



The Viable Futures Center

Embraced by communities who turn challenges into opportunities.

The **News Bulletin** is an offering of the **Viable Futures Center**. The Center offers strategies, tools, case studies, and cost-effective solutions to today's pressing issues that break down silos, build up community, and use human, financial, and natural resources wisely. At the **Viable Futures Center** you'll find proven ways to **renew** social bonds that have become increasingly frayed and **recreate** a community infrastructure that is sustainable and works for everyone. Learn more at www.viablefuturescenter.com.

From Charlottesville, VA: JABA, an Area Agency on Aging, Advances a Better Future for All Ages

In his February 1 column, *New York Times* op-editorial writer David Brooks called for what he terms a “geezer crusade.” Referring to the elderly as “our future,” Brooks mused that elders have the political clout to save the country for younger generations. We take issue with the zero-sum premises Brooks used to arrive at that conclusion. But the Viable Futures Center’s age-wave planning resources have already been harnessing the resources of *elders* to improve communities for *all* generations. Here’s one example of what happens within communities when that planning approach prevails.

We look to the Charlottesville, VA area to learn how an area agency on aging utilizes the Viable Futures perspective for broad-based community impact. For many years, JABA has been a leader in intergenerational planning and programs that engage public and private sector partners and utilize creative funding strategies for magnified results. Its award-winning *2020 Plan: Aging in Community* -- spearheaded in 2001-- represents the work of citizens, providers and planners within the Thomas Jefferson Planning District to prepare for the doubling of the senior population forecast by the year 2020. Offering an evolving blueprint, the Plan provides a comprehensive, integrated approach to aging issues that has guided the development of solutions that benefit a broad range of constituencies in the region.



“As our understanding of aging continues to evolve and the promised age wave comes ever closer, communities are facing vastly changed expectations from their citizens,” says Gordon Walker, JABA’s CEO. *“With the 2020 Plan as guide, JABA has applied a Viable Futures approach to preparing for these challenges and the inevitable surprises, whether at a governmental, community or internal level.”* Here are a few examples of how they’ve done that. You can read more in the two case studies based on JABA’s work at http://www.viablefuturescenter.com/VFC_Site/AgeProducts.html.

Influencing Public Policy

JABA concentrates on transforming public policy to break down age-barriers and enhance the quality of life for *all* ages. Recently it took steps to expand opportunities for intergenerational initiatives in public facilities. JABA presented suggestions during Albermarle County's Capital Improvement Project process that were adopted by both the school board and the Board of Supervisors. As a result, the Board of Supervisors published "guiding principles" to be used in decisions related to priority-setting and funding. The following principles demonstrate how the Viable Futures approach can influence local government infrastructure development:

- Guiding principle: Pursue opportunities for collaboration between local government and schools: working together to advance opportunities for different generations to come together in any publicly financed facility.
- Guiding principle: Support working with our community non-profits (especially those receiving county funds) to seek opportunities to benefit ALL county residents by sharing spaces.

Bringing Local Foods to All Residents

As a way to improve the area's quality of life, JABA is leading a drive to increase access to fresh, affordable and healthy food for seniors and residents of all ages. Funded by a grant from the Wholesome Wave Foundation, JABA will soon launch a pilot program in Charlottesville using food stamps at farmers markets through electronic balance transfer (EBT) wireless capability. Charlottesville is one of only three Virginia locations selected for the pilot. The project will provide a monetary incentive in the form of doubled federal nutrition benefit dollars for purchases of fresh locally and regionally grown fruits and vegetables from vendors at the farmers' markets. In collaboration with the city, JABA will test an EBT system and then create models that other areas of the state can use.



This project ties in with another initiative that JABA started last August - a local currency to be used at the farmers markets specifically for residents of Charlottesville public housing communities. This currency is for anyone - not just people with food stamp benefits and is distributed by Children Youth and Family Services (CYFS) and JABA's nurses who work at clinics in these communities. It is given to families and individuals of all ages, including many seniors, in exchange for participation in parenting classes and/or attending the clinic. JABA and the city each donated \$1,000 to this pilot project. Feedback from initial interviews was overwhelmingly positive, and plans are to

continue this initiative during the next market season.

