



## The Senior Connection

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### **The Senior Connection of Montgomery County Is Recognized For Its Work in Helping Seniors Live Independently**

*Silver Spring Nonprofit, After Expanding Service Delivery by 37 Percent Over Past Year,  
To Be Featured in Prestigious 2011-12 Catalogue for Philanthropy: Greater Washington*

SILVER SPRING, Md., August 3, 2011—The Senior Connection, a nonprofit agency which helps adults age 62 and over live independently in Montgomery County, has been recognized by the prestigious 2011-12 Catalogue for Philanthropy: Greater Washington for its efforts that expanded service delivery by 37 percent over the past year and now assists seniors in Gaithersburg and Germantown.

The Senior Connection (TSC), which is based in Silver Spring, has continually built an impressive record of service since it was founded 17 years ago. One year ago, it was awarded the Montgomery County Grocery Shoppers Program contract formerly managed by the American Red Cross. Its expansion and implementation of the additional grocery shoppers program led to the Catalogue for Philanthropy: Greater Washington selecting the organization for recognition for the second time. A panel of 110 expert reviewers from area foundations, corporate giving programs and peer non-profit organizations evaluated 270 applications seeking inclusion in the 2011-12 Catalogue. Only about one-fourth of the applicants (70 in total) were selected for recognition.

The Senior Connection helps senior adults live independently by connecting them with volunteers who provide free transportation to medical appointments, grocery shopping, social visits and other basic support needs.

“I cannot be more proud of the reputation that our volunteers and service delivery has among the people it serves, as well as among the larger senior provider network,” said Senior Connection Executive Director Susan Dollins after learning the organization had been selected for recognition. “I accepted the challenge of starting this program 17 years ago, recruited my first volunteer and began delivering services. We have never looked back. In 2011, TSC provided volunteer services to 949 care receivers on more than 9,300 occasions with services totaling more than \$500,000 in value to the community.”

Now in its ninth year, the Catalogue for Philanthropy: Greater Washington’s mission is to generate visibility and resources for community-based nonprofits like The Senior Connection.

“Charities were selected for excellence, cost-effectiveness, and impact,” said Barbara Harman, president and editor of the Catalogue. “These are certainly among the best community-based nonprofits in the Washington region. We know that nonprofits have had another very difficult year, and the economy continues to create challenges: dollars are down and need is up.”

Executive Director Dollins said that TSC is the difference for many people between living independently and being forced into living choices they would prefer not to make.

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“For many seniors, just a little assistance, like the type TSC provides, means they can maintain their independent lifestyle,” she said. “Assisted living facilities are the right answer for some seniors, but for those who want to remain independent, and can do so with the right help, The Senior Connection is not just a service—it means independence. And few things are more precious than that.”

The Catalogue enables smaller non-profits to tell their stories to individuals who would otherwise might never have heard of them. It seeks to encourage those individuals to get engaged with the needs of those organizations. It also provides charities with a stamp of approval that tells donors they can invest with confidence because the Catalogue vets its family of nonprofits with great care.

Print copies of the Catalogue will be sent to 25,000 individuals and hundreds of family foundations in November. Others will visit the Catalogue web site at [www.cfp-dc.org](http://www.cfp-dc.org), the only regional philanthropy site of its kind in the country. It includes a gift registry, gift cards, a section especially for children and other giving options. The web site also connects donors with volunteer opportunities, events, news and more.

To learn more about The Senior Connection, or to volunteer, visit [www.seniorconnectionmc.org](http://www.seniorconnectionmc.org) or call 301-962-0820.

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