



AGING WELL IN WALDO COUNTY

MISSION: The mission of Aging Well in Waldo County is to mobilize our communities to identify and address the needs of our aging friends and neighbors, striving for inclusive, supportive and safe communities for all.

ASSESSMENT: A county wide survey with more than 1000 respondents followed by focus groups revealed that the greatest needs are *transportation, social isolation, and housing*. The greatest assets are *libraries, churches, and the YMCA*.

STRATEGIC PLANNING: The work of AWWC currently and in the near future:

- Reaching out to the 26 municipalities of Waldo County encouraging active participation in AWWC, setting local goals that will benefit seniors, helping each with applying for an AARP planning grant, and obtaining membership to the Maine age-friendly network.
- Mobilizing librarians in Waldo County to consider more senior programming and helping secure grant funds to meet some critical library needs affecting seniors.
- Inviting county-wide clergy into conversations about senior services, sharing successes, and expanding opportunities.
- Collaborating with Mid-coast Public Transportation to increase visibility and exploring options for more volunteer-based transportation to supplement existing services.
- Planning for ways to collaborate with other organizations that deal with housing towards joint ventures and exploring creative housing options.
- Maintaining, printing, and distributing a one-page directory of Waldo County Senior Services to increase knowledge of and access to services.
- Exploring more collaborations with the YMCA to expand senior access to services.
- Growing the size and participation of AWWC in our county.
- Continuing to invite and involve relevant county stakeholders
- Sharing with other age-friendly groups to exchange ideas and strategies.
- Create and distribute widely current news of interest to seniors in our county.

EVALUATION: With no roadmap to follow creating a county-wide initiative, all initiatives are subject to continuous evaluation and revision in order to achieve AWWC goals.