

## **For Immediate Release**

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### **Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell Praises The Efforts of Seniors Helping Seniors**

Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell praised the efforts of the non-profit Seniors Helping Seniors at the organization's annual summer picnic last Friday held at the Wyomissing Hills, Pa. home of the group's founder, Kiran Yocom.

Noting that Seniors Helping Seniors and similar programs help people remain in their own homes, Rendell said, "You've seen this program over the past seven years. It's been tremendously successful, so hopefully it keeps growing." He added that programs like Seniors Helping Seniors also ease the financial burden created by the state's growing elderly population.

"I wish the federal government and local governments had enough money to deal with all our problems," said Rendell. "But the sad fact is we don't and we need volunteers to fill those gaps."

Seniors Helping Seniors, incorporated as a non-profit in 1998, matches seniors (providers) who can provide a service such as household assistance, companion care, yard work, handyman services or 24-hour care with other seniors (receivers), who are in need of services. The group now has about 500 receivers and 200 providers.

Yocom hopes to expand the organization to other counties in Pennsylvania, as well as take it nationwide. "The need is so much. I'm trying to allow people to live at home rather than go into nursing homes and become just a number."

Rendell said, "This is really a wonderful program for older Pennsylvanians who are healthy to reach out and help their peers who are not as fortunate. A lot of older Pennsylvanians want to be able to live in their own homes."

Yocom added that the group's vision is to be the first place seniors in need of non-medical services to remain living in their homes call for assistance and to be the first place seniors seeking to supplement their incomes call for opportunities.

Also attending the picnic were a number of local state representatives who are supporting the efforts of Seniors Helping Seniors.

For more information, please call Seniors Helping Seniors at **610-858-2556**.

