

AoA Older Americans Month 2008 Program Champion

Project: Disaster Preparedness & Emergency Assistance

Organization: Region VII Aging Services, Inc.

Project Description

Disaster Preparedness & Emergency Assistance has been identified by Region VII Aging Services, Inc. as being a high priority for seniors in the north central region of West Virginia. It was determined that the clients of our Senior Companion Program had no idea how to prepare themselves for a local or national emergency.

Region VII Aging Services utilized volunteers to put together emergency kits that could be distributed to vulnerable older residents. College students, staff members, AmeriCorps Vista volunteers and others assisted in preparing these kits. The agency solicited items for the kits from local businesses and organizations including C.A.R.E., Central WV Aging Services, Inc., Hampton Inn, St. Joseph's Hospital and Academy School.

The following items were included in the kit: pen or pencil, alcohol pads, notepad, Kleenex, nail files, anti-bacterial cleaner, toothbrush & paste, soap, lotion, shampoo, shower cap, band aids, candle and matches/flashlight and batteries, and other miscellaneous item such as a washcloth and comb.

Since the projects inception, 286 disaster kits have been made and distributed to clients in home delivered meals programs, senior housing, Senior Companion and Foster Grandparent programs in 11 counties in West Virginia. Clients and seniors receiving the kits were very pleased to accept such an important "gift". Many seniors felt it was important to have the kit to take with them in the event they have to evacuate and go to a shelter.

For more information on this project contact Doris Hamman at (304) 472-8796 or via e-mail at wvdorisjh9@yahoo.com.