Engaging Partners to Reweave the Community Fabric

JABA's mission is to promote, establish and preserve sustainable communities for healthy aging that benefit individuals and families of all ages. This is accomplished in large part by working with community partners for the good of the entire community. Plans are underway for a 2020 Plan e-

newsletter, which will report on the continued progress of Plan related-activities. The primary focus of the newsletter will be on partnership building – and will speak to a diverse audience on such areas as health and wellness, transportation, community design, housing, and environmental sustainability. It will provide highlights of community activities, inspiring stories and projects that are making the community a better place to live for all ages, discussions on replicating models, updates on key local legislation, and insights and data from recent reports, among other items.

These three initiatives all demonstrate how a Viable Futures approach can work for a wide array of local community initiatives – from helping people to buy healthy foods, to engaging partners in public education campaigns, to influencing policy makers. They add up to stronger community collaboration, deeper social ties across constituencies, and more efficient use of public and private resources.

See: www.jabacares.org

Thanks to: Julie Ulrich, Community Planner, and Elyse Thierry, Publicity Manager, JABA.



From Buffalo, New York: Medaille College Pursues the *Common Good*

In the Buffalo, New York, region – challenged by the social, economic, and environmental problems of a post-industrial world, Medaille College has taken on an aspiration much larger than just an educational mission. It seeks to “be known as the leader in preparing learners for career success and a lifelong commitment to a civic and sustainable future in Buffalo, the region, and the world.” At this college students learn that individual success is not meaningful or even possible apart from the common good. For Medaille alumni, the common good is highly tied to the Buffalo region, as 68% of alumni currently reside in Western New York (see inset box for additional student profile data).

The college purposely set out to establish mutually beneficial partnerships in neighborhoods throughout the city, and has leveraged these relationships to the benefit of the college and the community – making the Western New York region a better place for all ages to live, work and learn.

Putting its aspiration into practice, Medaille College is playing a lead role in the transformation of one community in the

A snapshot of Medaille College students:

- 60% are first generation college students
- Almost half are students of color
- 100% receive Institutional Gift Aid; 47% receive federal aid; 84% receive state aid
- 68% of undergraduate students live within 20 miles of the Buffalo campus
- 53% report working more than 5 hours per week while attending class full-time, compared to 15% of their peers nationally
- 92% of all incoming freshmen have performed community service
- 86% believe that what they learn in school will help them contribute to their community
- 92% are employed within 1 year after graduation
- 68% of Medaille alumni currently reside in the Western New York area

Northwest part of the city known as the Riverside neighborhood. In the early 1950s, the construction of the New York State Thruway effectively cut off all access to the Niagara River for residents of the Riverside/Black Rock neighborhood. Coupled with the large-scale exodus of residents and businesses to the suburbs like that taking place in many other parts of the country, the neighborhood began a period of long and steady decline. As of the 2000 census, Riverside had a total population of 10,688 – 89% white, with 33% of all households including someone 65 or older.

The initiatives described below depend on partnerships in the Riverside area for their success and exemplify the *Viable Futures* theme of synergy – where 1 intervention produces far more than a single outcome and where the benefits are shared across constituencies.

At Medaille, all freshmen are involved in **Community 101** projects, which provide students with the opportunity to explore Buffalo in its multiple dimensions – its history, ecology, economy, culture, demography and more, through research and collaboration with local organizations. Working in groups called learning communities, first-year students extend their learning beyond the classroom and add value to the community at the same time.

For one course project entitled “Everybody has a Story: History, Genealogy and Narrative,” a partnership was forged with the **Northwest Buffalo Community Center**, one of the largest human service providers in the Buffalo area. Students explored the history, values and diversity of Buffalo by interviewing senior citizens at the center, recorded seniors’ stories, and made videos which were archived and given to the participants. Another partner, **The Arts in Education Institute of Western New York**, an affiliate of The Lincoln Center Institute in New York City which stimulates learning through a wide array of art mediums, provided technical support to make the videos.

