



*Your life. Your experience. Your decisions.*

**Name of Project:** Information and Education Center

**Name of Organization:** Hawkeye Valley Area Agency on Aging  
Waterloo, IA

Early in 2008, our agency opened an “Information and Education Center” within a building that contains a hospital-owned Wellness Center, an assisted living facility, outpatient physician offices, a Family Practice Center utilizing the University of Iowa Residency Program, a senior center, hospital-operated outpatient services such as diabetes counseling, physical therapy, respiratory therapy, and cardiac rehabilitation as well as many human services organization such as Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, American Heart Association, Alzheimer’s Association, Regional Housing Authority, and domestic violence prevention and treatment.

The Center is stocked with educational materials, including translated versions, regarding health and long term care options and services available to older persons and their caregivers. Staff is available during posted hours for direct counseling and also the agency’s information and assistance center is co-located in the building and easily accessible. The Center is handicapped accessible and includes a warm, welcoming atmosphere that encourages folks to sit and research materials at their leisure and also encourages them to take materials with them if that is their preference. A sign in book is available for comments and requests.

Medical professionals, students, other agencies as well as older consumers and caregivers are utilizing the Center more frequently and it is quickly becoming known as an easy access point for health and long term information.

Plans are underway to host professional education sessions through the Center on more focused topics. For instance, someone from the on-site physical therapy department may do a one-half hour presentation on falls prevention\; our Chronic Disease Self Management leaders may do an overview of the project to encourage new participants; the Alzheimer’s Association could provide information on dealing with older persons with dementia. Many agencies located throughout the community have expressed interest in being part of the Center either through provision of materials or through providing education. The opportunities are endless!

The expected outcome for The Center is to provide a vehicle for individuals to easily access information on health and long term care issues. The expected outcome for individuals access The Center is to report they are better informed about options and

where to access information and assistance. After three months of operation, we believe we are going to easily meet those outcomes. Through press coverage, we have individuals coming from all ten of our primarily rural areas to access The Center.

The Center is funded with OAA Title IIIB and Title IIIE funds. Plans are underway to attain funding to purchase a vehicle to take the Center to the consumers. Our concept is to purchase a van that can be easily equipped with materials and would be comparable to the “bookmobile” many persons relied upon in the rural areas in previous years.

For more information about this project, please contact Donna Harvey at 319-272-2244. The website for the Hawkeye Valley Area Agency on Aging is <http://www.hvaaa.org/>