



## **LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD:**

### ***Facts about the upcoming Needs Assessment for Older Persons in Carroll County***

#### **Background and Purpose**

- People between the ages of 60 and 90 represent the largest growing population in the United States - and in the world.
- The Partnership for a Healthier Carroll County is proactively working to plan for meeting the needs of this population. The Partnership is teaming up with several community groups to distribute a household survey to assess the strengths and needs of older persons (the Needs Assessment for Older Persons in Carroll County).

#### **Who is Involved?**

The survey was designed by The Partnership's Elder Health Workgroup, which includes a broad representation of organizations, agencies and persons providing services to older persons in Carroll County.

#### **Why a Survey?**

The purpose of the survey is:

- to provide scientifically valid insight into how older adults build and maintain the qualities that allow them to remain independent.
- to better understand the skills and support that may be needed in order to help older adults sustain their independence.

#### **What's Involved?**

- Adults over age 60 who live in a Carroll County zip code have been randomly selected to participate in the Assessment. People will receive the survey in the mail by mid-March - complete with a postage-paid envelope for easy return. In addition, a postcard will be sent in advance to alert these participants to the survey and emphasize the importance of completing it.
- The assessment itself is a multi-page document that will take approximately 30 to 45 minutes to complete. A series of questions - answered with a simple check mark - cover the categories of health, self-sufficiency, physical activity, nutrition, community engagement, social activities, hobbies, pets and household details.
- Surveys will be returned to The Center for the Study of Aging at McDaniel College. Participants can rest assured that all information will be kept strictly confidential. Analysis of the survey data will be performed by an expert research scientist.
- The Partnership will host planned survey activities at area organizations so groups of people can complete it at the same time with the assistance of a facilitator.
- All participants are encouraged to complete the assessment as promptly as possible and return it no later than early April 2008.

#### **Why It's Important to Participate**

- Data collected from the survey will be used by community agencies that help older adults maintain their independence.
- The more completed surveys returned, the better. A high response rate increases the value of the information received.
- Everyone who is asked to participate should make it a priority to complete and return the survey.

***For more information, contact The Partnership for a Healthier Carroll County, Inc.  
410-871-7645***