What started out as an intergenerational learning experience turned out to be that and much more. In addition to breaking down potential misconceptions between youth and seniors, the placement also led to breaking down racial barriers between students of color and participating seniors, many of whom are white and of Eastern European ancestry, and who previously had limited exposure to youth of color. The interaction between these seniors and the students built mutual respect and friendships, which were on clear display when many of the seniors attended students’ course presentations.



The college’s relationship with the **Buffalo City School District** is another example of successfully building on existing partnerships and engaging the community as classroom. Located in the same quadrant of the city as the Community Center, one Buffalo high school is undergoing reinvention as the Riverside Academy of Entrepreneurship. Medaille will partner with the School District to operate a state-of-the-art high school campus with academies for health care, finance and entrepreneurship. Taking on the over-arching connector role, Medaille is coordinating re-design of the curriculum, staff development and training, and career guidance, including preparation for a new green economy. Students will learn critical thinking, problem solving and new skills. The school will also serve as a

broader community resource, offering leadership courses to residents and providing space for organizations to meet.

Another positive result of Medaille's connection to its community is an exponential expansion of other community programs and partnerships. Medaille College had established relationships with the Northwest Community Center, the Arts Institute and the Buffalo School District, but these organizations had not previously worked together. Now they all consider ways they can collaborate. Arts programs are being offered at the Community Center, which further contributes to community revitalization. The Community Center and Arts Institute are talking about integrating arts programs for a summer camp. And, other organizations in the Community Center building, such as Holy Cross Head Start, which offers early childhood education programs, are considering becoming sites for student teaching opportunities.

It's a win-win, indeed. Says Dr. Mary Ellen Mulvey, Medaille's senior director of community partnerships. *"By developing partnerships, we have become embedded in the community – bringing community into the academic environment – and at the same time expanding the classroom into all areas of the community."*

A Sampling of Other Medaille College Initiatives

The Arts in Education Institute moved its headquarters to the Medaille Campus last summer. According to Mulvey, *"The partnership between the College and Arts in Education brings mutual benefit. Arts in Education gains access to a college campus, while Medaille can integrate arts as a way to improve students' experiences."* One such opportunity involves students assisting with a **Veterans Art Therapy Program** for soldiers returning home from Iraq and Afghanistan, begun on campus in January. Designed by the Arts in Education Institute in conjunction with outreach specialists from the Buffalo Vet Center, the Therapy Program allows veterans the opportunity to explore their emotions and experiences through multiple art disciplines.

Another Community 101 Project, "Life is a River," partnered students with the Niagara/Buffalo Riverkeepers. Students learned about what government and local organizations have done to restore the Buffalo River, and researched the long-term consequences of Buffalo's industrial heritage. Bringing this knowledge back to campus, they conducted a college-wide survey on conservation, and hope to increase awareness of the harmful effects of everyday household items on the environment.

Medaille's partnership with the **Buffalo Olmsted Park's Conservancy** cultivates students' awareness of Buffalo's natural history, as well as providing internship opportunities. The Conservancy operates six major parks in Buffalo and is dedicated to the preservation and maintenance of these cultural treasures. First-year students participated in tours of park facilities, team-building activities, and an introduction to the parks' history and natural history.

See:

Medaille College: <http://www.medaille.edu/community/>

The Northwest Buffalo Community Center: <http://www.nwbccinc.org/>

The Arts in Education Institute: <http://www.artsined.com/artsined/site/default.asp>

Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy: <http://buffaloolmstedparks.org/>

Buffalo Business First Article, November, 2009:
http://www.medaille.edu/community/2009nov_community101.pdf

Thanks to: Mary Ellen Mulvey, Ph.D., Senior Director, Instructional Support and Community Partnerships, and Paula Valente, Vice-President for College Relations, Medaille College.



From Austin, Texas: At El Buen Samaritano, Transformation is a Family Affair

“When I had my first daughter, I realized I wanted to get an education. Not just for me, but for her, as well,” Sylvia Arazate said. “My husband encouraged me to pursue my dream to become an accountant, but in order to do that, I had to know English, which was almost impossible for me. With a newborn, there was no way I could take a class to learn English.” When Arazate learned about El Buen Samaritano and its Child Learning Center (CLC), she did not hesitate and reached out to El Buen for help. She enrolled in the English-as-Second-Language (ESL) Program and enrolled her daughter in the CLC so they could both begin to learn English.

