



Florida Association of
Aging Services Providers

Florida Association of Aging Services Providers e-Newsletter

Volume 43: September/October 2014

Sponsor: Washington County Council on Aging

Guest Editor: Mary Smith, Washington County Council on Aging

Table of Contents

<i>Presidents Message</i>	1
<i>Catfish Anyone?</i>	2
<i>Advocacy Update</i>	4
<i>A Morning in the Lives We Touch</i>	5
<i>FASP Member Survey Results</i>	6-8
<i>Resources</i>	9
<i>Social Media Links</i>	10
<i>Sponsor Spotlight</i>	11

THIS ISSUE SPONSORED BY:



Washington County Council on Aging

Message from the President

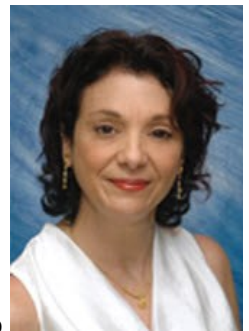
by Andrea Busada, Broward County Elderly and Veterans Services

Dear FASP Members:

Thank you for electing me as the President of the Florida Association of Aging Services Providers (FASP). It is indeed an honor to represent the FASP membership and I hope that I will do so in a manner that reflects your unending dedication to elder Floridians.

The FASP Board of Directors met last week for its annual strategic planning retreat and discussed the three pillars of the 2015 Action Plan: Information, Connection and Resources. Our goals are to increase FASP's visibility during the 2015 Legislative Session, increase the visibility and advocacy activities of service providers at the local level, increase participation in the annual membership meeting, develop a pre-conference intensive for the 2015 Conference on Aging, continue this bi-monthly newsletter and the quarterly conference calls with DOEA, and increase membership and sponsors.

Our service delivery system has weathered some significant changes during the past few years and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. As FASP members, we can help each other through these upheavals and present a united front to the community – if they see that we are committed to continued collaboration and coordination, they will have faith and confidence in our ability to improve and maintain the healthy and productive lives of the people we serve each day.



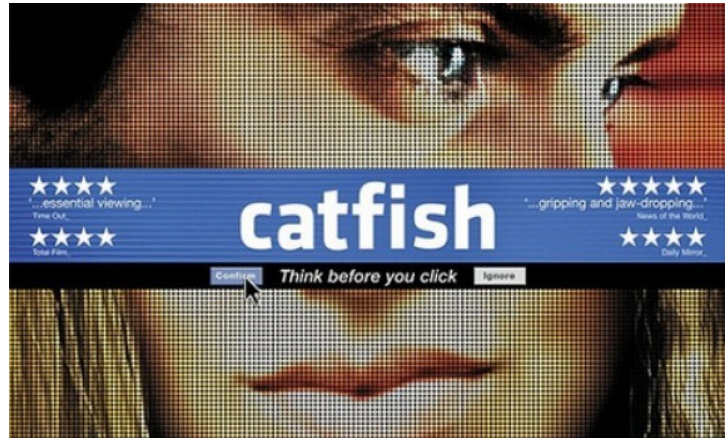
Please do not hesitate to call on me at any time for information and assistance. I am so excited to be a part of this amazing organization.

Sincerely,
Andrea Busada

Catfish Anyone?

CATFISH is something you eat, right? WRONG! The CATFISH I am speaking of are very different, and may hold the name because of the “sucker” bottom feeders that they are. These are actually people who choose to prey on others looking for a mate. They change their online identity to portray someone they are not. CATFISH may be male or female, and sadly, you may not know which you are talking with. The pictures they send are of someone else, not themselves, so as to fabricate a NEW PERSON.

CATFISH usually claim they have a family member they care for such as a child, sibling or parent, and tend to work their prey for several weeks, building a relationship with that person. When they feel they have bonded with their prey, they begin to say things like; I really want to see you and be with you very soon, I just don't have the money right now because my loved one is very sick, or many other excuses, in hopes the person will feel sorry for them and send them the funds needed. Most CATFISH pose as business men or women, who didn't receive a contract payment, and are in need of a loan, with promise of repayment that never occurs. Although they say they are chatting with you from right here in the US, they can be from anywhere in the world such as Russia, Nigeria, and other countries. THIS REALLY HAPPENS!



If I may, I would like to share a personal testimony with you of how this happened to me. Please feel free to share with others so that they will not fall prey to this scam.

