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# PEERS AVAILABLE TO HELP SENIORS

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## Directors Corner

by Arleen Joell

There is a growing concern about our seasoned, experienced citizens. Their needs are diverse and implementing a holistic approach can enhance safety, increase independence, and contribute to a long healthy life. Think about it for a minute, how often do you remember hearing the phrase, "We are our brother's keeper"? What did it mean to you or give you? For me it gave me a sense of responsibility for my fellow man or woman. The phrase encourages me to watch after another. It also give me a sense of safety, knowing that I am not in it alone.

At PATHS, we want to restore that sense of brotherhood and community and we are starting with our seasoned citizens. We have taken on the task to raise awareness about the vulnerability of our seniors and take real tangible steps that can show immediate results. The first step is - Have a partner. PATHS or Peers available to help seniors is how we will get the partners.

At PATHS, we hope to make life easier for seniors and their family by providing social services. Our experience as a human services providers has demonstrated that multidisciplinary approaches, diverse expertise and a variety of tools, are most effective in providing support for and reducing risk for our seniors. What makes PATHS unique? It is not only about becoming our "Brother's Keeper" but it the ability to create life-long friends.

I am excited to be a part of this effort to match up seniors and contribute to their increased safety, long-life, and financial freedom.

If you or someone you know is looking to give back or need help, call us to find out how PATHS is changing lives by reinstituting an old adage, "We are our brother's keeper"

## About PATHS

By Shaunda Bellamy

PATHS, LLC is a business geared toward providing help from seniors for seniors who have trouble completing their everyday tasks. AT PATHS, LLC we employ seniors who are physically able to complete everyday tasks for themselves as well as others.

The concept of PATHS derived from our non-profit organization Community Advocates For Family and Youth (CAFY), as a separate entity. Our Executive Director saw an unmet need for some of our senior victims. We then set out on a path to find out how we could meet their needs while

also providing employment to active seniors. At PATHS we provide a variety of services to our clients which consist of phone checks, companion aides, grocery shopping, pharmacy runs, assistance to doctor and lab appointments, dry cleaning, mailing, watering plants, convenient shopping, pet walking, light housekeeping and much more.

## Maryland Law: Bank fraud protection for Seniors

by Shaunda Bellamy

In 2012, the State of Maryland enacted legislation that requires financial institutions to report suspected financial abuse of an elder adult. It is estimated that financial loss by elders who are victims of financial crimes and exploitation exceeds \$2.9 billion dollars annually. The estimate is based on a study published by MetLife Mature Market Institute.

The National Council on Aging has partnered with Bank of America, and the Women's Institute for Secure Retirement to assist seniors in understanding financial fraud. These organizations have put together a Savvy Senior Handbook that can educate seniors on how to protect their financial information. You can find a copy of the handbook at <http://aging.sc.gov>. For more information on how to protect seniors from bank fraud contact our office. We provide seminars on protecting seniors from identity theft and bank fraud.

## Job Opportunity



### "Be a part of a family dedicated to serving"

Would you like to help others? If you are interested in helping the clients we serve, please contact one of our Case Managers to complete an application. Each applicant is required to clear a background check before being reviewed for employment.



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