Eager to advance quickly, Arazate passed the oral exam to enroll in El Buen’s dual program, in which she could take GED preparation courses as she completed all four levels of ESL. Her enduring motivation has brought her a long way. Today, two years after she first came to El Buen, Arazate is enrolled in a community college where she is pursuing an Associate degree in accounting, as she takes courses to obtain her real estate license.

El Buen Samaritano is transforming lives by engaging the strengths of working-class Hispanic families to promote their successful participation in society. Language barriers and lack of skills keep many in low-wage jobs with little prospect for advancement and no employee and health benefits, making them vulnerable to health problems and economic crises. By providing families a multicultural environment with bilingual and culturally competent staff, El Buen Samaritano is a welcoming place where families can get the help they need to create opportunities for themselves and their family – creating a pathway to social, economic and health sustainability.



An Outreach Ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas, El Buen Samaritano opened in 1987 in a little rock house, and in 2003 moved into its current 11-acre, three-building campus, located in South Austin. Each year, more than 34,000 children and adults access El Buen Samaritano’s programs and services, including integrated health care, health, wellness and disease prevention education, social and mental health services, adult education and emergency food assistance. More than 400 volunteers support program activities.

Too often, programs targeted at Hispanic working families do not honor or understand their history and culture. El Buen Samaritano has worked hard internally, within the service sector, and in the broader community, to facilitate cross-cultural respect and understanding, and to offer culturally relevant programs. *“Through community relationships and outreach, El Buen Samaritano brings families and community together, stressing to them the importance of health and education in a culturally competent manner,”* said El Buen Samaritano’s Executive Director Victor Azios. *“And through a hand-up, not a handout approach, we provide tools to help families strengthen their physical, emotional and financial well-being. Some of the tools we provide are health education, exercise and nutrition programs, health care services and a comprehensive adult education program.”*

El Buen Samaritano’s focus across the family generations allows for age-specific activities that create a synergy within the family for family transformation. Listen to what the Acosta family has to say about how it is improving its health. During El Buen’s health and fitness summer program in collaboration with the RunTex Carrozza Foundation—Summer Fun with Born to Run, Sergio Acosta, age 10, learned how to get and stay in shape by incorporating running and healthy eating habits in his daily routine. According to Sergio’s mother, Mrs. Emilia Acosta, Sergio’s transformation was evident in his lifestyle changes after the nutrition-focused curriculum. *“Sergio doesn’t drink sodas anymore,”* Mrs. Acosta said. *“I have seen a positive change in his self esteem and his attitude. I believe his evident weight loss has motivated him to keep leading a healthy lifestyle. He drinks water with every meal now.”* Like Sergio, many participants in the program positively changed their eating habits. *“The children loved the healthy snacks and the nutrition bars,”* said Mrs. Lorena Devlyn, volunteer coach with the RunTex Carrozza Foundation.



The entire Acosta family was committed to improving its health and fitness at El Buen. While Sergio and his younger sister, Jessica, participated in the program, their younger brothers, Juan Carlos, 5, and Anthony, 3, participated in a recently implemented health and fitness curriculum at El Buen’s Child Learning Center. Meanwhile, their mother positively affected her health and fitness by taking cycling, zumba, kickboxing and nutrition classes in El Buen’s *Vida y Salud* (Health & Wellness) Program. *“El Buen’s nutritious cooking classes have broadened my understanding of health,”* Mrs. Acosta said. *“I have come to value the importance of exercise and nutrition, and now*

it is up to me to create an awareness of good health and fitness in my children.” The Acosta family remains active throughout the year. While Sergio plays in a local soccer league, Jessica participates in a volleyball program at school, and Mrs. Acosta continues to take exercise classes at El Buen Samaritano.

El Buen Samaritano recognizes that family support means breaking down the silos to the provision of services and engaging all generations to strengthen families. Here are some of the other offerings found within their walls:

Education

Adult Education -- a comprehensive English as a Second Language Program in addition to courses in computer skills, financial literacy, GED preparation, Spanish literacy, English conversation and citizenship.

