



BLOOMINGTO N COMMISSION ON AGING ANNUAL REPORT

March 1, 2020

The City of Bloomington Commission on Aging is established to:

- Develop study committees addressing concerns of seniors in health and wellness, housing, transportation, employment, social services and recreation
- Encourage the development of programs of particular benefit to senior citizens
- Apply for grants as may contribute to the strengthening and refining of a coordinated program to benefit senior citizens, upon approval of such grant applications by the appropriate city official (s)
- Serve as a catalyst to promote positive public and private remedies to the multi-faceted challenges confronting seniors in our community and the resulting effects on the entire community
- Network with like-minded groups such as the AARP, Active Aging Coalition, Area 10 Council on Aging, RSVP, and other relevant local agencies, sharing ideas, information, data and future plans
- Celebrate the contributions seniors make to the Bloomington community

We are pleased to provide this annual report of activities conducted in 2019 and look forward to serving the city in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Philip B. Stafford, Chair

This commission seeks to raise public awareness of aging-related issues, and to advocate for policies and programs that will address the problems and challenges of our community's aging population. We work in collaboration with a wide range of community organizations to build bridges, open dialogue, explore issues and concerns, encourage programming, and celebrate the accomplishments of older adults.

WHO WE ARE

The Commission is a dedicated group of individuals with considerable professional and personal experience in the field of aging in our community and beyond. While functioning with a less than whole membership, our commission nevertheless accomplished a good deal in 2019.

2019 Members included:

Jennifer Burns:

Jennifer grew up in Princeton, Indiana and moved to Bloomington in 2001. She is currently working as a Finance Manager with the Office of the Vice Provost for Research at Indiana University. Jennifer is passionate about giving back to the residents the community. She currently volunteers with Monroe County United Way's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program as well as with Brown County Humane Society's Cat Care program.

Lori Clendening:

Lori Clendening, a born and raised Hoosier, is the Director of Resident Care for independent seniors at Meadowood Retirement Community. She is a dedicated individual for the senior population and passionate about keeping seniors healthy, happy and active. She has a Bachelor of Science degree from Indiana State University in Elementary Education. She taught Kindergarten for several years before returning to school to earn a degree in nursing. She has been a nurse for 12 years, and is currently actively involved in several committees and groups that strive to provide the best opportunities for older adults to age successfully in their community.

Jenny Donegan (secretary):

Jenny is a Technology Consultant who arrived in Bloomington in 2018 from Palo Alto, CA, where she worked closely with Dr. Phil Zimbardo and established the pilot Tech Heroes program, which has as its goal the inclusion of older adults and other marginalized groups in the digital world. She has brought TechHeroes to Bloomington and is conducting successful programs at Bell Trace and the Monroe County Public Library. Jenny is an accomplished artist and photographer.

Jack Kahn (vice-chair):

Jack Kahn has lived in Bloomington for 12 years, coming from Woodstock, NY with his late wife Eunice. He was born in Germany and is a Holocaust survivor. Jack attended high school at Brooklyn Tech and received his B.S. from Drexel University and his M.S. from University of Pennsylvania. He worked for IBM as a Computer Programmer and Engineer in upstate NY for 36 years. Jack is a committed community advocate and volunteer.

Ron Smith:

Ron has many years of experience in social services, focusing on employment and aging, in particular. He has worked at the Indiana Institute on Disability and Community and, more recently, in the Division on Aging of the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration. In November of 2019, Ron was elected to the Bloomington Common Council and, as such, will leave a gap in the Commission on Aging.

Yonda Snyder:

Yonda Snyder is a partner in Sage Squirrel Consulting. Sage Squirrel Consulting works with human service organizations and systems that provide long term services and supports to seniors and people with disabilities. Previously, Yonda was the Director of the Division of Aging in the Indiana Family & Social Services Administration and was the Director of Human Resources for CarDon & Associates, a Bloomington-based provider of senior living and nursing care services through central Indiana.

Phil Stafford (chair):

Phil is the retired director of the Center on Aging and Community at IU, Adjunct Professor of Anthropology and actively involved with the development of services and supports for older persons and families for over 40 years in Bloomington and around the U.S. He has been a leader in the international age-friendly community movement and recently became Co-Design Director for Commons Planning, Inc., of Atlanta, GA.

Finally, we bring an assortment of community service connections to our work. These are very useful, since we are committed to helping Bloomington increase its capacity to support its aging population. Such work never is really “done,” nor can it be advanced effectively by any one group on its own. Our collective network includes:

- AARP Tax Assistance
- American Society on Aging
- Area 10 Agency on Aging- Endwright East
- Bloomington Meals on Wheels
- Dementia-Friendly Bloomington
- IU Mathers Museum of World Cultures
- Mathers Lifeways
- Memory Bridge Foundation

- Monroe County Historical Society
- Monroe County Public Library
- National Center for Creative Aging
- National Association of State Units on Aging and Disability (NASUAD)
- TechHeroes
- WTIU
- And other

WHAT WE DID IN 2019

February

- Preparation of AARP Community Challenge grant proposal (not submitted)

March

- Literature search and review of national innovative practices

April - October

- Strategy meetings and program prioritizing
- Establishment of digital procedures for agenda sharing and minutes
- Active testimony at public UDO hearings

May

- Senior Expo participation
- Sponsorship and participation in annual Dementia Friendly Community Conference

June

- Voiced support for Endwright East programming
- Provided two educational events at Endwright East

August

- WTIU Conference on Aging participation and luncheon keynote

September

- Networking for future Intergenerational Choir events
- Appointment of new liaison to Active Aging Network (Lori Clendening)

OUR PLANS FOR 2020

- Continue efforts to promote intergenerational arts events

- Convene area service providers for networking and collaboration
- Propose wider involvement of service community in WTIU Conference on aging
- Actively advocate for Lifetime Community and Dementia friendly framing for Hospital Site Redevelopment Planning efforts
- Study and research best practices in health, social and community services, including new models of aging in place care for older adults with chronic illnesses and disabilities.