

# 2014 Annual Report



## Brookline Community Aging Network

Dear Members and Friends:

BrooklineCAN was launched three years ago. Much has been accomplished in a short period of time. We are delighted to share with you highlights from the past year in this first Annual Report.

What has made the creation and on-going work of BrooklineCAN so exciting is the dedication and enthusiasm of the many volunteers who have joined in to be a part of something that has tangible rewards -- for the individual contributor and for the town of Brookline. Members bring their talents and a desire to make a difference and be part of a team. What they get back is the satisfaction of knowing they are making an impact. As we say BrooklineCAN is about helping your neighbors, helping yourself and helping your town.

We thank all those who have given of their time and energy to make BrooklineCAN a successful and well regarded organization. We hope to involve many more members in the year ahead. Please help spread the word about this unique organization.

Sincerely,

Frank Caro  
Co-Chair

Ruthann Dobek  
Co-Chair

***Help your neighbors. Help yourself. Help your town.***

# 2014 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## Our Members

Members are the engine of the organization. This year we have been working hard to build membership and engage members. Since our inception hundreds of people have become members of BrooklineCAN, with over 300 currently active. Members come from every neighborhood in town and from other cities and towns in the area. We like to say that our members are forward thinking! They understand membership in BrooklineCAN is a very cost-effective investment in ensuring that Brookline residents remain a vital part of the town's social, cultural and civic life as they age.

## Education



This past year we continued our commitment to offering educational events that address issues and trends important to our members and the greater community. We collaborated with community organizations to bring expert speakers who provide valuable information and perspectives. Hundreds of participants this past year have benefited from the opportunity to engage and learn together at the following educational events:

- Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Elder Care (But Were Afraid to Ask)
- Drinking, Drugs and Rock 'n' Roll
- Driving (Aging Behind the Wheel)
- Contracting with Confidence
- Accessible Home

## Communication



To keep our members and residents informed BrooklineCAN uses a variety of valued tools including our website – [www.brooklineCAN.org](http://www.brooklineCAN.org) – a monthly newsletter (available on-line and in print), promotional materials and social and traditional media outreach.

- The newsletter and website offer “one-stop” updated resources on BrooklineCAN and community activities including Advocacy, Culture, Education, Transportation, and Recreation & Fitness. They spotlight practical information, such as a piece on elevators at T stations, along with concerts, excursions, “Deal of the Month” and “Brookline Treasures”.
- Recent news stories have appeared online and in print in the Brookline TAB and the Boston Globe.
- We have a new brochure, a joint project of our Membership and Communication volunteers.
- Our website provides links to information on Twitter and Facebook that is of interest to older adults.

## Products and Services

BrooklineCAN has developed a variety of products and services designed to benefit members and the greater community.



- Published an on-line guide to residential buildings with elevators in Brookline. The guide is limited to buildings with 20 or more units.
- Created an on-line map showing locations of rest rooms open to the public.
- Developed and maintained a listing of 20 vetted services providers. Services include computer support, contractors, electricians, handymen, painters, plumbers, roofers, and snow removal.
- Launched the Professional Service Providers Group, whose 17 members are professionals, businesses, and nonprofit organizations based in Brookline and focused on serving the needs of older adults. The group offers members an opportunity for networking, collaboration, and education.

## Advocacy



BrooklineCAN is a tireless advocate for Brookline residents of all ages. We are dedicated to working with town government and residents to bring about valuable and practical changes that improve safety, access and economic security for Brookline residents. Our successes and ongoing work this year address vital issues and initiatives we all can learn about and support.

### Achievements in 2013-2014

- Catalyst for the Town of Brookline to become the first municipality in New England to join the World Health Organization's Age-Friendly Cities program.
- Obtained agreement from the MBTA to add a stop for the #51 bus at the Dudley Triangle to provide improved access for South Brookline residents to the Brookline Reservoir Park. Obtained agreement from the Brookline Department of Public Works to make sidewalk improvements at the Dudley Triangle to support the new bus stop.
- Introduced a successful resolution to the Annual 2014 Town Meeting for prompt, proactive enforcement of the Town's bylaw requiring commercial property owners to restore sidewalks to a non-slippery condition after winter storms.
- Collaborated with the Green Caucus (Town Meeting members concerned with environmental issues) in organizing an educational forum on Complete Streets in June 2014. Complete Streets seeks balanced local transportation planning that includes needs of pedestrians, cyclists, and public transportation users.