Children & Youth Programs -- The Child Learning Center (CLC) provides clients throughout El Buen Samaritano the opportunity to attend programs and services while their children are being cared for in a safe and academic-focused environment. The Child Learning Center focuses on early childhood

learning objectives and mastery skills which empower children to successfully enter the public school system.

Health Care

Wallace Mallory Clinic --offers culturally sensitive and bilingual primary and preventive medical services, including general and internal medicine; pediatrics; gynecology and obstetrics; immunizations; family planning; and sexual health services.

Mental Health and Social Services Program of the Clinic -- provides resources to help individuals maintain their emotional and physical well-being through integrated mental and primary care.

The newly implemented electronic health record (EHR) management system in the Wallace Mallory Clinic will improve quality, promote care coordination, cut waste, eliminate red tape and reduce the need to repeat expensive medical tests by allowing patients' health records to go with them to any health care provider member of the Integrated Care Collaboration in Austin.

Health, Wellness & Disease Prevention

Exercise Program -- classes in a comfortable and stress-free atmosphere that aim to improve the physical health of the participants and encourage awareness and prevention of health issues such as obesity, high cholesterol, diabetes, heart disease and depression.

Health Education Services – the *Vida y Salud* (Life & Wellness) Program offers health-education workshops that focus on developing healthy eating habits, incorporating exercise into participants' lives, breast health education, prenatal health education and teenage sex education.

El Buen Samaritano's *Promotores de Salud* (Health Educators) are community leaders who prompt individuals toward personal growth, health and self-actualization, promoting a healthy lifestyle. They are advocates and educators in areas of concern to the community.

Cocinemos con los Niños (Cooking with the Children) -- a bilingual, innovative, fun and educational nutrition program designed to teach elementary school children to identify different food groups and place them in the food pyramid. Through a collaborative between the Austin Independent School District and El Buen Samaritano, this initiative is part of El Buen's Combating Childhood Obesity through Exercise and Nutrition Initiative.

The organization's food pantry provides emergency food assistance to families and individuals in economic hardship for a period of six months. Qualifying individuals receive healthy food along with nutritional guidance and education via healthy recipes and educational materials.

For more information, contact:

Mona Izquierdo, Director of Education; mizquierdo@elbuen.org

Al Perez, Director of Health Services; aperez@elbuen.org

Lil Almonte, Director of Health, Wellness and Disease Prevention; lalmonte@elbuen.org

Thanks to: Ivan Davila, Communications Coordinator, El Buen Samaritano; idavila@elbuen.org



Resources, Grant Opportunities and Upcoming Events

Publications and Online Resources

What we learned from the Stimulus: And how to use what we learned to speed job creation in the jobs bill

A new analysis by the Center for Neighborhood Technology, Smart Growth America, and U.S. Public Interest Research Group shows that in the first ten months of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), **investments in public transportation have created twice as many jobs per dollar as investments in highways:**

- Every billion dollars spent on public transportation produced 16,419 job-months.
- Every billion dollars spent on projects funded under highway infrastructure programs produced 8,781 job-months.

Public transportation projects create more jobs than road projects because they are more complex and spend less money on land and more on labor.

<http://www.smartgrowthamerica.org/stimulus2009.html>

Finding Work, Finding Hope: A Step-by-Step Guide to Get Your Community Stimulus Dollars (and Jobs!)

This guide from PolicyLink provides step-by-step instructions on how you can bring recovery dollars to your street, your neighborhood, your city and your region in five key areas:

1. Bring Green Jobs Home
2. Build a Strong Economic Foundation
3. Improve Housing and Community Infrastructure
4. Promote Healthier Communities
5. Upgrade School Facilities and Programs

http://www.policylink.org/site/c.lkIXLbMNJrE/b.5625377/k.CA99/Finding_Work_Finding_Hope_Guide_to_Getting_Stimulus_Dollars.htm?msource=arraa

National Human Services Assembly Document Reframes Human Services for a New Era

Child, youth and family development experts representing 40+ national human service, education and community development organizations convened by the National Human Services Assembly concluded that the "silos" of children, youth and families hinder the nation's ability to effectively serve any of the three. Their conclusions and recommendations are presented in a just-released paper, "Through a New Lens: Toward a Fundamental Reframing of 'the Client.'" The paper suggests that the current economic crisis, and the hardship it imposes on families, make the case and provide the opportunity for fundamental change, now.

