the Administration on Aging, United States Department of Health & Human Services (HHS). Information can be accessed by telephone at 1.800.677.1116 or online at:

<http://www.eldercare.gov/Eldercare.NET/Public/Index.aspx>

· *PUBLIC BENEFITS & ENTITLEMENTS – Screening Tool for Persons 55+:*

BENEFITS CHECK UP: <http://www.benefitscheckup.org>.

Although there are over 2,000 federal, state and private benefits programs available to help adults over 55 to pay for some of their basic needs, many people don't know these programs exist or how to apply. For those 55+, there is an online screening tool to help people identify these benefit programs, either in the privacy of their own home, or with help from a trusted family member or friend. It is called *BenefitsCheckUp*, a free service of the **NATIONAL COUNCIL ON AGING (NCOA)**, a nonprofit service and advocacy organization in Washington, DC. *BenefitsCheckUp* asks a series of questions to help identify benefits that could save a person money and cover the costs of everyday expenses. After answering the questions, the person will get a printout created just for him/her that describes the programs he/she may get help from. The person can apply for many of the programs online or he/she can print an application form and mail it to the appropriate agency.

· *PROTECTIVE SERVICES (CHILDREN / ADULTS / OLDER ADULTS)*

If the situation is serious, threatening, or dangerous, call 911 or the local police for immediate help.

ELDER ABUSE:

- **THE NATIONAL CENTER ON ELDER ABUSE** of the Administration on Aging (AoA), US Department of Health and Human Services has an online resource that provides state reporting numbers, government agencies, state laws, state-specific data and statistics, and other resources. It can be accessed at:
http://ncea.aoa.gov/Stop_Abuse/Get_Help/State/index.aspx

You also can use the *ELDERCARE LOCATOR* on weekdays for state specific information at:
<http://www.eldercare.gov/Eldercare.NET/Public/Index.aspx> or by phone at: 1-800-677-1116
NURSING HOMES, BOARD & CARE HOMES AND ASSISTED LIVING FACILITIES:

· LONG TERM CARE OMBUDSMEN PROGRAM

Administered by the Administration on Aging (AoA), long-term care ombudsmen are advocates for residents of nursing homes, board and care homes and assisted living facilities. Ombudsmen provide information about how to find a facility and what to do to get quality care. They are trained to resolve problems and can assist with complaints. However, unless you give the ombudsman permission to share your concerns, these matters are kept confidential. Under the federal Older Americans Act, every state is required to have an Ombudsman Program that addresses complaints and advocates for improvements in the long-term care system.

- For more information, go to the website of the *National Long Term Care Ombudsman Resource Center* at:
<http://www.ltombudsman.org/about-ombudsmen>

- To find a local program, use the eldercare locator:
<http://www.eldercare.gov/Eldercare.NET/Public/Index.aspx>

FINDING SERVICES TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS / FOOD INSECURITY

· NATIONAL COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS

<http://nationalhomeless.org>

From its website: The National Coalition for the Homeless is a national network of people who are currently experiencing or who have experienced homelessness, activists and advocates, community-based and faith-based service providers, and others committed to a single mission: to prevent and end homelessness while ensuring the immediate needs of those experiencing homelessness are met and their civil rights protected.

INTERACTIVE STATE-BY-STATE MAP OF FOOD PANTRIES:

<http://www.foodpantries.org/>

- For more information about programs regarding homeless prevention and homeless services (individuals and families), food pantries, soup kitchens, drop-in centers, shower and clothing resources specific to your community, contact your local department of social services or if available, call 3-1-1 or 6-1-1.