STAKEHOLDERS SESSION

“ENGAGING OLDER PERSONS”

October 8, 2013
Georgia’s Macon-Bibb Age Friendly (AF) Community Experiences

• Community’s Overall Goal
Create a more inclusive environment that encourages active and healthy aging and strives to improve the quality of life for older citizens and their families.
Attractiveness of Macon-Bibb Location for AF Community Initiative

- Strong Support of Local Leadership
- Centrally located within the State
- Subtropical Climate
- Ethnically and Culturally Diverse Population
- Rich Heritage - Extensive Civic, Cultural, Social and Recreational Opportunities
- Excellent Healthcare Services/Affordable Housing
- Institutions of Higher Learning
Getting their Voices Heard in the Process

Establish respectful/professional relationships and ensure availability of “meaningful assignments”

• Seek and consider volunteer’s input, advice and assistance

• Ask volunteers what they would like to do/rather than routinely assigning tasks

• Cultivate positive relationship with the volunteers

• Ensure assignments are compatible with interests/abilities

• Pair volunteer with other conscientious individuals

• Identify assignments that help older adults stay active/connected
Getting their Voices Heard in the Process…Continued

Exercise good judgment and professional approach in leading/overseeing older volunteers

Establish atmosphere of volunteerism that stresses the availability of flexible schedules and sense of purpose

Ensure assignments are aligned with organization’s mission and specific goals/objectives

Identify a variety of activities and services to provide options for volunteers

Encourage volunteer to serve as spokesperson/ ambassador

Make sure volunteer opportunities are not just busy work
Getting their Voices Heard in the Process…Continued

Consider volunteer motivations…want to feel valued/useful

Acknowledge, praise and reward the volunteers for their reliability, commitment and accomplishments

Prepare written duties for volunteer assignments, as appropriate

Be considerate of any physical or other limitations

Provide proper orientation /training and follow-up/assistance
Role of Volunteers - Includes Regular and Episodic Volunteering

Volunteers complete full range of duties/responsibilities in planning, organizing, implementing, evaluating and reporting on initiatives relative to the following Eight AF Domain Categories:

- Outdoor Spaces and Buildings/Transportation
- Active Living Workshop
- Beautification Initiative in Local Park
- Parks and Recreation Newsletter
Role of Volunteers…Continued

- **Housing and Community Support & Health Services**

  Food Bank Outreach

  Shredding, Electronics Recycling and CarFit

  Senior Day Sponsor and Exhibitor

  Health and Education Public Awareness Forum
Role of Volunteers…Continued

- Social Participation, Respect & Social Inclusion, and Communication and Information

Professionally Produced Play - Caregiving

Monthly Movies for Seniors

Annual International Festival Participation

Macon-a-Difference Educational Outreach

IT and Social Media Workshops

Caregivers Outreach and Education Workshop

Macon Day at Georgia State Capitol
Role of Volunteers…Continued

- Civic Participation and Employment

Second Street Transformation Meeting Initiative

Georgia Municipal Association of Elected Officials

Citizen’s Advisory Committee of Macon Area Transportation Study

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association

Macon Area Habitat for Humanity

Macon in the Mirror Project
Feedback & Questions

- **Key Contact**
  
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