Widowed for 2 ½ years, I swore I would never be involved in another relationship, much less remarry. However, I have experienced several changes in my life, and recently decided I did not want to grow old alone. Several friends and family members began sharing with me how they had met their spouses, which have proved wonderful additions to their families. Much to my surprise they met them in online dating sites.

One night as I sat in my living room, I thought, why not join a dating site, if nothing else maybe I'd meet someone to chat with. So, I signed up, loaded a few pictures, listed my stats as widowed, and even took a quiz to determine compatibility for a perfect match. Well, low and behold, I started getting “likes and smiles”, meaning someone liked my status, making this 56 year old feel great! The very first night I was conversing with what seemed to be a very nice man. We chatted for a few hours that night, and the next evening we chatted for a couple more hours. I was beginning to enjoy our talks and thought it was great getting to know someone new.

We began to drift apart when I didn't hear from him for a few days and decided, “Okay this gentleman didn't work out”. It wasn't long however, before someone else popped up to chat, his name was David. He was a very kind person, who knew ALL the right things to say for the makings of a perfect conversation. I would send him pictures and he would tell me how beautiful I was. Within the first conversation however, I became very concerned over the fact that he lived in Tampa, when my goal had been to meet someone within 100 miles. After giving it some thought, I decided it didn't matter, because it was nice just to have someone to talk to and make new friends.

David told me he was a single parent, even sent some nice pictures of himself and his son. One of the pictures looked a little odd causing me to become a bit suspicious. The photo was of him at a football game, dressed in a big heavy jacket, scarf, and gloves. It looked like he was in Minnesota, not Central Florida! We continued chatting and my goodness what a charmer; I told the ladies in the office he was too PERFECT! Well, on the third day he sent a message saying he was going to a Gators Football Game on Thursday evening. I thought that was odd since I knew most college games were played on Saturdays. Needless to say, this brought more suspicions and caused me to take a step back. A friend had told me she had seen a program on TV about “CATFISH” and that it would take them several hours to post a picture because they have to search the internet to find one they want to use. I asked him to send me a Selfie (a picture you take of yourself) right away, and his

Continued on Page 3

response was, he was in a hurry to get to the game and it would be later. Thinking about what my friend had told me, I decided to do some research.

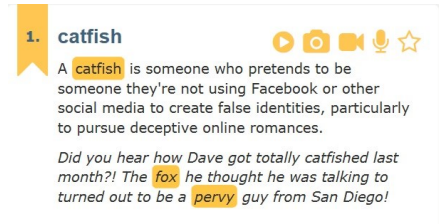
Now, I know just enough about football to be dangerous, so I Googled the Calendar of events for Florida football and found that the game he was referring to was actually played LAST year. I had his email address and decided to do a little research by “pinging” where his messages were coming from and yes you guessed it, they were not from South Florida they were from Seattle, Washington. I was livid and immediately sent David a nice little chat to inform him I no longer wanted to have any contact with him. I was devastated to find out that there are people out there taking advantage of others in this manner.

Thankfully, my story has a happy ending. The next evening I received a chat from the gentleman that had contacted me first. We had many online conversations getting to know one another, sharing photos, and just talking. We live within a hundred miles of each other, have met face to face, and are moving forward in a relationship that has meaning and we are very happy.

Dating sites are the future, so we need to know the dangers, but also remember that good things can come if handled correctly and cautiously. DO NOT send money to anyone for any reason. Try to stay within a hundred miles, so that you have the opportunity to actually get to know the person face to face. I have to say I am thankful for my friend who had seen the TV show and warned me about these scammers known as CATFISH.

Be safe and happy chatting!!!

-Mary Smith



Visited Our Facebook Page Lately?

The FASP Facebook page has regularly-updated information and links to valuable resources! We have recently posted grant information, how elders positively affect our economy, and more!

Click on our logo to visit our Facebook page and see what's new.



Advocacy Update by Robert Beck

We're two months away from beginning the 2015 legislative process with interim committee meetings leading up to the 2015 Legislative Session which begins March 3, 2015. I wanted to share a few thoughts with you as we begin the budget process again and our advocacy together for additional funding to serve frail seniors who remain on the waiting list for services.

.... ADVOCACY UPDATE

2014 saw the largest legislative increase in General Revenue-funded home care programs and services provided by the members of the Florida Association of Aging Service Providers. With your help at the local level we've been successful in securing legislative support for funding increases that have grown steadily over the past 4 years.

