

Senior Issues Group Meeting Notes August 19, 2015

- **The Senior Issues Group agreed to develop workgroups around the three categories previously identified to senior needs.** By working within a more narrow scope, the group will be better able to understand the needs and opportunities for serving the senior community and strengthening Upstate senior organizations. The three workgroups will work on identifying gaps and duplications, identifying opportunities for collaboration, and detecting opportunities for policy change in each of the categories below. ***If you would like to participate in one of these workgroups please email me (ttate@tenatthetop.org) with a note indicating your desired workgroup by Monday, August 31st. A list of workgroup members will be sent out after the deadline. Meeting dates for the workgroups will be set in early to mid-September.***
 - **Transportation:** Access to transportation can be a barrier for many seniors. Kathy Vass, with GreenLink, will be leading the Transportation Workgroup.
 - **Food:** Access to healthy food is essential for seniors. Catriona Carlisle, with Greenville Meals on Wheels, will be leading the Food Workgroup.
 - **Housing & Home Needs:** Safe housing is critical for ensuring the well-being of seniors. In many cases seniors also need assistance with home needs such as: lawn care, repairs, and cleaning. Ginny Wylie, with C Dan Joyner Senior Service Division, will be leading the Housing & Home Needs Workgroup.
- **Volunteer capacity is still a big issue for Upstate senior organizations.** Many organizations either can't find volunteers, or aren't able to handle an influx of volunteers. Mission Next and Hands on Greenville are examples of two databases that match volunteers with organizations looking for volunteers. Paul Corbeil, TATT Human Potential Co-Chair, and Jack Hansen will be leading a workgroup that will look at the issue of increasing volunteer capacity. If you would like to participate in one of the Volunteerism Workgroup, please email me (ttate@tenatthetop.org) with a note indicating your desired workgroup. *The group will be holding their first meeting at the Ten at the Top office on Wednesday, September 9th at 9AM – 10:30AM.*
Volunteerism Workgroup members: Laurie Ashley, Anderson Meals on Wheels; Tim Womack, Appalachian Council of Governments; Stan Means, Elder Source Senior Ministries

Next Steps

- **Participate in a workgroup and encourage others to participate!** We would love to benefit from your knowledge and expertise on either the transportation, food, housing & home needs, or volunteerism workgroup. Please email me (ttate@tenatthetop.org) if you would like to participate. If you have a friend or colleague who would be a good fit for one of the workgroups, please encourage him or her to get involved. The most effective group will include representation from all counties and an array of organizations. **The workgroups will each meet once (or more) by the end of 2015.**
- **Check out the attachment for information on the Data Works Series.** This is a special series just for nonprofit organizations. Email Curtis Askew (grvllaskew@yahoo.com) for more information.