

12th Annual Conference

NJFA hosted its 12th Annual Conference on Thursday June 10, 2010 at the Crowne Plaza in Jamesburg.

This year's conference featured two nationally recognized keynote speakers. Starting off the day was Donna Butts of Generations United who impressed the audience with her intergenerational model of shared sites. This is seen as an effective cost-saving measure when municipal and local governments are facing funding cuts. Informing the audience over lunch was, Bob Blancato, former Director of the White House Conference on Aging who presented information regarding the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act. The audience consisting of many advocates learned the needed skills to be engaged in the legislative process. Grace Egan, Executive Director of NJFA commented, "we are pleased that Ms. Butts and Mr. Blancato were able to share valuable information with more than 200 attendees at the conference".

Patricia Polansky, Assistant Commissioner of the NJ Department of Health and Senior Services provided an update to participants on the current State programs. The conference also featured morning and afternoon concurrent sessions topics included: Music and Your Brain, featuring Dr. Concetta Tomaino founder of the Institute for Music and Neurologic Function. A new reporting law was discussed in the session "Ethical and Legal Responsibility of Reporting Elder Abuse". A best practice model program for the Self Management of Chronic Disease included examples on implementation in diverse ethnic communities throughout NJ. NJFA also featured two of its grantees in this year's program, namely the Camden City Garden Club and Greater Mercer TMA.

NJFA would like to thank the sponsors of the 12th Annual Conference: Novo Nordisk, Thomas and Theresa Berry Foundation, The Wallerstein Foundation for the Improvement of Geriatric Life, Novartis Pharmaceuticals, Friends Foundation for Aging, Society on Aging of NJ, NJ Association of Area Agencies on Aging, NJ Association of Senior Center Directors, Harmony Information Systems, Roche Genentech, Francis E. Parker Memorial Home, Springpoint Senior Living Foundation and Horizon Blue Cross and Blue Shield of NJ. Exhibitors at this year's conference included, AMRamp, Seniors4Kids, Heath Village, OceanFirst Bank, GA Foods, Visiting Physicians, Wedgewood Gardens, Senior Care Management and Wells Fargo.