In addition, a critical event occurred last month when the Florida Legislature released its constitutionally mandated 3-Year Financial Outlook. The Outlook is a legislative tool that provides an opportunity to both avoid future budget problems and maintain financial stability between state fiscal years. The Outlook accomplishes this by providing a longer-range picture of the state's fiscal position that integrates projections of the major programs driving Florida's annual budget requirements with the revenue estimates. In this regard, the projections primarily reflect current-law spending requirements and tax provisions.

The Outlook also includes budgetary, economic, demographic, and debt analyses to provide a framework for the financial projections and covers the upcoming three fiscal years: in this version, 2015-16, 2016-17, and 2017-18. It does this by using anticipated revenues and expenditures in the current year (2014-15) as the starting point.

For the first time since the Outlook's first publication in 2006, the Financial Outlook includes forecasts for funding Community Care for the Elderly and Alzheimer's Respite Care as a "High Priority Need" as noted below:

29. Elderly Services

The Outlook includes funding for reducing the wait list for the Community Care for the Elderly program within the Department of Elder Affairs and for the Department's Alzheimer's Disease Respite Services based on three-year averages. These Other High Priority Needs increase General Revenue funds for the Department of Elder Affairs by \$5 million (\$0.6 million nonrecurring) for Fiscal Years 2015-16, 2016-17, and 2017-18.

While the Financial Outlook document does not mandate additional legislative funding for these programs, it does recognize and elevate the importance of funding the Community Care for the Elderly and Alzheimer's Respite Care Programs in the budget development process and includes funding for these programs in its financial projections – a significant change!

The 2015 legislative session will be a very competitive environment with a forecast of only \$336 million in new General Revenue available for discretionary spending (after Medicaid workload, K-12 student enrollment, and other 'mandated' budget items are funded). Add to this, a new House Speaker and Senate President, new Appropriations Committee Chairs, along with a number of new, freshman Legislators and we – that means you and I – really, really have our advocacy work cut out for us.

Following the organizational session of the Florida Legislature on November 18th, we will be providing FASP members with a comprehensive list of Appropriations Committee members – the elected officials who will determine what level of funding is provided for the General Revenue-funded programs including Community Care for the Elderly, Alzheimer's Respite Care, Local Service Programs, and Home Care for the Elderly.

Your efforts, along with your organization's Board of Directors, to reach out to these legislators, to educate them on the importance of the services you provide, to convince them of the need to help frail seniors on the waiting list, and the organizational efficiency in which you provide these services will be essential to our collective advocacy efforts. Make no mistake; your competitors – other programs and special interests – will be making a concerted effort to gain legislative support and appropriations for their programs. We need you to stand shoulder to shoulder with them and ensure that the needs of seniors are represented.

Thank you and I look forward to working with everyone again on behalf of Florida's seniors!

A Morning in the Lives We Touch by Mary L. Smith

5:00 It's 5:00 AM and I'm struggling to get up out of bed. As I try to sit up, it is very difficult to get myself on the edge of the bed, get my bearings and balance, and set my feet steady on the floor. Trying to get my walker, I rise to my feet and; Oh, NO, I really need to get to the bathroom quickly, but as I rise to my feet, I feel wetness begin to flow. Still trying to get my walker safely in front of me I wonder, how will I clean the urine off of the floor?

As I slowly begin to move toward the bathroom, I'm feeling helpless and frustrated knowing the task that is ahead of me. I remember when changing my clothes and getting into the bath took no thought or caution, but as I think on getting my wet clothing off and stepping up over the tub wall, I realize it isn't that easy anymore. So, now instead of a warm, relaxing bath, I step into the shower, where my shower chair sits waiting to aid me. I reach up for the shower hose to rinse off and find that even this is difficult. Finally, I'm clean as I can get myself and I begin the task of safely transferring back out of the shower. The fear of slipping and falling is always of great concern especially with the water on the floor, and then there's the chore of getting dressed while holding on to my walker without losing my balance.

Oh my goodness, I was in such a hurry I forgot to bring clean clothing to the bathroom. It's cool this morning and I grab a towel to wrap around me the best I can and hold to my walker until I can get back to my bedroom. Just as I reach the hallway the telephone rings. I try to get to the bedroom in time to answer and on the other end is the nicest person worried that at the age of 86, I didn't have enough Health Insurance coverage. She seemed very genuinely concerned for my well-being, informed me that my policy would not cover my needs, but for only \$249.00 a month she could give me coverage and save me thousands of dollars. So, I find my purse to give her my Bank Card, Date of Birth, and Social Security information. It's nice to know that someone cares about my circumstances.

