

New Pima Council on Aging Community Office Opens At Interfaith Community Services, 2820 W. Ina Rd.,

Tucson, AZ (July 11, 2008) – The ageing population and corresponding increase in requests for more convenient access to aging services is a community priority, according Pima Council on Aging officials.

“The rising costs of food and utilities, housing and transportation are consistently ranked as leading concerns expressed by our older citizens,” says Jim Murphy, chief executive office of the 41-year-old social service agency, Pima Council on Aging.

“People who choose to age at home in their own neighborhoods increasingly tell us they want nearby access to aging services,” added Murphy.

One effective approach to meet the requests for more localized access to services has been undertaken by PCOA and is part of the official community assessment conducted by PCOA every three years.

“Building local partnerships with local agencies in order to create efficient and accessible aging services in geographically far-flung locations across the county is one of our agency’s strategic goals,” he said.

“We live in communities across the county defined by the necessity for travel, transportation and sheer distances across far flung residential areas that require cost effective and creative solutions to promote access to services in nearby settings,” concluded Murphy.

The first **PCOA Community Office** to serve the needs of northwest side residents is situated in the **Interfaith Community Services Caregiver Services Wing, 2820 W. Ina Rd.**, and is the direct result of a new partnership between PCOA and ICS, the 23-year old faith-based service organization that helps seniors and disabled individuals and people in financial crisis.

Among the aging services available by appointment on designated weekdays at the new PCOA Community Center : the **Mature Worker Connection**, the PCOA job placement service for job seekers 50 and older; **Medicare Insurance and Benefits Counseling**; **Elder Rights** assistance with financial, legal and long-term care issues and advocacy ; **Caregiver Services** for families and individuals caring for an older adult; and, **volunteerism** specifically for people 55 and older through **R.S.V.P.**, the 35 year-old local chapter of the national Senior Corps program serving Pima County residents.

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PCOA Community Center service hours are by appointment only on weekdays at the ICS Caregiver Services Center, 2820 W. Ina Rd.

To make appointments and learn more about the weekday schedule, **call the PCOA Services:**
Mature Worker Connection at (520) **623-3304 (Monday and Tuesday appointments)**
RSVP –Retired and Senior Volunteer Program at (520) **546-2002 (Friday appointments)**
Medicare Insurance Counseling at (520) **546-2011 (Wednesday appointments)**
Elder Rights and Ombudsman (520) **790-7262 (Wednesday appointments)**
Caregiver Services at (520) **790-7262(Thursday appointments)**

“The partnership between Pima Council on Aging and Interfaith Community Services is a harbinger of things to come and reflects the PCOA strategic plan adopted by the board of directors to make services more accessible across urban and rural neighborhoods around the county,” said Jim Murphy.

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Addendum: PCOA officials are in discussion now to locate a new PCOA Community Center convenient to southeast area residents living in the Green Valley, Sahuarita, and Arivaca and Amado areas of Pima County.

“Long range planning for future community –based aging services is at the heart of our mission and strategic plan adopted by the board of directors and planning will continue to evaluate the creation of active adult centers to house core PCOA services as well as an expanded range of health and wellness programs; intergenerational, transition and counseling services,” said Jim Murphy.

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Pima Council on Aging (PCOA) is the leading local non-profit agency to address the entirety of aging issues for Pima County’s older adults and their families and caregivers. The nonprofit agency was established in 1967. In 1971, PCOA was designated as the first Area Agency on Aging (AAA) in the State of Arizona.

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