

29

Enhancing community participation

- 1 WHEREAS the number of older persons living alone has increased dramatically;
- 2 WHEREAS approximately 80 percent of older persons are healthy and able to engage in their normal activities;
- 3 WHEREAS older persons can anticipate at least twenty productive post-retirement years;
- 4 WHEREAS the human species is the only one with the communication skills to pass on knowledge from one generation to another;
- 5 WHEREAS auditory, visual, and other physical and sensory impairments dramatically contribute to an individual's isolation and loneliness; and
- 6 WHEREAS communities can mobilize resources to assist the older population to maintain ties with their social, cultural and spiritual lives;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the 1995 White House Conference on Aging to support policies that:

- 7 Promote policy and intergenerational programs which recognize that the citizens of this nation, young and old, can best advance and defend the quality of American life through cooperation and solidarity, and which involve older adults as valuable resources in the transmission of cultural values and in the exchange of skills;
- 8 Encourage all communities to engage older persons in developing meaningful roles, and devote resources toward enlisting older persons to contribute their wisdom and experience;
- 9 Support shared resources at the Federal, State, and local levels that encourage public/private partnerships to link older persons with their communities and support services through such programs as friendly visitors, telephone reassurance, emergency response, and computer networking, and remove regulatory barriers;
- 10 Recognize that older citizens stand ready to continue to share equitably the costs of government and to contribute to meet the needs of their communities;
- 11 Develop public education campaigns to combat stereotypes and negative stigma associated with the use of assistive devices;
- 12 Expand senior center programming to include social support and outreach programs for older persons and caregivers, including those in rural areas;

Appendix D: Text of the Resolutions

- 13 Promote systems that support local development of volunteer outreach and activity programs to encourage older persons in institutional settings to interact with their peers and other generations;
- 14 Promote the development of transportation alternatives tailored to individual needs, including those in rural areas;
- 15 Support Federal legislation that broadens the Good Samaritan Act to include volunteer drivers.

