

Area Agency on Aging *Connections*

Whitehall senior enjoys meeting others through volunteer work

By Daniel Casciato
For *Pittsburgh Senior News*

The last thing Laverne Gephart wanted to do after retirement was to play bingo all day. So Laverne, who lives in Whitehall with her husband Russell, started volunteering at the United Way soon after she retired from the Federal Reserve Bank. She did that for several years until she joined OASIS.

OASIS is a national nonprofit education organization designed to enrich the lives of seniors ages 50 and older. The organization, located on the 10th floor of the Macy's Department Store in downtown Pittsburgh, offers seniors educational classes from the arts and humanities to wellness and computer skills.

"It's a wonderful organization," she said. "I think it's great because of all the educational and cultural programming they offer."

While Laverne enjoys taking classes there, she's not the type of person who sits around. Always



Chuck LeClaire/Pittsburgh Senior News

Laverne and Russell Gephart with OASIS director Gail Weisberg (on left).

wanting to be as active as possible, Laverne jumped when she was offered the opportunity to teach a one-day basic computer course, "Let's Get Acquainted!"

"Soon after the computer lab opened, they were looking for someone to teach this class, and I've been doing it ever since," she said.

The class, offered every three months through OASIS, is for seniors who have never turned on a computer before. "We help seniors get acquainted with a computer. They learn the basics, like how to use the keyboard and how to go from one window to another. I also teach them some of the technical terms they should know.

In addition to teaching this class, Laverne and Russell moderate a book club at OASIS that meets on the fourth Wednesday of every month. Laverne also belongs to the Lutheran Society in Bellevue where she coaches computer classes. And when she can, she also volunteers for Mellon Bank and the Pittsburgh Symphony.

Laverne enjoys volunteering because of the new people she meets. "I enjoy going out and meeting new people. That's the main reason why I volunteer. It's also fun and helps me stay active."

For more information about OASIS, visit www.oasisnet.org/pittsburgh. *PSN*

Allegheny County Department of Human Services

Area Agency on Aging

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Serving the older adults of Allegheny County

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Contact Allegheny County Area Agency on Aging's SeniorLine at (412) 350-5460;
Toll Free - 1 (800) 344-4319; TDD - (412) 350-2727
or visit www.county.allegheny.pa.us/dhs/aaa



Information and Referral Service Partner Agencies And Senior Community Centers

| | | | |
|--|----------------|------------------------------------|----------------|
| Allentown Senior Center | (412) 481-5484 | LifeSpan, Inc. | (412) 464-1300 |
| Benedictine Center | (412) 931-6051 | Lutheran Service Society | (412) 734-9330 |
| Catholic Youth Association | (412) 621-3342 | Northern Area Multi-Service Center | (412) 781-1176 |
| Citiparks | (412) 422-6570 | Penn Hills Senior Center | (412) 244-3400 |
| Eastern Area Adult Services, Inc. | (412) 247-1446 | Plum Senior Community Center | (412) 795-2330 |
| Elder-ado, Inc. | (412) 381-6900 | Riverview Community Action Corp. | (412) 828-1062 |
| Hill House Association Senior Services | (412) 392-4450 | Seton Center, Inc. | (412) 344-4777 |
| Jewish Community Center | (412) 521-8010 | Vintage, Inc. | (412) 361-5003 |
| Lemington Community Services | (412) 362-7301 | * Ursuline Senior Services | (412) 683-0400 |
| | | (* Not a Senior Center) | |

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