

Three housing services: Would one help your community?

Staying Healthy, Wealthy and Wise In Hard
Economic Times
Grand Valley State University
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Today's agenda

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

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HBS - early history

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



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Fast Forward to 2010

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

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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

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Housing Counseling & Care: the early years

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



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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

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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



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Elderly Eviction Prevention: the early years



- Goals
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Gradual growth

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



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HomeShare

- Definition
- Benefits
- Cautions



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The HomeShare process

- Advertisement and recruitment
- Education
- Application and assessment
- Reference checks
- "Referrals"
- Introductions
- Match and agreement
- Post-match counseling

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HomeShare: the early years

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



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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

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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)

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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

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In summary

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

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Questions?

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