

September 27, 2012

To the Members of the Senate Insurance Committee,

I am the Executive Director of the Retired & Senior Volunteer Program of Ingham, Eaton & Clinton Co. Under our umbrella we have the Foster Grandparent Program, the Retired & Senior Volunteer Program Senior Companion Program, Capital Area Interfaith Respite, and South Lansing Hill Toppers Adult Day Care. The last three are about keeping the frail elderly in their homes for as long as possible. We feel that we are offering to care givers who have the care of a loved one 24 hours a day/seven days a week, a break as we call respite.

I am not just a service provider in the Aging Network, I have my own experience as a client of the system. I was the care giver of my Grandmother in her 80s. My mother was an only child who had died in her 30s so when my 80 year old Grandma became ill with dementia, I had to take care of her. I can identify with these families that we serve in our three programs who have 24/7 days a week care of a loved one. I can still remember how it felt when I had to put her in a nursing home. If there had been an adult day care or respite service, I could have kept Grandma at my home longer.

I have included with the copy of my presentation a flier that gives some information about our programs providing continuum of care for the elderly. Between these three programs, we serve 53 families with the Escheats money of nearly \$20,000. If these families couldn't receive assistance from us in the form of a respite break, many would have to put their loved one in a nursing home. For these 53 families it would

add up costing the state 3 ½ million dollars year. Even if the families could purchase three days of home care, it would add up to \$19,000 a year for each person. Our families that we serve could not afford it. That \$20,000 goes a long ways and I am sure that every agency that receives that Escheats money will have the same story. This money that Blue Cross gives to the Michigan State Office on Aging does a great service and saves the State of Michigan millions of Dollars.

Janet Clark

Executive Director of RSVP of Ingham, Eaton & Clinton Co

2400 Pattengill Ave

Lansing, MI 48910

517 887-6116

There are several **RSVP** programs that could use your help or help you:

CONTINUUM OF SENIOR CARE

CAIR (Capital Area Interfaith Respite) – The mission of CAIR is “Neighbors helping Neighbors.” The program is designed to keep area seniors and disabled neighbors safe and independent in their own homes as long as possible.

Senior Companions – By becoming a companion to a frail person, a volunteer can help that person stay in his or her own home by giving families and/or caregivers much needed time off.

South Lansing HILL TOPPERS – The purpose of Hill Toppers is to provide an Adult Day Services program that meets the intellectual, physical, emotional, and social needs of older adults and to provide short-term relief to older adult caregivers.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE COMMUNITY

MRC (Medical Reserve Corps) – The MRC program coordinates the skills of practicing and retired physicians, nurses and other health care professionals interested in health issues. Volunteers are eager to address the community’s ongoing public health needs and to help their community during large-scale emergency situations.

Foster Grandparents – Volunteers share their love, time and experience to help a child who needs them. A Foster Grandparent is a role model, mentor and friend to a child at a critical time in his or her life.

RSVP – RSVP is America’s largest volunteer network for people 55 and older. Join RSVP and nearly 500,000 volunteers across the country who are making a difference in their community. You choose the amount of time and where you want to give, drawing on skills you know or developing new ones.

Work Wonders WITH YOUR Experience

You’ve gained a *lifetime of experience*. Now is the time to put your skills and talents to good use by volunteering through **RSVP**.



When you are a volunteer, you are not just helping others – you are helping yourself.

Volunteering leads to new discoveries and new friends. Plus studies show that volunteering helps you live longer and promotes a positive outlook on life. **So call RSVP or visit our website to learn more about volunteering.**

517-887-6116
volunteerlansing.com

RSVP
Retired and Senior
Volunteer Program