### Ongoing initiatives for which BrooklineCAN is advocating to...

- Develop a Complete Streets policy to strengthen pedestrian-friendly transportation planning in Brookline.
- Establish a district in North Brookline for enhanced pedestrian-friendly features. The district would include the greatest concentrations of seniors in Brookline. Pedestrian enhancements would improve safety and accessibility for seniors.
- Create a stronger financial base for the BETS program, a subsidized taxi voucher program for low-income seniors.
- Reduce basic water and sewer rates for low-income senior homeowners who use minimal water.
- Support a zoning bylaw that would legalize accessory dwelling units for seniors in single-family homes.
- Implement senior-friendly enhancements in parks including rest rooms, separation of bicycles and pedestrian paths, and attractive features for seniors.
- Safeguard pedestrians by requiring that cyclists walk their bikes when on sidewalks in commercial areas and other areas with a high volume of pedestrian traffic. We have negotiated the definition of some commercial areas in which riding of bicycles on sidewalks is prohibited and are awaiting signage to inform cyclists.

## GOVERNANCE

In 2014 BrooklineCAN elected officers for the first time based on newly adopted governance guidelines. Our officers, along with their terms of office, as well as our steering committee members are listed below:

### Officers:

Co-Chairs: Frank Caro (term ending 2016) and Ruthann Dobek (ex officio); Vice-Chair and Secretary: Molly Turlish (term ending 2016); Treasurer: Karen Zweig (term ending 2016).

### Steering Committee Members:

Representative from Council on Aging: Peter Ames; Representative of the Board of the Senior Center: Currently Recruiting. Founding Partners: Kathy Burnes, JF&CS; Laura Baber, HSL; John Moniz, Goddard House; At-Large members: Elenore Parker (term ending 2016), John Seay (term ending 2015), Matt Weiss (term ending 2016), Ruth Seidman (term ending 2015).

**Volunteer Committee representation:** Carol Caro, Communications; Molly Turlish, Membership; Ruthann Dobek, Education, Repair and Referral; Frank Caro, Livable Community, Age-Friendly; Professional Service Providers, Michelle LaPointe.

## FINANCIALS

Report to Steering Committee 7/16/14

Income for BrooklineCAN comes from individual and household memberships, as well as organizational

	<i>Income</i>	<i>Expenses</i>	<i>Net</i>
FY2012	\$13,168	\$6,440	\$6,728
FY2013	\$10,555	\$5,561	\$4,994
FY2014 (7/1/13 to 6/30/14)	\$11,874	\$7,200	\$4,674
<b>Total of BrooklineCAN funds as of 6/30/2014:</b>			<b>= \$16,306</b>

## THANK YOU!

We are grateful to our **Founding Partners** - Brookline Council on Aging, Center Communities of Brookline, Goddard House, and Jewish Family & Children's Service - for their on-going support of and commitment to BrooklineCAN.

Thanks also go to Sponsoring Donors whose support extends beyond basic membership:

**Platinum:** Carol and Frank Caro. **Gold:** Aaron and Ruth Kertzer Seidman. **Silver:** Dale and Neil Golden; Mary and Michael McConnell; Wade Horowitz LaPointe LLC. **Bronze:** Charlotte and Nicholas Burrage; Janie and Morgan Chickering; Doris and Saul Feldman; Rhonda Glyman; Gail Gordon; Betsy Shure Gross and Gary Gross; James P. Hughes; Anita L. Johnson; Judith Kidd; Harriet F. Koch; Susan G. Krinsky; Alberta and Roger Lipson; Betsy Munzer; Dick and Lucy Robb; Margaret (Peg) and Stephen Senturia; Robert Sprague; Rebecca Stone; Lewis and Molly Turlish.

The following **Professional Services Providers Group members are Bronze level contributors:**

Boylston Place; Center Communities of Brookline; Compassion and Choice; Coolidge House; HSM/ Helping Seniors Move; Jewish Family & Children's Service; Helen Kass; MAB; Make It Safe, LLC; Modigliani Geriatrics; The Move Maven; Professional Hearing Center; Wade Horowitz LaPointe LLC.

BrooklineCAN committee volunteers do the work! We would not exist without their steadfast involvement, expertise, good humor and teamwork.