



BACOA Executive Director Terri Channer

The Best of BACOA

TERRI CHANNER, HIRED AS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE BARRINGTON AREA COUNCIL ON AGING (BACOA) IN OCTOBER 2018, IS TASKED WITH IMPLEMENTING THE THREE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE ORGANIZATION TO CREATE GREATER AWARENESS AND INCREASED SERVICES FOR SENIORS IN THE BARRINGTON AREA, ALONG WITH REFRAMING HOW THE POPULATION IS VIEWED. THE AGING JOURNEY HAS REALLY HIT HOME RECENTLY FOR THE NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AS SHE HAS BEEN INVOLVED WITH PLACING A FAMILY MEMBER IN NURSING CARE. QUINTESSENTIAL BARRINGTON ASKED CHANNER TO SHARE THOUGHTS ON HER JOURNEY AND WHAT BACOA HAS TO OFFER.

I AM EXCITED TO BE PART OF such an amazing organization as BACOA and am eager to be part of its future. The time, energy, and commitment that the Board has put into the strategic planning process is truly inspirational to me and I am bursting with ideas on how to implement and expand on their framework. Personally, I was so taken by the care and compassion that my

sister received during her move to a Care Center that I knew I wanted to become part of the profession and that led me to BACOA.

The Barrington Area Council on Aging has been a vital resource to the community for more than 30 years by providing activities, education, referrals, and support for adults and caregivers. Their critical programs have enabled seniors to

remain in their homes, dramatically save on pharmaceuticals, receive free tax preparation, low-cost meals, in-home care services, and most importantly, socialization with others.

ADDRESSING CONCERNS FOR SENIORS

Depression and isolation are serious issues for seniors. When people become more home-bound they lack the interaction that they enjoyed previously and that kept them vital. BACOA's programs provide an outlet for people to socialize and engage with others.

Health care costs remain a common issue in our community and figuring out Medicare and Medicaid can be overwhelming tasks. Our staff provides one-on-one assistance in not only selecting the right plan and supplement, but they also are able to review the cost of drugs at different pharmacies to find the most economic option for our clients.

The case management that BACOA provides is perhaps the most vital offering we have. We recently received a call from first-responders who were concerned about multiple calls they had received from the same home and had asked us to investigate the situation to determine how we might help. BACOA visited the family at their

Many Ways to Support BACOA

- Volunteer for one of our programs
 - o Deliver a hot meal with the Meals With-Wheels
 - o Serve food at the Monday lunch program
 - o Interact with seniors at "A Day Out" program
- Attend Dancing with the Barrington Stars, a fundraising event on February 9, 2019, at Stonegate Conference Center
- Adopt a senior either financially or through donations of much-needed items like toilet paper, soap, and other soft goods
- Support BACOA through a Monthly Giving Program



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home and found they had multiple needs. BACOA was able to repair several broken items, replace light bulbs and smoke detectors, install grab bars, secure an affordable house cleaner, and sign the couple up for our Meals-With-Wheels program so that they would receive a hot meal daily.

BACOA's "Powerful Tools for Caregivers" program shows its commitment to helping not only seniors, but also their family caregivers who commonly report stress, anxiety, and depression of their own.

DANCING WITH THE BARRINGTON STARS!

The Dancing with the Barrington Stars fundraising event at Stonegate on Saturday, Feb. 9, 2019 features six Barrington area leaders each paired with a professional from the Bataille Academie of the Danse. The audience becomes a large part of the competition through their own voting. For a cost of \$10 per vote, the excitement reaches a fever pitch to determine the winners. We have a fantastic group of dancers this year. Based on last year's fun and success, we know you'll want to participate! 

To reach Executive Director Terri Channer, email: tchanner@bacoa.org, or call 847-881-0471. Learn more at www.bacoa.org. See BACOA's ad on the previous page for Dancing with the Barrington Stars details.