

To: The Montgomery County council,

CAI members and volunteers

From: Cheryl E Johnson, Candidate for CAI Volunteers

Re: Funding for development of connection resources for Senior Communities.

My thought for each day is” a new day will bring new life opportunities”

My name is Cheryl Johnson, and I would like to share my journey of having a quality of life utilizing the resources I have acquired to meet my daily needs. As a wife, a mother, corporate executive as well as a full-time student my life consisted of 18-to-20-hour workdays. For a planned vacation I decided to have a medical procedure that eventually changed my world drastically and permanently disabled me. To begin my new life, I needed to have resources to assist my family and myself for quality living. This is where the challenge began for me and it's still ongoing.

I did not know how to address or to begin my search once I received Social Security disability. My case manager gave me the opportunity to begin using resources that were available from being a disabled client. Unfortunately, I discovered there was a challenge to connect with services to aid me in daily living. This challenge for me has taken 12 years and I am a Senior. One search I did allowed me to seek out a community resource which happened to be a community advocacy institute. Much to my surprise I am now a candidate and

learning to become a volunteer with this CAI organization, but my quest for Senior services is still ongoing.

I am asking and recommending participating in creating and developing a way to expand accessibility to resources for Seniors. The Senior resources are not easily accessible to the community. Creating an expansion into current marketing strategy can benefit the Senior community. In the expanded marketing strategy, some key points to require are:

- 1- A portal that provides access to the site of Resources available to Seniors...
- 2- Flyers to be inserted in mailings at many Senior community entities providing these resources...
- 3- Creating the one stop shop to include an option for Seniors to interview or assessing their needs ...
- 4- Developing a clearing house of Senior services to be grouped with available links to searches.

Now to achieve this potential strategic effort additional manpower will be required. I would like to offer my contribution and assistance to develop a potential team utilizing the following opportunities:

- a-utilizing students from our educational programs,
- b- adults and students from trade schools and associations,
- c-implementing an internship program, and
- d-participating in collegiate work study and internship programs.

I am asking for funding for these efforts and suggest that we utilize whatever existing marketing structure within the communities of Seniors with this additional funding. I am asking for the funding to develop a team assisting with the criteria I have addressed.

The accomplishment of expanded strategic marketing may lessen the search for many Seniors to obtain resources for quality of life. Please remember my search has been 12 years and should not wish this for anyone.

Respectfully, thank you for your time to review my statement.