



Dear Aging Services of Georgia Provider Member:

Following two years of task group work, Aging Services of Georgia members voted unanimously at the 2008 annual business meeting for the Center for Positive Aging to become the consumer arm of the association. The bylaws were expanded and a new board was established the first of this year. One important charge of the Center, and the primary initial focus, is to refer Georgia consumers to quality providers, with particular emphasis on Aging Services of Georgia members. Now, as members of Aging Services of Georgia, the Center invites you to enroll your organizations as Center for Positive Aging Quality Providers.

See attached background, development and new, expanded focus of the center.

Becoming a Quality Provider of Housing and/or Community-Based Services through the Center presents a standard of professional excellence to the consumer that is in line with the national Quality First initiative tied to building public trust. For over 27 years, the Center for Positive Aging has been a trusted source for seniors, their families and caregivers who need housing and services throughout the aging network in the Atlanta area. Now, your organization is invited to benefit from our mission of connecting seniors, their families and caregivers to the resources they need statewide.

The Center envisions each of the 150 Aging Services of Georgia member providers as local “centers for positive aging” in the communities they serve. Each center will offer the community its expertise on aging issues, assisting them in connecting to housing, services, products, and congregations of their interest, and benefit from being a part of a larger network of trusted sources. The Center will provide information and materials to encourage additional opportunities such as hosting educational programs for consumers. With the support of information on the website, Aging Services of Georgia members can strengthen their position in the community as the starting point for information and referral to consumers seeking resources for older Georgians.

This invitation to participate and to be listed on the Center’s web site, www.centerforpositiveaging.org, as a Quality Provider, is extended only to organizations that meet the following criteria:

- Be a mission-driven organization with a focus on quality, person-centered care & services
- Be licensed as required by state law
- Have a good reputation in the community
- Have a good record of performance in licensing inspections, state surveys, etc.
- Agree with and sign the attached Quality Pledge
- Have stable leadership/ownership/management that is resident-focused and develops staff for proficiency and excellence
- Agree to refer consumers to other Quality Providers as appropriate
- Agree to support the programs and objectives of the Center

- Agree to communicate appropriately with the Center as requested

Quality Providers will be supported by the Center for Positive Aging with tools and materials to offer educational programs to seniors, their families, local congregations and other organizations in their local communities. This will support organizations in providing community benefit relating to social accountability. The Center will maintain a public calendar on our website to attract consumers to your events.

Becoming a Quality Provider will help establish your organization's reputation as the expert on aging in your local community. Working together statewide, we will greatly improve our effectiveness toward helping consumers connect to the resources they need. We want the Center for Positive Aging, both collectively and locally through your organization, to be that trusted source of information in Georgia!

The official launch of the new Center's programs and services is set for this August. Please complete the attach information and FAX back to us by June 30th, to make sure that your organization can take full advantage of this opportunity immediately. Since the Center is the consumer arm of the association, there are no fees for members to receive this service – it is a member benefit. For additional information, please contact Suzanne Economopoulos at the association office at 404-872-9191 x12 or email her at seconomopoulos@agingservicesga.org OR Mary Harris at mharris@agingservicesga.org.

Finally, to provide consumers with a complete, statewide resource, it is necessary to supplement our listings with Quality Providers who offer services not provided by, or in locations not served by, Aging Services of Georgia members. Because members regularly refer consumers to other organizations in your general area, we are asking you to assist in identifying 1) other non-members to which you refer consumers when you can not meet their needs, 2) businesses that provide products and services directly to seniors in your area of the state, and 3) congregations in your community that have an interest in supporting their seniors. These Quality Providers will be invited to participate based on their referral from an Aging Services of Georgia member and their willingness to pay associated fees.

Sincerely,



Bruce Erickson, Chair
Center for Positive Aging