



Maryland AIRS News

Volume 1, Issue 1

August 2011

Thank You from our Scholarship Winner.

As a Certified Information and Referral Specialist in Aging, I can't begin to tell you how valuable the National AIRS Conference was for me.

It was my great pleasure to receive the MD AIRS Scholarship for this year. As a one and half staffed office serving the Hampden, Remington, Woodberry and Medfield communities in Baltimore City, the scholarship was a wonderful and generous gift. Without this gift, I would not have met some of the most wonderful and enterprising people on the North American Continent and beyond. Their ideas and dedication to serving is almost indescribable. The Workshops and especially the Aging Symposium Retreat were so beneficial.

Of course I enjoyed the Riverboat Cruise and the Motown night, but the networking at these two events and others were great. It is good to know that we are not out there alone. I have come away feeling uplifted knowing that there are others who work and care as much as I do and that there is support out there for me when I need it.

Thanks again to the MD AIRS for their generous scholarship gift. It has truly been the highlight of my year.

Sincerely,
Sandy Simmons
Executive Director
St. Mary's Outreach Center
3900 Roland Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21211
410-366-3106

Save the Date
Maryland AIRS Fall Conference
NOVEMBER 1, 2011
Howard Community College
Go to our website for more information
<http://marylandairs.org>

Best Practices

In May in Howard County a networking meeting was held to bring all formal and informal information and referral providers together. The meeting was facilitated by the Department of Citizen Services, the Human Services arm of County Government. The purpose of this meeting was to get to know each other's programs, discuss challenges, successes and look at needs of Howard County's citizen that are not being met. This event was well attended with 15 representatives from 12 different agencies (both private nonprofit and Governmental agencies). As a result of getting together, the group identified new and unknown resources and agreed to meet a few times a year. The future plans for the group include, looking into the feasibility of a common application that can be shared among organizations, identifying cross training opportunities and developing an electronic communication system to share information and resources more efficiently.

For more information, contact Debbie Yare at 410-313-1943 or dyare@howardcountymd.gov

What is going on in your agency?

In the Office of Children's Services in Howard County, three staff members who provide information and assistance to children and families took the AIRS Certification test. As a result of preparing for the test, they learned about best practices and the standards outlined by AIRS and have a broader understanding of the entire I and R field.

AIRS Announces a NEW Logo.

The new I&R logo developed by AIRS is meant to be a simple, iconic, graphic representation that can be used to help define I&R as a core service of an organization, help communities understand the service and then 'tag' providers to build knowledge of the scope of a community's I&R system.

It does not replace any logo currently in use. It is meant to be voluntarily used to identify the I&R component within a service provider's mission and function, and can be used alongside local logos, AIRS membership logo and any others to enhance your community identity.

Any organization that has an element of service, where a client or consumer reaches out in need, and they answer them and assist by helping them define their needs and explain the local services available (either additional internal services or external community services) and help them apply those to their needs, can choose to use to the logo.

Various electronic versions of this I&R logo and also the new AIRS logo/tagline, can be obtained from www.airs.org/Logos.



The Mission of Maryland AIRS

Maryland AIRS, a non-profit member organization, is the Maryland affiliate of the Alliance of Informational and Referral Systems (AIRS), a national nonprofit membership organization serving the interest of information and referral interests throughout the U.S. and Canada. AIRS offers a professional umbrella for all I&R providers in both public and private organizations. The mission of Maryland AIRS is to promote quality information and referral by linking members and providing them with a communication forum, education, training, and networking opportunities.

What is information and referral? For most of us, we know exactly what information and referral means but at the same time, we have difficulty explaining it to others. Many organizations identify themselves as information and referral; however, many do the work of I&R without identifying themselves as part of the industry. The Board of Maryland AIRS is working to identify and include all agencies that provide information and referral or information and assistance in any form. Sometimes providers work in a specialized area such as aging, disabilities or victim services. Sometimes it is a general service providing information and referral to the community at large. Regardless of the agency or the population served, our professional industry will be stronger as more providers join us in recognizing the importance of connecting people with the services in their communities. This is the mission of Maryland AIRS. Won't you join us?

Foreclosure Fatigue

“Foreclosure Fatigue” is a new phrase that is becoming an all too familiar part of the foreclosure prevention community’s vernacular. It suggests a certain apathy on the part of distressed homeowners who are frequently stuck on the lender’s roller-coaster ride that takes them down the first big drop of “to modify or not to modify” and then around the curve of “why a repayment plan and not a HAMP Mod” to the harsh end of “I don’t care – hear are the keys.” Fortunately, the State of Maryland has a new short-term program called the Emergency Mortgage Assistance (EMA) which helps homeowners at imminent risk of foreclosure to get off of the roller-coaster ride and save their homes.

