

# Cass County Council on Aging

*Making longer lives... Better lives.*



Dear Friends:

The holiday season is marked by reflections on the year gone by. For the Cass County Council on Aging, this year witnessed activity ranging from the routine to the extraordinary.

In 2011, the Cass County Council on Aging remained focused on its primary mission – offering a diverse range of services for older adults with the singular focus of enabling them to live their lives on their own terms – with independence, dignity, and a sense of fulfillment.

Each day, many of our most vulnerable and isolated seniors receive hot, nutritious meals delivered to their door. Others spend enriching time under the watchful guidance of our staff and volunteers in adult day services. Still others are visited in their homes by COA home care aides who ensure that their life's most basic needs are met.

At our Edward Lowe Center in Cassopolis, seniors challenge themselves in our fitness facility, exercise their wits in Brain Aerobics, and gain valuable information on topics relevant to their daily lives such as Medicare prescription program enrollment or how to care for an elderly family member with memory loss. Many of our customers experience additional personal growth by becoming one of our family of volunteers.

The above is business as usual, but 2011 was also a pivotal year of change. The COA took bold steps to expand its present and future capacity to deliver services to older adults. An ambitious capital campaign was begun to raise \$350,000 for the renovation of COA property at 227 South Front Street in Dowagiac.

As of this writing, the goal is close at hand and the work on the facility has begun. Sometime early in 2012, the Dowagiac Senior Center will open its doors. It will provide increased access to COA services by offering a second convenient location for nutrition, wellness, and educational programs to complement our Cassopolis facility.

Seasons change, but the vision of the COA remains steadfast – *Making longer lives... Better lives* through services that benefit individuals in our community. Please consider an unrestricted year-end gift to the Cass County Council on Aging. You can help to ensure that resources are allocated to the programs where they are most needed.



Enclosed is a return envelope for your convenience. Thank you for joining us as we continue *"Making longer lives... Better lives."*

Sincerely,

*Eleanore Flowers*

Eleanore Flowers  
President, Cass County Council on Aging Board of Directors

P. S. – If you wish to designate your gift directly to our Dowagiac Capital Campaign, you may check the appropriate box on the enclosed response envelope.

## COA Service Statistics

**More than 6,000 trips transported over 120 seniors** to medical appointments, Adult Day Services and shopping.

In-Home care provided **170 customers over 25,000 hours** of assistance with bathing, eating, homemaker and respite service to help them maintain independence.

**More than 43,000 nutritious meals** prepared by the COA Food Services department were served to over **1,400 people in Cass County**.

**More than 400 people received assistance** in obtaining Medicaid and Medicare benefits.

The COA's Adult Day Services provided **24 individuals with more than 16,000 hours** of service.

**More than 1,400 people came to the COA for over 17,000 visits** to participate in activities ranging from bingo to yoga and other fitness programs and other Leisure Enrichment activities and events.

**Life Enrichment programs** like the Great Decisions discussion group and Women's Lives, Women's Legacies were **attended by over 500 people**.

## Expenses

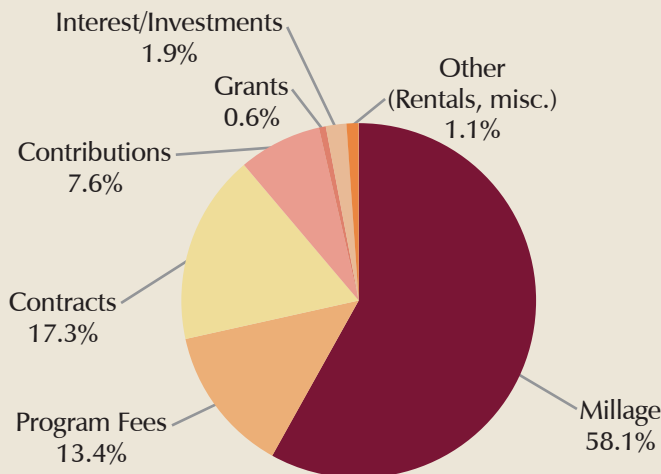
Programs & Activities	
In Home Care	553,337
Program Support Services	252,278
Food Service/Meals on Wheels	408,774
Adult Day & Respite Services	329,813
Communications	174,435
Resource Development	141,632
Senior Safety	21,436
Leisure Enrichment	302,150
Life Enrichment	114,351
Total Program Expenses	\$ 2,298,206
Management & General	185,400

<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 2,483,606</b>
<b>Capital Campaign Donations</b>	<b>\$ 181,049</b>
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 141,419</b>

## Revenue

Millage	\$ 1,630,036
Program Fees	376,724
Contracts	485,476
Contributions	212,584
Grants	17,743
Interest/Investments	52,681
Other (Rentals, misc.)	30,830

**Total Public Support & Revenue \$ 2,806,074**



The above unaudited financial statements of the Cass County Council on Aging are for fiscal year 2011 - October 1, 2010 through September 30, 2011. Audited figures will be available in February 2012.

## The Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance

reports on charitable organizations and offers guidance to donors on making informed decisions. One standard they have set for a charitable organization is to "spend at least 65 percent of its total expenses on program activities."

The Cass County Council on Aging exceeds this standard by dedicating more than 90 percent of revenues to programs.