



# SSSF

Steuben Senior Services Fund, Inc.

*Building a Resource for Aging in Place*



FALL 2015



## Full Circle America Enthusiast

Rev. Glenn Kennedy, pastor of the United Church of Painted Post, is enthusiastic about the potential for Full Circle America (FCA) to help older people in Steuben County to age in place. In fact, in addition to attending SSSF's "No Place Like Home" conference featuring Dr. Allan Teel, founder of FCA, and reading his book, "Alone and Invisible No More", Pastor Kennedy recently took a trip to see Dr. Teel in northern Maine. They spent a few days together, looking over the Full Circle America operation and visiting some of the older people already benefiting from Dr. Teel's innovative approach to aging in place. Pastor Kennedy came away with several pieces of equipment that are used in the technology end of FCA, and more than that, with a strong commitment to seeing FCA in operation in our county.

Pastor Kennedy explained that he knows several older parishioners and family members

who could benefit from becoming a member of Full Circle America. He is interested in helping SSSF make FCA a reality here in Steuben and neighboring counties and is willing to assist with volunteer recruitment, especially through the churches in our county.

To join with SSSF and Rev. Kennedy to assist with the implementation of Full Circle America, please contact SSSF at [lindat@co.steuben.ny.us](mailto:lindat@co.steuben.ny.us) or call us at 607-664-2298.

## "No Place Like Home" Conference Highlights

A capacity crowd of over 205 attended SSSF's September 15th conference featuring Dr. Allan Teel of Damariscotta, ME. Teel explained Full Circle America, his model for successful aging in place. He included information as to why it is needed and how it works. Participants had an opportunity to engage in lively discussions in the afternoon to assist SSSF in planning for implementation in Steuben County. Over 40 of the attendees volunteered to continue working with SSSF towards this implementation. The first implementation committee meeting will be held on November 19th at 1:30 pm at the United Church of Painted Post, 201 North Hamilton Street. If you are interested in a full report of the conference or in volunteering in some capacity with FCA, please contact our offices at 3 East Pulteney Square or send an email to us at [lindat@co.steuben.ny.us](mailto:lindat@co.steuben.ny.us)



Medical providers from the area met with Dr. Teel for dinner on September 14th to learn how Full Circle America could help them in managing care for their older patients. See the article below for a physician's impression of Dr. Teel's cutting edge care model.

Final conference and dinner sponsors included Corning Enterprises, the Advisory Council of the Office for the Aging, Bethany Village, AARP, Guthrie, Excellus, Steuben Trust Company, I-Circle, Arnot Health and the Advisory Council of RSVP. Thank you again for making this event a reality for the older residents of our county.



## LOCAL PHYSICIAN ENDORSES FULL CIRCLE AMERICA

Dr. Dennis O'Connor accepted SSSF's invitation to attend the Dr. Teel dinner/meeting at the Radisson on September 14th because, after thirty-three years of a thriving family practice, he is seeing that many of his patients are losing their capabilities and thus their ability to continue to live at home alone. He feels that with a little bit of extra support from Full

Circle America they could age in place. He is excited about the potential of this model and feels that it is a win/win situation as the seniors who enroll in FCA are not only receiving help, but can also offer to volunteer in some capacity.

The fact that we live in a rural county, according to Dr. O'Connor, makes it all the more important that we organize around this idea and work together to build on our current infrastructure. As Dr. O'Connor noted, "We are all going to get there. We need to support programs that support our elders and all of us eventually."

The FCA model can help us contain medical costs, saving billions of dollars in our economy according to Dr. O'Connor. "In the long run, it is so much more cost effective", he said. Dr. O'Connor maintains that "better care at home is the key to decreasing hospitalizations."

Dr. O'Connor has long been interested in the mission of SSSF and has personally supported us for a number of years. He learned about SSSF from his former medical

partner, Dr. Donald (Randy) Weidner who was a member of the SSSF Board of Directors for several years.



## **CORNING AREA AGING IN PLACE--**

A huge thank you to CAAIP for their support of the Dr. Teel conference in September and for their on-going support and enthusiasm for the implementation of Full Circle America in Steuben County. CAAIP will host Bill Armbruster, Deputy Director of NY State AARP at it's upcoming meeting on November 19th. Armbruster is a witty and entertaining speaker and his topic, "Is Your Home Fit?" , is certain to give you good information about making your home fit for the long haul. CAAIP meets at the First Congregational United Church located at 171 West Pulteney Street in Corning at 10 am.

## RAMPS, A MUST FOR AGING IN PLACE

The RAMPS Guys from the Centenary United Methodist Church in Bath build ramps for people who no longer can use their stairs to get in and out of their homes. They volunteer to make it possible for people to continue to live in their own homes, to age in place. SSSF helps by providing some of the funding so that materials for the construction of the ramps can be purchased. This past year SSSF has contributed nearly \$8000 towards ramp construction. Congratulations to the RAMPS Guys on the construction of their 400th ramp! Our county is indeed so fortunate to have such a dedicated group of volunteers.



## AGING IN PLACE UPDATES

Wayne--The Wayne advisory group finalized its aging in place survey with the number one need identified as lawn maintenance and with transportation once again coming up as another top need in that



area of the county. An informational fair for older residents of Wayne was held in late October. SSSF received the good news that the Community Foundation of Elmira-Corning and the Finger Lakes, Inc. has just awarded a grant to the Wayne Aging in Place endeavor for implementation of solutions to meet gaps in service in that township.

Cameron, Jasper, Troupsburg and Woodhull-- This aging in place project serving four townships in the southern area of Steuben County continues to be very active. The advisory group sponsored a fall informational conference in October and will be holding a luncheon for older area residents on Tuesday, December 8th, at the Cameron Fire Hall. The *ELDERberry News* is scheduled to be published once again by the end of the year in the "Addison Post". Our new project coordinator, Bob Manley, noted that the Bone Builders group continues to grow, reaching more and more people in their area of the county.

EASY RIDER--a new transportation service that will assist older residents in all four aging in place projects is now underway. EASY RIDER will be providing transportation by van to area grocery stores for those who can no longer drive to the store themselves. The van will be driven by a member of the OFA staff who will also coordinate days and times of the service for each area of the county. For more information, call the Office for the Aging at 607-664-2298.

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