




SENIOR SERVICES ROUNDTABLE

What began as a handful of concerned citizens and two government agencies has snowballed into a group of nearly 900 individuals, groups and organizations all committed to helping older adults. The group has been instrumental in assisting in crisis situations affecting older adults, such as, disseminating information on food and shelter during extreme weather conditions. The Senior Services Roundtable has found a niche in our community and is collaboratively working toward the continued independence our older residents.



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SENIOR SERVICES ROUNDTABLE OF COLUMBUS AND FRANKLIN COUNTY

PURPOSE

The mission of the Senior Services Roundtable of Columbus and Franklin County is to advocate for seniors and their families by identifying needs and services that provide improved and safe living conditions, and to promote collaboration among public and private agencies and groups to implement solutions to satisfy these needs and services.

The Senior Services Roundtable of Columbus and Franklin County is a clearinghouse of information and ideas to assist seniors in central Ohio, particularly those striving to remain independent in their later years.



HISTORY

The idea for the group was born out of a meeting between Mayor Michael Coleman and community activist Fran Ryan in 2007 where the Mayor called upon Fran to “help our seniors” With that charge she met with Mary Funk, City of Columbus Ombudsman, to brainstorm on how best to achieve this goal. After leaving a meeting at City Hall a van parked on the street labeled “55+” caught her eye. She immediately scurried over to the driver who she learned was Columbus City Firefighter Alonzo J. (Lonnie) King, Jr. Fran quizzed him about his role and decided they were on the same mission and needed to team up. In an effort to unite to serve seniors in Columbus and Franklin County, that impromptu meeting lead to Fran reaching out to her vast network of contacts for support.

Together with Lonnie King, Mary Funk, Mike Sexton, Director of Community Affairs at City of Columbus and Dave Paul, a concerned citizen who Fran assisted with a caregiving issue, the idea of the Senior Services Roundtable of Columbus and Franklin County was born. Fran reached out to obvious allies, the Franklin County Office on Aging and the Central Ohio Area Agency on Agency and the core group was established.

The group meets every third Wednesday of the month in different locations in the City. Meetings are very informal, no minutes are taken; no fees are required to for membership and members network and share information on what services they provide to help older adults.

SENIOR LIVING FESTIVAL

Members of the Senior Services Roundtable of Columbus and Franklin County conceived the idea of a festive event targeting older adults. The idea was presented to the community and received overwhelming positive response. Building upon the successful history of the Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging (COAAA) Aging and Wellness Expo and the Franklin County Office on Aging Columbus Clippers Senior Day the event was launched in 2011. Annually over 1500 people attend this event.