



## Loudoun County, Virginia

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News Release

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Loudoun County Area Agency on Aging & Commission on Aging

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For Immediate Release

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### **Community Ambassadors Advocate for Loudoun Seniors**

Ashburn, VA – September 23, 2014 - The Loudoun County Commission on Aging (COA) announces the launch of the *Community Ambassador Program*, a partnership among county service organizations, volunteers, and local law enforcement, as a three-part (TRIAD) team to promote programs that enhance the health and safety of Loudoun's seniors.

TRIAD ambassadors solicit feedback and disseminate educational information in senior living communities or groups. Scams and crimes targeting seniors, fraud, and health care are critical areas for which the growing population of seniors needs assistance and resources. Often, help is needed to navigate the administrative layers that cause delays when searching for answers. Community ambassadors can provide resources to seniors for issues including caregiving, suspicious calls, nutritional assistance, affordable prescription plans, fire alarms, battery checks, and transportation.

Loudoun County Area Agency on Aging Director Dr. Lynn Reid told volunteer ambassadors (at a recent training session), "You can extend our eyes and ears into the community." Claudette Plater, a community ambassador at Potomac Green, relates, "I am pleased to be part of an innovative program to provide resources to protect and inform Loudoun County's growing senior population." A comforted local resident Barbara McFarland reported that "The Area Agency on Aging was a tremendous help in my transition from full-time employment to retirement, with information about Medigap and prescription drugs."

Fifteen community ambassadors have been trained to educate their community and the COA is seeking more volunteers. If you are interested in representing seniors in your local community, contact Debra Bressler at [debra.bressler@loudoun.gov](mailto:debra.bressler@loudoun.gov) or call 703-777-0257 for more information.

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Photo below:



Left to right: Susan Chasteen, Claudette Plater, DFC James D. Spurlock, Diane Hosking, Jack Capurso, Dr. Lynn Reid, Mary Ellen Bowers, Gerry Gray, Charlotte Nurge, Lesley Katz and William "Bill" Mahoney