EMA began accepting applications in April and is funded by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. It is administered locally by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) and applications for this program are accepted by prime partner housing counseling agencies, such as St. Ambrose Housing Aid Center, Inc. located in Baltimore. EMA provides tangible assistance to homeowner’s by bringing their mortgage current and making substantial contributions to monthly mortgage payments going forward for up to twenty-four months. As with all government programs there are certain conditions that must to be met to qualify for this program. Therefore, if a homeowner is at least three months delinquent due to involuntary unemployment, underemployment or loss of income due to medical condition, they should contact their local housing counseling agency to inquire about this program. St. Ambrose Housing Aid Center, Inc., 321 E. 25th Street, Baltimore, MD 21218, is accepting EMA applications and can be reached on its EMA Hotline, 410-366-6091.

EMA is helping homeowners stay in their homes and regain peace of mind.

Submitted by:

Ms. Vickie Gipson, Esq. Director, Foreclosure Prevention Division
St. Ambrose Housing Aid Center, Inc. 321 E. 25th Street, Baltimore, MD
21218 vickiea@stambros.org

New Technology

There's an App for that.

What's new? Facebook - not hardly, there are 750 million people with a Facebook account and it's estimated that 41.6% of the population of the United States is on Facebook. Twenty-six year old, Mark Zuckerberg, developed Facebook in 2004 and is now the President and CEO. To his credit he can add a film, "The Social Network" which has won three Academy Awards and four Golden Globe awards. Facebook has even been visited by the President of the United States. Not too bad for a guy that earns \$2.1 Billion Dollars a year, beginning his empire as a college student.

Twitter? - Nope that's not it either. Twitter has been going strong since 2006. It has over 175 million people signed up, making over 65 million tweets a day. A tweet (for the uninformed) is a text message, with a maximum of 140 characters. These little messages can be linked to websites, viral videos and more.

Just what is a viral video anyway? Think of a lit match dropped in the California mountains on a hot summer day during a dry spell. A raging forest fire ensues. Now think of a video that has been placed on YouTube or Vimeo. Someone watches it and thinks it's great. They tweet, "you just got to see 'xyz' video" and they provide a link to it. Maybe they link it to Facebook, or then there is good ole word of mouth. Is that still around? Maybe you send the link to all your friends in your email address book. Yup, spreads like wildfire.

LinkedIn? Nope that one's not new either. LinkedIn is a business-related social networking site that reports more than 100 million registered users in over 200 countries. The users are "linked" to each other through connections and can be helpful in finding jobs, business opportunities, research data and more.

StumbleUpon? Wrong again. StumbleUpon got in the game in November of 2001. They create virtual communities of like-minded Web surfers. Members can rate and review each other's blogs, join interest groups, and post links to websites that apply to specific topics.

If the Old is New to you, get involved and renew old acquaintances, find business leads, read the gossup tweets, get LinkedIn and you never know what you might StumbleUpon. It might be a viral video you watch on YouTube.

Are You Interested?

Are you interested in becoming a member of the Maryland AIRS Board of Directors?

We are accepting letters of interest from individuals familiar with the field of information and referral.

No previous board experience is necessary. We are looking for individuals willing to serve on the Maryland AIRS board of directors, striving to increase the awareness of Maryland AIRS among the wide variety of organizations providing information and referral throughout the State of Maryland.

Send your letter of interest and resume to our nominating committee at:

Maryland AIRS
PO Box 2031
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042

Or you can send it to our email address at:

marylandairs@gmail.com

Voting for the board of directors will be held at our annual meeting, after lunch, during our Nov. 1st Fall Conference.

