

## Counting Our Blessings and Helping Others in South Brunswick

November 15, 2011

By JAQUEL RUBEL

AIPP counts its blessings every day, where volunteers represent an enormous reservoir and valued resource for AIPP at a time of otherwise scarce resources. With more and more individuals offering to help as volunteers we see benefits rippling through our organization, enhancing AIPP's ability to deliver on our mission.



Aging in Place Partnership seeking volunteers to help with senior transportation

As an all volunteer organization ourselves, with our newest volunteers we have gained

new insights and knowledge and discovered creative ideas thinking outside the box. Volunteer contributions have energized all of us within the organization's Board and steering committee, pointing to new and exciting ways to engage the varying interests and expertise in self directed teams, leadership roles, recruiting and communications to name a few.

As a result of these learning experiences and using our five AIPP priorities as a guide (Accessibility; Health, Wellness & Safety; Housing & Home Maintenance; Quality of Life; and Transportation), AIPP is launching a search for volunteers with a wide range of interest and expertise, including easy and more challenging, for both short and longer term commitments as well as a one time only "job."

For instance you may be interested in these easy to do "jobs:

- \* assisting at special AIPP events;
- \* helping a neighbor or friend access the Health, Wellness and/or Safety services represented within AIPP's steering committee;
- \* self nominating or recommending a nominee to serve on the AIPP Board (annual meeting December 22);
- \* serving as a point of contact to help circulate information of special interest to you and your friends;

\* becoming a resource or advisor for one of the five priorities;

\* suggesting a project or program for an educational, recreational, social, or cultural activity as a priority for Quality of Life;

\* recommending appropriate vendors for AIPP consideration for inclusion on the new AIPP web site Home Maintenance lists;

\* and /or becoming part of our forward and fast moving transportation planning teams. We need everyone's help.....please read below. For instance AIPP's proposed New Transportation Model for South Brunswick residents could get you to a movie on a Saturday or Sunday; a day or evening out to dine with your friends; spending time with nearby relatives or friends; and even to that new M-1 Bus stop on Route 522 which will get you to so many handy places including the train station in New Brunswick.

What will it take to make it a reality?  
VOLUNTEER DRIVERS!!!

Whether still driving or unable to drive, this exciting new possibility will help fill the gap and take the planning for a "seamless transit system," for South Brunswick to a new and viable level.

With your driving and ezride providing the cars, gas and insurance, you can make a difference for as little as volunteering for a 4-hour "shift," once a week. Interested? Call me at 732-505-7079.

Wishing all a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season.

About this column: Jacque Rubel is the founder of the Aging in Place Partnership. The AIPP was created with the goal to provide information and resources enabling families 50 and over to make informed decisions when exploring options for retirement, the need or desire to downsize, when they no longer can or want to maintain a current home, are alone and need assistance, or require additional services and resources that are not currently available where they live.