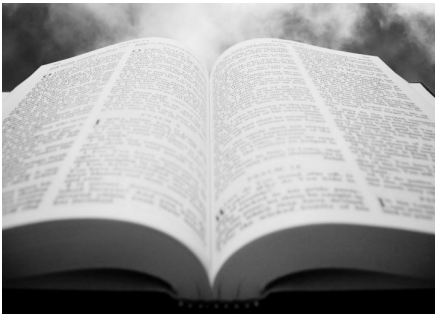


The Informer

A Publication of
The information Center, Inc.
The Family Resource Place

Serving residents of Southeast Michigan

The Next Chapter Begins...



When you're reading a good book and get to the end of a chapter, do you read the first few paragraphs of the next chapter to try to figure out what is going to happen next? Are you anxious to find out where the story will lead, what will be accomplished and who will be involved? Today, that kind of energy, excitement and curiosity is plentiful at The Information Center.

Since 1975, The Information Center has written many interesting and successful chapters and has touched the lives of over 750,000 local residents. The storyline includes great appreciation for the various community donors who have made this possible and great pride for the history of successful program planning, resource and fund development, service delivery, community involvement and community education that the agency has been known for.

The newest chapter began on January 3, 2008 when **Edward D'Angelo** was selected by the Board of Directors to be the new Executive Director. Ed has a Master's Degree in Social Work and comes to the position with a wealth of experience including over 27 years of professional experience in a broad range of responsibilities that have given him a strong foundation of skills and insight. He has a reputation for excellence and a strong leadership background. You may already be familiar with Ed from his various roles at The Guidance Center over the last nearly 25 years.



Already, Ed is known at The Information Center for his calm demeanor and well-thought out decision making style, along with a positive attitude that is infectious. According to Deputy Director, Carol Pitchford who is a 30 year veteran staff member, "it is always beneficial for another pair of eyes to evaluate existing processes, especially a leader with this much knowledge and experience. We have already seen his fresh prospective promoting positive changes in our office and processes."

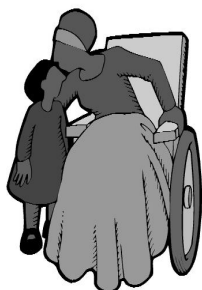
Ed plans to focus on reviewing existing agency processes, prioritizing projects in addition to program and fund development in his first year.

Please join us in welcoming Edward D'Angelo. You may contact Ed at edwardd@theinfocenter.info or (734) 282-7171. We will keep you well informed about the many exciting chapters of the story that lie ahead or you may visit our website at www.theinfocenter.info to find out the latest happenings. As always, we welcome your input, support and participation in our efforts.

FUN FACTS ABOUT ED

- Married for 28 years to Cheryl and has two sons, Jonathan and Joshua attending the University of Michigan.
- The first male leader of TIC, with the exception of founder Jeff Padden (he is only the 5th Executive in it's 32 year history)
- University of Michigan and Ohio State University graduate!
- Recently returned from a first ever 7-day cruise in Hawaii. The ocean is one of his favorite places to relax and unwind.
- Volunteer youth sports coach for over a decade

A NIFTY PROGRAM



The Information Center, Inc., The Family Resource Place is now offering the **Nursing Facility Transitions Initiation (NFTI)**, for local Nursing Home residents struggling to return to independent living. NFTI is a program designed to assist low-income senior citizens and disabled adults that have been a resident of the Nursing facility for at least 6 months. The program provides social work and nursing assessment, guidance and evaluation of their current situation and outlines the options available. Transition services are available to address individual needs, which may include utility deposits, moving expenses, home modifications and groceries.

No one wants to end up in a Nursing Home for the long term, but for some local residents with limited financial resources and multiple needs, that can easily happen. It is not uncommon for a Nursing Home resident to become depressed, isolated from family and friends, and to feel like there are no options. With the NFTI program, there are options. The program can help families stay together, improve quality of life and reduce health care costs. Individuals may transition either to a private residence or to an assisted living facility depending on the specific needs and preferences of the individual.

Funding is provided through the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH). **For more information, contact (734) 282-7171.**

WORKPLACE OPTIONS



Teenagers. Babies. Parents. Spouses. Family Responsibilities. Work Responsibilities. Chances are you love them. Chances are managing the balance between them all creates challenges. No wonder some of those challenges spill over into the workplace. Unfortunately, when they do, they create even more challenges.

Helping to manage challenges and stay productive at the worksite is what **Employee Assistance Program (EAP)** is all about. Employers find that for a small investment, EAP actually save them money. Nationally, studies show that businesses of all sizes and types average a \$4 return for each dollar invested in EAP. Call **(734) 282-7171** to find out more about EAP and how they can make you and your workforce more productive and save you money!

CHARITY MOTORS CAR DONATION PROGRAM



Donate your used car, boat or real estate for a tax deduction! When you ask that **The Information Center, Inc., The Family Resource Place** receive the proceeds, you can be sure that local residents will benefit from the sale of your vehicle. Call (734) 282-7171 for more information.

