



NEWS RELEASE – Area Agency on Aging District 7, Inc.

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AAA7 and Shawnee State University
OT Program Partner to Provide Community Education

The Area Agency on Aging District 7 (AAA7) and the Shawnee State University Occupational Therapy (OT) Program joined together to provide community education through a series of in-person presentations that took place in several counties throughout the AAA7's ten-county district including Jackson, Lawrence, Pike, Ross and Scioto Counties.

Historically, the two organizations have worked together to provide community education through the AAA7's "Matter of Balance" falls prevention program and livestreams through the AAA7's Facebook page. This year's community education provided the opportunity to target some of the specific counties in Ohio that the Ohio Department of Health has recognized as having maintained the highest rates of unintentional fall-related deaths among older adults. Locally, these include Lawrence, Ross and Vinton Counties.

The community series focused on the benefits of Occupational Therapy, low impact exercises that can improve strength and mobility, available adaptive equipment, as well as further education on community resources that can help individuals stay in their home and community. The presentation was conducted by graduate students in the Occupational Therapy Program at Shawnee State University. It served as a wonderful way to support students in their education as well as provide the community with important and beneficial information that can support their health and well-being.

The series recently wrapped up with a final session in Lawrence County, where seniors gathered at the Ironton Senior Center, located at the Park Avenue Apartments, to listen to the presentation and learn more about activities to increase strength and mobility. The event was sponsored by Third and Center, and lunch was provided by Lawrence County Clerk of Courts Michael Patterson, and Common Pleas Court Judge, The Honorable Andrew Ballard. Third and Center is an arts-based nonprofit dedicated to sustainably growing communities. The mission of Third and Center is to serve as a conduit for community building by facilitating conversation, connection, and collaboration amongst those desiring to positively impact their community.

"We are incredibly grateful for the partnership with AAA7 and the opportunity to create intergenerational connections and educational opportunities with the students from Shawnee State University for the seniors in our community," said Amanda Cleary, Executive Director of

Third and Center. "This collaboration embodies the spirit of learning and growth across generations, enriching the lives of all involved."

The AAA7 is looking forward to more partnership opportunities to increase community knowledge about services, programs, and opportunities to support healthy aging.

"We are very thankful for the partnership with Shawnee State University and their Occupational Therapy Program to be able to bring education and resources to older adults in our region," stated Teresa Reed-Powell, LSW, Director of Community Programs at the AAA7. "The students were exceptional in sharing important information with our community that was well received and appreciated by many. Many thanks as well to Third and Center for their support in hosting the Ironton presentation to provide an outlet for the students to educate and visit with local residents."

"The collaboration provided students, from the Master of Occupational Therapy Program at Shawnee State University, with valuable experience in providing innovative community service and health promotion to older adults in our community," said Sandra Allen, Academic Fieldwork Coordinator and Assistant Professor at Shawnee State University. "We look forward to continuing this partnership and serving our community together for many years to come."

Your local Area Agency on Aging District 7, Inc. provides services on a non-discriminatory basis. These services are available to help older adults and those with disabilities live safely and independently in their residence of choice through services paid for by Medicare, Medicaid, other federal and state resources, as well as private pay. The AAA7's Resource Center is also available to anyone in the community looking for information or assistance with long-term care options. Available Monday through Friday from 8:00 am until 4:30 pm, the Resource Center is a valuable contact for learning more about options and what programs and services are available for assistance.

Those interested in learning more can call toll-free at 1-800-582-7277 (TTY: 711). Here, individuals can speak directly with a specially-trained Resource Specialist who will assist them with information surrounding the programs and services that are available to best serve their needs. The Agency also offers an in-home assessment at no cost for those who are interested in learning more. Information is also available on www.aaa7.org, or the Agency can be contacted through e-mail at info@aaa7.org. The Agency also has a Facebook page located at www.facebook.com/AreaAgencyOnAgingDistrict7.

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