Three housing services: Would one help your community?

Staying Healthy, Wealthy and Wise In Hard Economic Times
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Housing Bureau for Seniors

Today's agenda

- Three programs of the University of Michigan's Housing Bureau for Seniors
  - Housing Counseling and Care
  - Elderly Eviction Prevention
  - HomeShare

HBS - early history

- The Turner Geriatric Center
- Peer counselors and "Shaking the Blues"
- Why is HBS connected to the University of Michigan Health System?
Fast Forward to 2010

- Housing Counseling and Care - 525 clients
- Elderly Eviction Prevention - 90 clients
- HomeShare - 360 inquiries and 50 "matches"

Housing Counseling and Care: decisions are complex with long-term implications.

- Because senior citizens often need:
  - Accurate information on local options
  - Occasional intensive assistance
- We provide:
  - Information to make your home comfortable & supportive
  - Guides on local choices when a move is needed
  - Intensive assistance when there is no one else

Housing Counseling & Care: the early years

- Goals
- Philosophy
- Customers
- Staffing
- Keys to success
Gradual Growth

- Volunteers became more professional
- Counseling became more intensive
- Advocacy efforts increased
- Connections with existing housing sites strengthened
- Outreach and visibility work increased
- Half-time social worker hired in 1995

Elderly Eviction Prevention emerges from Housing Counseling

- Poor and vulnerable elderly usually live in rental apartments and experience long-term housing instability
- HBS provides interventions with landlords to prevent eviction and assistance to stabilize housing

Elderly Eviction Prevention: the early years

- Goals
- Philosophy
- Customers
- Staffing
- Keys to success
Gradual growth

- Client issues became more complex
- Grew tolerant of moderate emergencies
- Hoarding emerged as a trigger

HomeShare

- Definition
- Benefits
- Cautions

The HomeShare process

- Advertisement and recruitment
- Education
- Application and assessment
- Reference checks
- "Referrals"
- Introductions
- Match and agreement
- Post-match counseling
HomeShare: the early years

- Goals
- Philosophy
- Customers
- Staffing
- Keys to success

Gradual growth

- **Year 1** - 55 inquiries, 4 matches (9 people)
- **Year 2** - 183 inquiries, 62 applications, 7 matches (14 people)
- **Year 5** - half-time coordinator hired
- **Year 26** - 360 inquiries, 143 applications, 50 matches

HomeShare today - providers

- 47 matched
  - Average age is 71 (55 - 95)
- 35 waiting
  - Average age is 68 (55 - 89)
- Reasons to HomeShare
  - 75% help with chore work and evening companionship
  - 25% financial support (average rent $300)
HomeShare today - seekers

- 50 matched
  - Average age is 44 (21 - 79)
- 46 waiting
  - Average age is 47 (22 - 74)
- Reasons to HomeShare
  - 71% companionship and connection
  - 57% need for affordable housing

In summary

- Start small
- Work on visibility
- Work with other professionals
- Let your community’s needs guide you

Questions?

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