<http://www.nationalassembly.org/fspc/PolicyBriefs/Default.aspx>

Making the Case: Saving Your State's Caregiver Support Programs

Recently released by the National Center on Caregiving (NCC) at Family Caregiver Alliance (FCA), this paper is intended to help advocates, program administrators, service providers and caregivers fight for their state and local caregiver support programs. Across the country, budgets for publicly funded caregiver support programs are among those not only reduced, but threatened with further cuts or elimination as the economy promises to get worse. The report includes background information, statistics, state-specific data on the economic value of caregiving, talking points and a list of additional resources to help make the case for maintaining public funding for crucial caregiver support services.

http://caregiver.org/caregiver/jsp/content_node.jsp?nodeid=2367

Children and Families Have a Stake in Social Security

As public concern about the national debt grows, lawmakers and policy experts are debating reforms to Social Security and other federal programs. Generations United released a new fact sheet highlighting Social Security's critical protections for children and families, and its importance to all generations.

<http://www.gu.org/socialsecurity.asp>

Federal Legislation

Momentum on Healthy Food Options

U.S. Representative Allyson Schwartz and 39 co-sponsors introduced a National Fresh Food Financing Initiative resolution, based on the Pennsylvania Fresh Food Financing Initiative. **H Res 975** recognizes the potential for a national fresh food financing initiative to provide an effective and economically sustainable solution to the problem of limited access to healthy foods in underserved urban, suburban, and rural low-income communities, while also improving health and stimulating local economic development.

http://www.house.gov/apps/list/press/pa13_schwartz/pr_dec15_freshfoodinitiative.html

www.thomas.gov

In his 2011 budget request, President Obama addresses the need for bringing healthy food options to underserved communities. A \$400 million investment is split among the USDA, Health and Human Services and Treasury. Funding would support investments in new and expanded supermarkets, farmers markets and other food stores – and includes \$250 million in New Market Tax Credit Allocations to spur private investment.

<http://www.trfund.com/news/pdf/BudgetRelease-HFFI.pdf>

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/collectionGPO.action?collectionCode=BUDGET&selectedYearFrom=2011&page.go=Go&tr=y&auid=5882495>

Grants, Awards and Opportunities

EPA Intergenerational List Serve

The Aging Initiative List Serve will feature a new section of the monthly list serve that will highlight intergenerational projects and stories that are written by the participants. These short excerpts will be written by an elder, a youth or by an intergenerational team. This new section will be called "In their Own Words."

If you are involved in an intergenerational environmental project and want to share this with the list serve, please send an email to aging.info@epa.gov

EPA CARE Grants

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is making \$2 million available in 2010 to reduce pollution at the local level through the Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) program. CARE is a community-based program that works with county and local governments, tribes, non-profit organizations and universities to help the public understand and reduce toxic risks from numerous sources.

EPA will award CARE cooperative agreements in two levels. Level I awards range from \$75,000 to \$100,000 and will help establish community-based partnerships to develop local environmental priorities. Level II awards, ranging from \$150,000 to \$300,000 each, will support communities that have established broad-based partnerships, have identified the priority toxic risks in the community, and are prepared to measure results, implement risk-reduction activities and become self-sustaining.

Deadline: March 9, 2010

<http://www.epa.gov/care/>

HUD Announces Advanced Notice of Sustainability Grants

The Department of Housing and Urban Development has issued an Advanced Notice of their intention to offer funding through the Sustainable Communities Planning Grant Program. In the FY 2010 budget, Congress provided \$150 million to HUD for the Sustainable Communities initiative, \$100 million of which will be made available for regional integrated planning initiatives. The grant program is designed to support multi-jurisdictional regional planning efforts that integrate housing, economic development, and transportation decision-making through the preparation and implementation of Regional Plans for Sustainable Development. At least \$25 million in funding will go to rural areas, but no single grant will be for more than \$2 million. Funding for large metropolitan areas is limited to \$5 million per grant.