6:30 Now, to pick out my clothes for the day. It is so cold in here and it's already 6:30 a.m. Oh great, I found this nice zipper dress to slip on, but where in the world is my adapter I need to zip the dress? Finally dressed, I look and see the urine still on the floor, grab my walker and make my way to the kitchen for cleaning supplies.

7:00 It's now 7:00 a.m., and as I bend to get my supplies from the cabinet I come up dizzy and realize I haven't had my breakfast or morning medications. I remember there is a breakfast meal from the Meals on Wheels delivery I received yesterday. I manage to get to the freezer for my meal, retrieve a knife to slice the covering, since I do not have the strength to pull back the plastic covering. I heat the meal in the microwave, and eat it slowly.

8:00 It is now 8:00 a.m. and I'm exhausted. With my walker I go to the cabinet where my medicine is stored. There are so many bottles, with many different dosages and directions. Hmmm.....which ones do I need this morning. I think I will just take my blood pressure pill, antibiotic, and a vitamin. I don't believe the others will make a difference today.

Getting my bearings again, I bend very carefully to get the cleaning supplies that I need to clean up the mess on the floor of my bedroom. I grab the mop and bucket and manage to balance my walker as I head carefully to my room. Oh Goodness, I need to go back to the bathroom! So, I prop things in the hall and successfully make it without an accident. I clean and mop the best I can until tomorrow when the sweet lady will be here to help me clean my house and get a really good bath.

9:00 It's now 9:00 a.m., I've been awake for almost four hours and I am so tired, I think I will lie down and rest a little while.

This story is one we have ALL heard over and over again as Florida Aging Service Providers. We must continue to HEAR them, and SEE them as well, so we may continue to advocate for them. Please remember that the NAMES you see on a computer screen have a STORY and the details are very specific to each Elderly individual we serve. Florida Aging Service Providers serve with our hearts and are some of the most loving, caring, and nurturing individuals you will ever meet.



FASP Survey Results



The following survey questions were sent to the FASP membership:

1. How does your agency provide assistance to consumers, who are not an active client nor currently an eligible client, presenting with a crisis issue (e.g. hunger, healthcare, mental health, bill assist, etc.)? A case example may be, they are eligible for LIHEAP and your agency is processing their paperwork but while completing the paperwork you also discover they have no food or need help purchasing their medicine.

We have a small food pantry and hygiene kits donated by a local non-profit. We have chucks and diapers also. Our items are limited, so we limit assistance to every 6 months if people need continued service.

We would provide food through the OAA program and through a small food bank that we house. Referrals to other agencies would be made on their behalf.

Normally we place them on the waitlist for DOEA services is eligible. We refer them to community resources based on the need. If a Case Manager has to complete a Home Visit, etc. then we use County Funds to cover the home visit and write-up. If the case meets the criteria of Adult Protective Services then that is recommended to the caller.

We refer to local agencies for their particular need. We have DayStar, food banks, Catholic Charities, We Help, etc.

Any person who is over the age of 60 or in the household with a member of 60 would be helped with food from our pantry, we would call other agencies in the network to assist them with those services we do not provide. We follow-up with them when they are referred to another agency. We refer to our ADRC as they are now the primary Information & Referral source in the PSA.

We refer to our Social Services or Health Care Services Dept., both of which are a part of Hillsborough County Gov't.

If not a current client or eligible, we make every effort to refer them to an agency that could assist; for example, if hunger, our food bank, if health care the local community clinic, etc.

Formally, Broward County Family Success Administration Division receives County General Revenue Funds to assist Broward County residents with emergency needs (rent, mortgage, electric, water, homeowners' dues, etc.) to prevent foreclosures, evictions, homelessness, electric shutoff and water shutoff. If the person seeking assistance is 60 years of age or over, they forward the case to us so that we can assist with that particular need and with any other need the constituent may have. We may assist with applying for Medicaid, SSI/SSDI, food stamps, LIHEAP, EHEAP, Veterans benefits, homestead exemptions, etc. - anything to help free up their income for other purposes to alleviate their burden and increase sustainability. When there's an urgent low-cost need (food, medicine, bus pass) we provide that from our own funds within the Elderly and Veterans Services Division. We have bus passes and Publix gift cards on hand, and will purchase medications, cleaning supplies, etc. as needed. We also follow up with referrals to programs as needed (Legal Aid, CCE, HCE, LTC, Behavioral Health, Substance Abuse, housing, etc.).