The Maryland AIRS 2011 Fall Conference

Will be held at the
**Howard Community
College**

Rouse Company Foundation Student
Services Building Room 400
10901 Little Patuxent Parkway
Columbia, Maryland 21044-3197

November 1, 2011

Testing for Certifications for
CIRS, CIRS-A and CRS
Will begin promptly at 8:00AM

Conference Check-in and
Registration starts at 8:30AM

Conference begins at 9:00AM

Registration begins:
September 1st, 2011

Go to our website for further
information

[**marylandairs.org**](http://marylandairs.org)

The following pages list all who are Certified in Maryland through AIRS as a CIRS (Certified Information and Referral Specialist) CIRS-A (Certified Information and Referral Specialist – Aging) and CRS (Certified Resource Specialist)

CIRS

Bhatt	Shivangi	IQ Solutions
Blunt	Jennifer	Caroline County Public Library
Borg	Suzanne	Frederick County Hotline Agency
Briddell	Ruth	Maryland Access Point Worcester County
Buckmeier	Thomas	Baltimore County Department of Aging
Burger	Karen	IQ Solutions
Byrd	Viola	United Way of Central Maryland, First Call for Help
DiCostanzo	Joan	Jewish Council for the Aging of Greater Washington
Fowl	Melinda	United Way of Central Maryland/First Call for Help
Frey	Ingrid	IQ Solutions
Gass	Ken	IQ Solutions
Gobern	Nailah	
Grayson	Dana	Frederick County Hotline Agency
Greenberg	Ellen	Jewish Council for the Aging of Greater Washington
Halcott	Stephanie	United Way of Central Maryland/First Call for Help
Hendricks	Stacey	Baltimore County Department of Aging
Kirkpatrick	Paul	Community Crisis Services
Koo	Lisa	IQ Solutions
Kranzberg	Francesca	Jewish Federation of Greater Washington
Krysiak	Dolores	Associated Catholic Charities
Leclercq	Emily	Howard County Office on Aging
Levin	Abby	Jewish Council for the Aging of Greater Washington
Lilly	Kristin	FIRN
Limonos	JoAnna	IQ Solutions
Lunn	Carla	Howard County Office of Children's Services
Maddox	Gayle	Chesapeake Helps/CCCRC
McCann	Jacob	IQ Solutions
McIntyre	Kristy	Maryland Access Point Worcester County
Miller	Margaret	Baltimore County Department of Aging
Moore	Tamara	United Way of Central Maryland, First Call for Help
Odell	Joshua	IQ Solutions
Rhodes	Lisa	Howard County Office of Children's Services
Roebuck	Theodore	IQ Solutions
Roman	Annabella	IQ Solutions
Schulz	Kate	United Way of Central Maryland, First Call for Help
Shapiro	Harriet	Jewish Council for the Aging of Greater Washington
Shockley	Ingrid	Life Crisis Center

Smith	Jay	Community Services of Central MD
Soule	Leah	United Way of Central Maryland, First Call for Help
Speir Bichy	Ruth Ann	IQ Solutions Anne Arundel County Department of Aging and Disabilities
Steines	Meriel	
Stone	Lauren	IQ Solutions
Thompson	James	IQ Solutions
Van Benschoten	Anne	Chesapeake Helps/CCCRC
Vargas	Reyna	IQ Solutions
Wethered	Valerie	United Way of Central Maryland, First Call for Help
Whitaker	Tara	Howard County Office on Aging
Wiggins	Tammy	United Way of Central Maryland, First Call for Help
Woodhams	Caroline	Frederick County Hotline Agency

CIRS-A

Barker	Debbie	St. Mary's County Department Office on Aging
Bilal	Pam	Howard County Office on Aging
Boyle	Linda	Howard County Office on Aging
Braun	Kirsten	Anne Arundel County Department of Aging and Disabilities
Buchleitner	Barbara	Anne Arundel County Department of Aging and Disabilities
Cooper	Nancy	Jewish Council for the Aging of Greater Washington
Freeman	Kimberly	Howard County Office on Aging
Kamenetz	Jill	Howard County Office on Aging
Lambright	Annette	Baltimore County Department of Aging
Liss	Valerie	Howard County Office on Aging
Matthias	Virigina	Howard County Office on Aging
Moon	Sunny	Howard County Office on Aging Anne Arundel County Department of Aging and Disabilities
Moore	Christopher	
Ritter	Deborah	Maryland Access Point Worcester County
Simmons	Sandra	St. Mary's Outreach Center
Steckel	Celene	Howard County Office on Aging

CRS

Kirkpatrick	Paul	Community Crisis Services
Van Benschoten	Anne	Chesapeake Helps/CCCRC
Neiland	Brandi	United Way of Central Maryland, First Call for Help

Maryland AIRS News
Is a joint effort of the Maryland AIRS membership

Contributors for this edition:

The Mission of Maryland AIRS.....Suzi Borg
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New Technology.....Paul Kirkpatrick

**Visit our Website at:
<http://marylandairs.org>**

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