



## A Note from Lynn

Area Agency on Aging CEO

Welcome to Seasons in the Sun! Area Agency on Aging [AAA] gets many questions about initiatives and opportunities around southwest Michigan. While our core function is planning and development of services, products, and efforts to champion age and independence, we're very multi-faceted.

Always remember the Info-Line for Aging & Disability at 800-654-2810 is available to you as a public service, no strings attached. Wondering if a service is available? Or something happens that causes you to do some research to figure out a path forward? Knowledgeable experts answer questions from simple to complex. People with lots of money, people with no money; call us, maybe we can help. You've got a friend.

There's so much great work going on. We're happy to introduce a much requested quarterly newsletter to share and spotlight information in and around southwest Michigan, and at times even state and national news.

The Campus for Creative Aging lauds age as a time for creativity, purpose, growth and learning. We partner and contract with many organizations to create service options throughout the region. We can help with solutions if and when daily assistance is needed.

All AAA services are designed to promote our mission, Offering Choices for Independent Lives. We want every aging adult to lead a quality life. We look forward to staying connected with you.

Be Well,  
*Lynn*

## Older Michiganian's Day 2021. Advocacy in Action

The Area Agencies on Aging Association of Michigan Members and our statewide partners in aging held a week of advocacy May 10-14, 2021. Locally we helmed advocacy efforts giving area seniors a platform to talk about the issues and advocate on their own behalf.

### What is Older Michiganian's Day?

Older Michiganian's Day (OMD) is an annual rally that traditionally takes place on the East Lawn of the Capitol Building in Lansing. This event, held virtually this year, brings together hundreds of seniors, aging service providers and senior advocates with their legislators and key state officials. Interested individuals are invited to join this event to show their support for policies that support older adults.

### What Issues Are We Addressing?

For 2021 we had five advocacy priorities vital to older adults in Michigan that allow them to age with dignity and independence in their own homes. These issues included rebalancing Long-Term Services & Supports, increasing access to non-medicaid Home & Community Based Services, bridging the digital divide for older adults, supporting and strengthening the Direct Care Workforce and re-establishment of the Kinship Caregiver Program.

### Be a Part of our Advocacy Efforts.

Elected officials respond in an immediate and personal way to individual constituents. Your advocacy helps legislators understand how policies affect their constituents. It is this 'voice of the consumer' that can make the issue real for legislators and have a critical impact on how policy is shaped.

### Learn More on our Website.

[AreaAgencyonAging.org/Advocacy](http://AreaAgencyonAging.org/Advocacy)

**Take Action! Make Your Voice Heard in Lansing!**  
**2021 Local Legislative Forum**

Join us for a conversation with your state legislators to discuss policies and priorities that allow seniors to age with dignity and independence in their own homes.