We refer them to 211, a program of the United Way of Manatee County.

We have many resources in our County that we can ask for help for them. We receive other funds from United Way and our Foundation.

We have an emergency fund from a donor we can use for basic necessities. We also keep shelf stable meals on-site so a CM can deliver to someone with no food. We do not give cash to clients from our emergency fund, but we will buy the meds directly from the pharmacy for them. We have an application and verification process.

We offer them referrals to the Aging and Disability Resource center and/or to the other services we provide; EHEAP, paid meals, OAA-funded meals, shopping program.

Continued on Page 7

2. If you do provide assistance, what sources of funds do you use to cover the case manager costs and the actual costs of food or other items?

Non-case management staff helps with the above.

Normally we would open the client in one of our funded programs. We are no longer able to do that because all clients must be referred to AAA and placed on a waiting list. Emergency help has become a real challenge for our agency.

We use County Funds to cover case manager costs. Food and other items are covered by the agency of whom the client was referred.

My agency has funding for Emergency Assistance through CSBG, City Social Action Funding, United Way.

Our social workers are paid through our OAA grant. We get food from donations from the community, religious organizations and Feeding South Florida.

Social Services receives grant funds, including LIHEAP and EHEAP and County funding. Health Services is funded by a 1/2 cent sales tax.

Since we would refer them to the agency that could help them, there would be no cost to our agency. We have to "suck up" the case management costs---what else is new? In a very few (rare) cases where the help might be urgent and the individual is not a client nor eligible for services, we might use local funds to solve the problem; e.g. help with a utility bill. These funds are donated funds. Again, this is done very, very sparingly as we do not know the full details of a non client situation.

County General Revenue funds

We do not provide assistance other than the referral to 211

Again we have other funding to help cover costs.

We don't have any way to cover the CM, but the donor funds the emergency fund.

Older Americans Act and private pay. In some cases, we are able to provide 2 weeks of emergency meals through a grant from a local Foundation.



3. Do you refer the person to another organization? If yes, which organization, what type of services does the organization provide and what is the source of their funding if known?

Yes, we make referrals, primarily using the United Way Quick Guide. We also give a list of food pantries operated by various organizations. We attempt to identify the correct referrals based upon the individual's stated needs.

We are a United Way agency and would most likely refer them through the 211 UW system.

Hillsborough County Social Services-LIHEAP, EHEAP, County Funding; Hillsborough County Health Care—County Funding and Health Care plan funding; Affordable Housing, Salvation Army, American Red Cross, County Social Services for emergency housing; Food pantries, Meals on Wheels and churches; Sunshine Line and HART for transportation needs; Social Services for bus passes or taxi vouchers.

Yes we refer to other agencies. Their funding is from various sources including City and County funding, do not know specific funding sources.

We refer to ADRC and to many different organizations depending on the need and what city they reside in. Too many to list here. We also refer to Catholic Charities and Jewish Family Service.

We refer to other Depts. in our organization if another source isn't available- SHIP, Meals On Wheels, Food Pantries, Metropolitan Ministries, etc.

Yes, we refer to other agencies. The organizations we refer to would depend on the help needed. We would not necessarily know the source of their funding.

We make frequent referrals to Legal Aid (funded by the state, state bar association)

United Way has compiled a list of service providers in all areas so they can recommend one in the service needed

If needed we refer people to Housing, Legal, communities centers or different non profit organizations.

We refer them to appropriate community resources depending on the need. There are churches and food pantries and other social service agencies.

Yes - Aging and Disability Resource Center - Older Americans Act funded through the DOEA. Has connections to all aging service providers in the County.

4. What resources do you use if it appears that mental health services are needed?

We have a local mental health center. We do not know how successful people may be with obtaining assistance through them. The agency is well-known within our County.

Our local service organization for Mental Health is Life Management. We can also refer for emergency assessments through law enforcement if appropriate.

We refer to Crisis Center or Mental Health Center who sometimes have indigent funding available.

