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Johns Hopkins Replicates Caring Together, Living Better in Baltimore

When The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation offered caregiver grants to make Maryland “The Best Place to Grow Old,” it encouraged organizations there to apply for funding to replicate some of the best practices of the national caregiver program, which included 14 caregiver projects – one of which was AgeOptions’ Caring Together, Living Better (CTLB).

Weinberg officials encouraged Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center (JHBMC) to replicate CTLB, the thriving faith-based caregiver support network in the south and west suburbs started in 2009 by AgeOptions and funded by The Weinberg Foundation, the Retirement Research Foundation, the Kott Foundation and the Helen Bader Foundation. CTLB was a good fit because JHBMC already had health program partnerships with churches.

Dan Hale, Ph.D., the Baltimore program director came to Illinois in 2014 to learn more about CTLB. In 2015, Linda Stewart, project manager, and Candyce Norris, community relations coordinator, visited to observe a caregiver workshop at Neighborhood United Methodist Church in Maywood, which has been a CTLB partner since 2013.

At Neighborhood United Methodist Church, they were so impressed with the church’s respite program and meeting its project leaders that they invited Neighborhood and AgeOptions to present at their orientation meeting for church leaders. After a follow-up phone call with Pam Williams, Neighborhood project leader, and Chelsea Hawkins, AgeOptions caregiver outreach

AgeOptions.

1048 Lake Street, Suite 300
Oak Park, IL 60301-1102

phone (708)383-0258
fax (708)524-0870

(800)699-9043
ageoptions.org

specialist, Pam and Sarah Stein, AgeOptions manager of community programs traveled to Baltimore in February.

“We were there to give people a sense of how it can be done, to give them a picture of what a caregiver support ministry can look like and some tips to help them as they develop theirs,” Sarah said. “Pam did a great job sharing the lessons learned at Neighborhood.



Pam Williams (far left) and Sarah Stein (2nd from right) at the orientation meeting for church leaders in Baltimore

The attendees were really glad to meet someone who had been in their shoes and successfully developed a caregiver support ministry.”