Vehicle need not run
IRS forms provided
100% deductible

Free pickup may be available
Appraisal guide available
Tax savings while helping others



Resource Corner

1-800-992-9012

Michigan Network of Regional and Subregional Libraries (provides free books on tape for vision impaired)

1-877-777-4778

IRS Problem Resolution Hotline

www.cbcmi.org

Citizens for Better Care (non-profit advocacy agency for residents of nursing homes, adult foster care homes, assisted living programs & homes for the aged)

www.charitymotors.org

Charity Motors (car donation program)

www.benefitscheckup.org

Benefits Checkup (Helps senior citizens find the resources they deserve)

www.michigan.org

Start planning your Michigan vacation now

**For more, contact us:
The Information Center
(734) 282-7171**

**www.theinfocenter.info
email:
info@theinfocenter.info**

Join our New
**COMMUNITY
AWARENESS
TASKFORCE**

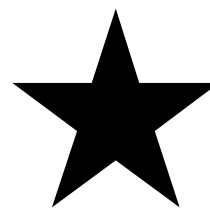


The Information Center is available to help local residents obtain assistance, information and access to community services, facilities, and activities thereby facilitating independence, self-reliance, and dignity. Our new **Community Awareness Taskforce** is helping spread the word about the programs and services we offer to local residents. We invite you to join our taskforce.

As a taskforce member, you help us bring services and residents together by distributing agency materials in your neighborhood, near your workplace or in any location that you visit on a regular basis.

To get started, call Nichole at **(734) 282-7171**. You will be asked which specific community you are willing to cover. Then, stop by our office at your convenience to complete a brief volunteer information sheet and pick up your first month's Taskforce Essentials Packet for distribution. Each month will have a different focus, such as hospitals and urgent care centers, senior centers, libraries or housing complexes. Please distribute the materials in the normal course of your daily activities at your convenience. It's that easy!

Once a month, just stop by our office to pick up the new month's packet and goals. The Community Awareness Taskforce will not have regular meetings. Instead, we will send updates regarding the results of your combined success. Your efforts will ensure that local residents are informed about the full range of resources, options, and assistance available to them. **Join today!**



WISH LIST

We are always looking for ways to fulfill unmet needs in our agency and our community. If you can give any of the following, please call (734) 282-7171

Items:

- 10 Office Chairs
- Copier Paper & Cardstock (any color)
- New Laptop Computer for staff use
- 5 Office Staplers
- Locking File Cabinets

Volunteers:

- Friendly visitors for homebound senior citizens
- Individuals willing to cover booth at events and expos
- Community Awareness Taskforce members (see article)

The Information Center - Summary of Primary Programs

INFORMATION AND REFERRAL Trained and Certified Information and Referral Specialists help residents sort through the issues and find answers. The most commonly asked questions relate to securing basic needs, i.e. food, shelter, and medical needs. A comprehensive database includes over 10,000 computerized resources and can help residents address a full spectrum of specific and unique requests customized to meet their needs.

EMPLOYMENT CONSULTATION & REFERRAL We connect people with job training and employment opportunities and provide a centralized point of access to a broad array of services. Services are available for the unemployed, people in career transition, and employers with a need workers.

CARE MANAGEMENT & MEDICAID WAIVER Nurse & social worker teams visit the homes of the frail elderly and disabled to

assess needs, offer options and help arrange services to improve quality of life, avoid nursing home placement and encourage independence.

NURSING FACILITY TRANSITION INITIATIVE This small and specialized program is designed to assist senior citizens and disabled adults that are currently residing in a Nursing Home and want to transition into the community.

CAREGIVER TRAINING & SUPPORT Assisting those who provide care to others is the goal of this program. It provides an opportunity to learn about community options & resources and includes a educational & support group component, allowing for opportunities to share tips, successes, & challenges.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE ASSESSMENT & REFERRAL Counselors and Social Workers respond to callers seeking treatment, provide additional information on accessing local services and may pro-

vide authorization for treatment. Services offered 24 hours a day.

HOLIDAY ASSISTANCE Families and senior citizens with a verified need are matched with community donors for extra assistance. Programs designed to provide access to resources and assistance are offered. Seasonal services provided include Adopt-a-Family, special food distributions, and holiday meal delivery.

HELPING ANGELS Funded solely by community donations, this is a last resort to assist clients that fall through the cracks of all other programs. Funds from this program have been used to purchase hot water heaters, 1-night hotel stays, electrical upgrades, steel-toes work boots and prescriptions, just to name a few.

www.theinfocenter.info
(734) 282-7171

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MICS #5487

(734) 282-7171

Taylor, MI 48180

20500 Eureka, Suite 110

The Information Center, Inc.(TIC) The Family Resource Place

We Get Letters...

"I am so glad I found The Information Center. My children needed things and I just couldn't provide them, basics like winter coats, shoes and gloves. The Holiday Assistance Program provided those things and much more for us. We all thank you for making this possible. Thank You All "

- River Rouge

"Just wanted to take a moment to drop you a line about the nurse who visits my home. She seems to truly understand me. With her help, I have been able to enjoy life again and feel like less of a burden on my family. Feel free to pass this along... I have never been unhappy with the work they do."

- Lincoln Park

"All contacts with (TIC) have been very helpful and pleasant. My caseworker could not have been nicer. This program has made my life much easier & pleasant. The pressure is gone... Thank you." - Canton

" When I think of The Information Center, it's like I am thinking of an old friend... one that I can call anytime I need them, who will help me anytime I need it." -

Trenton

The Informer is a publication by The Information Center, Inc., The Family Resource Place. Please contact us with your comments and suggestions by calling or writing:

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The Family Resource Place

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The Family Resource Place

2008 DATES TO REMEMBER:

April 16 Volunteer Banquet, Trenton Village Theater

May 8 Downriver Trivia Challenge

July 30 Downriver Trivia Challenge

October 2 Gala Celebration and Silent Auction