

Monthly meetings: Second Thursday,
2 to 4 p.m. Call for meeting location.

Phone: 303-271-3487

Address: JCCoA, Box 281112, Lakewood, CO 80228

Website: www.jeffcocouncilonaging.org

The basic purpose of JCCoA is:

- To advocate for on behalf of older persons in the community
- To identify needs of the county's older population and the available resources to meet those needs
- To educate the community and enlist support and participation of all citizens about those needs
- To promote services to meet needs, and/or to coordinate existing services
- To advise local elected officials on issues pertaining to aging



**Members Include Older Adults and Representatives
from the following organizations**

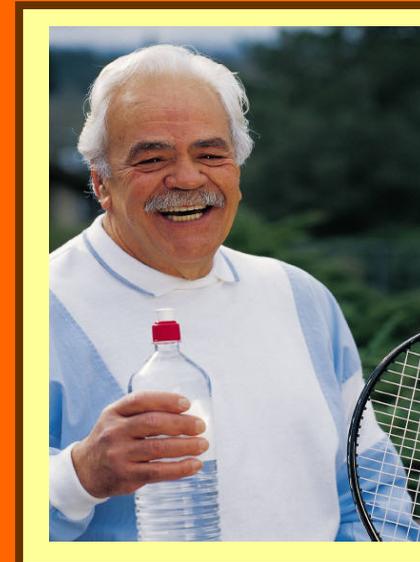
Older adults living in Jefferson County, AARP, American Council of the Blind of Colorado, Apex Park and Recreation District, City of Lakewood Clements Community Center, Colorado Commission on Aging, Developmental Disabilities Resource Center, DRCOG, Green Mountain Financial LLC, Home Instead Senior Care, Jeffco Public Schools, Jeffco Workforce Center, Jefferson County Dept. of Human Services, Jefferson/Gilpin County D.A., Jefferson County Dept. of Health & Environment, Lookout Products & Consulting, Marcols Case Management, Mullins Youngdahl Design Company, Prime Time For Seniors Newspaper, Senior Housing Options, Senior Reach, Seniors' Resource Center, St. Anthony Hospitals Health Passport, The Arc in Jefferson County, The Care Navigator, Volunteers of America

JCCoA

Jefferson County Council on Aging

**Advocating for Older Adults in
Jefferson County**

2011 Annual Report



President's Report _____ by Cary Johnson

"The Jefferson County Council on Aging is comprised of members who are passionate and About promoting and advancing the best welfare of older adults in Jefferson County . We are seeking new members who share that same commitment to join our efforts."

Cary Johnson

Jefferson County Council on Aging (JCCoA) is an advocacy group of volunteers whose mission is to *identify and address the needs, concerns, and issues of older adults in Jefferson County, Colorado*. JCCoA was formed in 1974, and is the longest operating and largest county council on aging in Colorado.

JCCoA is comprised of many dedicated volunteers including older adults, service providers, senior organizations, and representatives of governmental agencies. While assessing the needs of older adults and identifying gaps in service, the County Council members encourage cooperation among agencies and groups working on behalf of seniors. Council members review and comment on issues and legislation affecting older adults and recommend service priorities to the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners.

"The JCCoA believes in the dignity of older adults. "

Read about the Council's many 2011 accomplishments on the following page. We remain committed to advocating for resources that are needed for older adults living in Jefferson County. Please join us in this effort. We welcome visitors and new members at our monthly meetings, which are open to the public. You may contact us by calling the Council, 303-271-3487 or by contacting the JCCoA's website, www.jeffcocouncilonaging.org

KEY ISSUES OF JEFFERSON COUNTY SENIORS

- | | |
|-------------|------------------------|
| Legislation | Information and Access |
| Health Care | Supportive Services |
| Caregiving | Transportation |
| Housing | |



2011: Preparing for the future

JCCoA focused on three main goals in 2011:

1. To serve as a representative group in Jefferson County, to assess the needs of older adults and identify gaps in services, and to promote services to close the gaps.

JCCoA added six new members in 2011 and worked to be more inclusive in membership. JCCoA promoted the establishment of a senior liaison law enforcement officer in each city of the county and worked with Jefferson County Human Services' Aging Well Program to address housing issues. Additionally, JCCoA members learned about: accessible transportation issues from the Denver Regional Mobility Access Council (DMAC), incorporating "People First Language" into our goals and services as people with intellectual and developmental disabilities age in our communities, safeguarding our at-risk senior population by developing powers of attorney and guardianship documents, and end of life support services available through local hospice providers.

2. To recommend service priorities to the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners, and to review, comment and act on legislative issues affecting older adults in the county.

Legislative committee members monitored legislation on the local, state and national level that affects aging adults. Members worked with the Older American Coalition, Colorado Senior Lobby, Denver Regional Council of Governments and AARP and updated JCCoA on pressing issues. The committee reported on 2011 ballot initiatives that had the potential to affect funding for senior programs. JCCoA supported efforts to retain funds for the Older Coloradans Act, JCCoA supported legislation to report elder abuse, sponsored "Senior Day At the Capital," and met with Jefferson County Commissioners to apprise them of critical senior issues and the Council's priorities.

3. To advocate for older adults by educating the community about senior issues and recognizing the talent and dedication older adults demonstrate through their contributions to the community.

JCCoA has had a monthly column in the 50+ Market Place Newspaper for over six years. In 2011 column topics included preventing vision loss, advance directives, wellness and palliative care. JCCoA partnered with the Jeffco Department of Human Services to provide the Aging Well Summit and with the District Attorney's office to hold Senior Law Day. It hosted the "Boomer Bond" update for elected officials and the community – a review of DRCOG's report on the escalating surge of seniors, and the impact of increasing needs on the county and Denver metro area.

Many outstanding seniors volunteer time and talents to benefit Jefferson County. JCCoA continued its partnership with the Seniors' Resource Center by co-sponsoring the 13th Annual Senior Hero Event in May. Six volunteers and an elected official were honored for their support of older adult issues.

JCCoA developed and distributed 500 brochures on nutrition resources and updated the website: jeffcocouncilonaging.org.

