

## Working Together for Strong, Healthy, and Supportive Communities

The United States is nearing the start of a tremendous demographic shift. Beginning in 2011, the first of 78 million baby boomers (people born between 1946 and 1964) will start transitioning into retirement, kicking off an expansion in the number of elderly people that will continue for decades. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, one out of every nine baby boomers will live to be at least age 90.

An expanding older adult population spotlights our responsibility to ensure the well-being of our older citizens. As a Nation, we are working diligently to address older adults' unique health and long-term care challenges. The thousands of professionals, caregivers, and volunteers that make up the National Aging Services Network have been collaborating in innumerable ways for decades to fulfill the mission of the Older Americans Act. Led by the U.S. Administration on Aging, the Network is now engaged in modernizing systems of care to provide consumers with more control over their lives.

Americans of all ages and backgrounds can celebrate Older Americans Month. Contact your local Agency on Aging and volunteer for activities in your area, promote community, state and national efforts to serve older adults, and find ways to enrich the lives of the older adults who touch your life. By working together we can improve the health and well being of our Nation's older adults and pave the way for future generations.

## Agency on Aging Celebrates Older Americans Month with 22nd Annual Centenarians Luncheon



*A look at last year's Agency on Aging of South Central Connecticut Centenarians Luncheon.*

May is Older Americans Month, a great time to bring attention to the issues that affect older adults. This year's theme "Working together for strong, healthy, and supportive communities", speaks of the opportunities we have to create better care and reinforce healthier societies for those of all ages. Working together, communities can improve older adults' overall quality of life.

As part of the month-long celebration, the Agency on Aging of South Central Connecticut will host its 22nd annual Centenarians Luncheon on May 7, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center, 360 Amity Road, Woodbridge, CT.

This is an excellent opportunity to celebrate the numerous achievements of the centenarians' long lives. Individuals aged 100 years or older are welcome

to attend as are those who will reach their 100th birthday sometime in 2008. Centenarians must reside in the greater New Haven region. The luncheon is free to the region's centenarians and an escort, additional family members may also attend for a small fee. Each honoree will also receive flowers and a certificate of recognition.

"We want to honor these individuals," said Neysa Stallmann Guerino, Executive Director of the Agency on Aging of South Central Connecticut. "This luncheon is just one way we plan to celebrate the accomplishments of their lives. Centenarians deserve to be recognized in a special manner during this very special and important month."

To register a centenarian or for reservations to attend this event, please call Janiss at the Agency on Aging at 203-785-8533.