Deadlines: Comments on the Sustainable Communities Planning Grant Program will be accepted until March 12, 2010. The Notice of Funding Availability will be published the week of April 12 and applications for funding will be due around the first week of June. Grant recipients are expected to be announced in early August.

For more information and to submit comments, visit www.hud.gov/sustainability

EPA Healthy Communities Grants – Region 1

This program supports projects that work directly with communities to reduce environmental risks and protect and improve human health and the quality of life. Priority areas include: Asthma; Capacity Building on Environmental and Public Health Issues; Healthy Indoor/Outdoor Environments; Healthy Schools; and Urban Natural Resources. Around \$300K is expected to be available, with up to 20 awards anticipated. Projects must take place in CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, or VT.

Deadline: April 5, 2010.

<http://epa.gov/region1/eco/uep/hcgp.html>

4th Annual Building Healthy Communities for Active Aging

This awards program recognizes outstanding community strategies and planning that support active aging and smart growth.

Deadline: July 17, 2010.

<http://www.epa.gov/aging/bhc/awards/>

Enterprise Green Communities Grants

Enterprise Green Communities is offering grants to help cover the costs of planning and implementing green components of affordable housing developments, as well as tracking their costs and benefits.

- **Planning & Construction Grants**
Grants up to \$75,000 to cover planning and construction expenses, including additional costs of architectural work, engineering, site surveys and costs associated with items such as a more efficient HVAC system, green materials and energy-efficient appliances.
- **Charrettes Grants.**
Grants up to \$5,000 to assist housing developers with integrating green building systems in their developments and engage in a serious discussion of green design possibilities.
- **Sustainability Training Grants (post-construction)**
Grants up to \$5,000 for affordable housing developers. Funding is available to cover the design and distribution of an operations and maintenance manual and the development as well as the implementation of a training curriculum that supports long-term operations and maintenance.

<http://www.greencommunitiesonline.org/tools/funding/grants/>



Conferences and Events

Transforming Race: Crisis and Opportunity in the Age of Obama

Date: March 11-13, 2010

Location: Columbus, Ohio

<http://transforming-race.org/index.html>

ASA/NCOA Annual Conference

Date: March 15-19, 2010

Location: Chicago, IL

<http://www.agingconference.org/>

“Healthy Place, Healthy People: Intergenerational Collaboration to Build Sustainable Communities.” Join VFC team member Paula Dressel, Eric Utne, Jan Hively, and Patricia Ells to hear more about the Viable Futures point of view on Wednesday, March 17: Noon to 1pm.

40th Anniversary of Earth Day, April 2010

The Earth Day Network website seeks to mobilize the power of people to create change by taking small steps in our homes, our schools and our businesses that add up to an enormous collective action. Find activities that are suitable for individuals of all ages, which encourage active lifestyles and healthful living, while also connecting volunteers with green solutions.

<http://www.earthday.net/earthday2010>

American Planning Association

Date: April 10-14, 2010

Location: New Orleans, LA

<http://www.planning.org/conference/>

Older Americans Month, May 2010

http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press_Room/Observances/oam/archive/archive.aspx

Congress for the New Urbanism Annual Conference

Date: May 19-22, 2010

Location: Atlanta, GA

<http://www.cnu.org/cnu18>

National Association of Counties (NACO) Annual Conference

Date: July 16-20, 2010

Location: Reno/Washoe County, Nevada

https://members.naco.org/eweb/DynamicPage.aspx?webcode=EventInfo&Req_evt_key=a58ea0b7-e6bc-4e84-a001-5d9d45cbfbf6&ReqPath=EventReqFees

n4a's 35th Annual Conference & Tradeshow

Date: July 17-21, 2010

Location: St. Louis, MO

<http://www.n4a.org/training-events/annual-conference/>

Learn from JABA Community Nutrition Manager Judy Berger how advancing a local food system not only supports healthy aging at any age, but also benefits local economies and has a positive impact on the environment.