Refer them to OAA funding program through Gulf Coast Jewish Family & Community Services.

We refer to NAMI.

Northside Mental Health Center or the Crisis Center of Tampa Bay.

We use Lakeview Center, a large mental health center in our community. Lakeview is an affiliate of our local Baptist Hospital.

We refer them internally to our DCF and County funded Behavioral Health and Substance Abuse Section.

Refer to Manatee Glens for treatment.

Not many however APS may be included to help with mental health issues.

We have an LCSW on staff that can help who is funded by a grant from a foundation and we have interns that also help.

Henderson Behavioral Health, Adult Protective Services, and the Aging and Disability Resource Center.

Resources

The Nov/Dec edition of the Elder Update is now available on the web, and can be accessed at the website below. This particular edition offers our salute to WWII vets around the state, and also includes stories on how to hire a licensed contractor, the importance of networking, and plenty on Medicare. Enjoy!

[http://elderaffairs.state.fl.us/doea/eu/2014/Elder%20Update nov-dec.pdf](http://elderaffairs.state.fl.us/doea/eu/2014/Elder%20Update%20nov-dec.pdf)

[illegible]

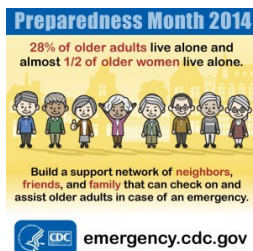
In a first-of-its-kind partnership, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced that it will join forces with retailer Walgreens to provide greater access to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention-recommended vaccinations to Veterans across the country. This partnership grew out of a successful pilot program that began in Florida to provide flu vaccines to Veterans throughout the state. Based on those results, VA is expanding the pilot nationwide.

Department of Veterans Affairs Partners With Walgreens

[illegible]

"Which State Has the Highest Percentage of Elderly Prison Inmates?" by Stephanie Stamm (National Journal [Washington, DC] via www.govexec.com, Sep. 29, 2014).

<http://www.govexec.com/state-local/2014/09/which-state-has-highest-percentage-elderly-prison-inmates/95348/>

[illegible]

Older adults may have a more difficult time preparing for or reacting in an emergency, especially those who live alone, have limited mobility or rely on a caregiver. If you or someone you love is part of this growing population of older adults, we have tips to help you be ready for an emergency or disaster.

<http://blogs.cdc.gov/publichealthmatters/2014/09/preparing-an-older-generation/>

[illegible]

November 2014

November 5-9, 2014: Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Washington, DC. Gerontological Society of America Conference. <http://bit.ly/1r4l9oN>

November 13-15, 2014: Orange County Convention Center, Orlando, Florida. International Conference on Active Aging. <http://bit.ly/1jgtvte>

FASP is on Facebook - Are You?



Do you or does your organization have a Facebook or Twitter account?
We would love to “like” “Friend” and/or “follow” you too.

FASP - Florida Association of Aging Services Providers Facebook page

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/pages/FASP-Florida-Association-of-Aging-Services-Providers/186392068069967>

FASP - Florida Association of Aging Services Providers Twitter

<http://twitter.com/FLAgingServProv>



DOEA - Florida Department of Elder Affairs Facebook page

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Florida-Department-of-Elder-Affairs/128604923878650?sk=wall>

FCOA - Florida Council on Aging Facebook page

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/pages/Florida-Council-on-Aging/74320166787>

FCOA - Florida Council on Aging Twitter

<http://twitter.com/#!/FCOA1>

.....



www.broward.org



www.fadsa.net



www.coawfla.org



<http://www.centralbnk.com/>



www.newvisioneyecenter.com



FPL

POWERING TODAY.
EMPOWERING TOMORROW.

<http://www.fpl.com>



<http://www.bmbinc.com>

SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

This issue of the FASP e-Newsletter was brought to you by the generous donation of



Washington County Council on Aging

<http://www.washcocoa.com>

The intent of the FASP Newsletter is to keep you informed about program updates and information relating to aging services providers. If you have any comments about the newsletter, suggestions on ways to improve it and/or items you would like included, please contact FASP by e-mail at moreinfo@fasp.net or by phone at (850) 222-3524.

FASP's Mission: Supporting older adults and the providers that serve them through information, connection, and resources

**JOIN US FOR THE 2015
FLORIDA CONFERENCE ON AGING!**

AUGUST 10-12, 2015

**The Caribe Royale
Orlando, Florida**

