

# SARATOGA AREA SENIOR COORDINATING COUNCIL

P.O. Box 3033, 19655 Allendale Avenue, Saratoga, CA 95070 408-868-1257

www.sascc.org

June 1, 2010

*-After years of nursing her beloved husband through Parkinson's disease and finally losing him to cancer, Mary (age 80) tentatively began to participate in Saratoga's Senior Center's widow/widower social group. Mary went on to build friendships and find a new life for herself through this caring service. As she recovered, she became one of the active volunteers who help run the service.*

*-Sam was a retired MD, active in volunteer work and a pillar of his community. As he aged, he developed Dementia and began to withdraw from interactions and into his lonely confusion. His wife and family wanted to keep him at home as long as possible so they enrolled him in the Saratoga Adult Care service for the frail elderly. In this supporting and protected environment, he felt safe with his diminishing capacity. He began to socialize, and actively participate. In addition, they were able to rest and recover with Sam in temporary care by someone else. Mary and Sam's stories represent hundreds of older adults who are using and being helped by Saratoga Senior Center and the Adult Care for frail elderly.*

Dear Saratogans,

The Saratoga Area Senior Coordinating Council, SASCC, is the non-profit organization that has been providing older adult services since 1979. Services include the Saratoga Senior Center and the Saratoga Adult Care Center for the frail elderly. SASCC's services complement and fill gaps between other local private services and senior living opportunities. SASCC's specialty is aiding older adults who continue to live at home yet need that welcoming environment or a little extra assistance to rebuild and enhance their personal lives.

The SASCC Board of Directors is writing this letter to alert you to the fact that we are in a tenuous financial situation. The recent national financial slump has damaged many non-profit budgets, including SASCC's. Instead of using the profits of SASCC's investments, we have had to begin using some of the principal. The Board of Directors does not want this trend to continue. The time to act is now.

There are two ways to fix a budget deficit. Increase cash coming in and/or decrease cash going out. We continually look at ways to decrease spending. However, 80% of our operating costs are labor related. We can reduce staff, but further reductions decrease activities and programs. We are required by the State to have a certain ratio of care givers to participants for the Adult Care Center. Our staff is neither highly compensated nor are they provided the health benefits that are common with most businesses.

The City of Saratoga provides facilities at no charge as well as some grant money. However, since Saratoga doesn't have as large a business tax base as other cities, it can only provide as much funding as it can afford. All grants cover less than 20% of operating costs. The rest of our income is from memberships, fees, bi-annual appeal letters, and fund raisers.

Many of our members are on fixed incomes. Increasing fees would make our services unaffordable to many. We do offer scholarships to those who can't afford any fees in the Adult Care service.

In 2009 SASCC's money raising efforts came in the form of the Saratoga Yard Sale, various concerts and festivals and a new document shredding service available to all area residents. In 2010, we will continue to create income opportunities including a "Business Alliance Program".

Supporting adult services for those who have worked all their lives and now need help to rebuild their physical and emotional health is the right thing to do. Here is what you can do to help. You can make a monetary donation to our important program. Because SASCC is a 501(c) (3) non-profit corporation, gifts are tax deductible. Your support will be gratefully appreciated!

**THE CITY OF SARATOGA HAS MADE A \$30,000 "CHALLENGE GRANT" AVAILABLE.  
SO YOUR DONATION WILL BE DOUBLED IN VALUE!**

Please contact SASCC Executive Director, Susan Huff, [shuff@sascc.org](mailto:shuff@sascc.org) for any questions or suggestions. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. This is a much needed program by many older adults.

Regards,

Richard Angus, President of SASCC Board of Directors



**SASCC's Sponsors:**



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408-657-6543  
Wong.stevej@gmail.com  
www.solidbasesolutions.com



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**Please cut this portion and send in with your donation and information:**

I am donating the following to SASCC. Make check payable to SASCC

\$5,000  \$1,000  \$500  \$250  \$100  Other Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Visa  Mastercard Credit Card#: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to become a member to continue supporting SASCC. Go to [www.sascc.org](http://www.sascc.org) for membership application.

\$35 Individual Member  \$45 Family Membership

I would like to volunteer my services to SASCC

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your support. Please send your information and check to SASCC, 19655 Allendale Ave., Saratoga, CA 95070 Phone is 408-868-1257. [www.sascc.org](http://www.sascc.org)