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Buckeye Hills Area Agency on Aging Receives National Association of Development Organizations 2010 Innovation Awards

WASHINGTON, DC – The Buckeye Hills Area Agency on Aging (AAA8), based in Marietta, Ohio, received a 2010 Innovation Award from the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) Research Foundation for its Geographic Information Systems Client Mapping Project and Diners Choice Nutrition Program.

During the past few winters with all of the ice, snow, and power outages across the region, the Buckeye Hills Area Agency on Aging (AAA8) was contacted by area Emergency Management Agencies (EMAs) for assistance identifying “at risk” elderly residents.

“Our teams have worked to develop a program that will capture in one local system, location information for all PASSPORT clients receiving care in their homes,” said AAA8 Director Rick Hindman. “This information will be used to create and disseminate maps of “at risk” clients and their locations to coordinate with area EMAs in the event of emergencies and weather-related disasters.”

AAA8 Case Managers utilized handheld GPS data collection units to gather pertinent information to assist first responders in finding the homes of at-risk 60+ clients during an emergency.

As requested, county-specific maps can be made available. To control security and privacy, these maps and the related data will be available via the internet as part of a secure, password protected and customized ArcGIS server web application.

With this information, AAA8 can more readily assist Emergency Management groups and first responders in knowing where in-home clients are located and what, if any, special needs they may have in the event of an evacuation, natural disaster, or other weather-related emergency.

With funding support made available through The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, AAA8 offered more than 500 participants who were 60+ years of age access to the new nutrition program called Diner’s Choice. Designed to give residents better access to nutrition sites, it utilized the services of seven local restaurants in areas determined to be under-served by regional congregate meal sites.

“We believe that by working with local restaurants, the ARRA funding had a double impact, nutritious meals for seniors while pumping money into the local economy,” said Buckeye Hills Executive Director Misty Casto. The pilot program used community diners with menus designed to meet USDA nutrition guidelines. The program served 10,321 meals - a combination of breakfast and lunch coupons were redeemed. A total of \$66,943 in coupon redemption supported the seven small restaurant businesses.

For more information on AAA8, contact 1-800-331-2644 or visit www.areaagency8.org.

NADO is a Washington, DC-based association that promotes programs and policies that strengthen local governments, communities and economies through regional cooperation, program delivery and comprehensive strategies. The association’s Innovation Awards program recognizes regional development organizations and partnering organizations for improving the economic and community competitiveness of our nation’s regions and local communities. Award winners will be showcased during NADO’s 2010 Annual Training Conference, to be held August 28-31 in San Diego, California.

Founded in 1967, the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) provides advocacy, education, networking and research for the national network of 540 regional development organizations. NADO members provide professional, programmatic and technical assistance to over 2,300 counties and 15,000 municipalities

