

Senior Spectrum Expands With *SpectrumLink* –Aging and Disability Connections



From left to right: Corrinna Zaccadeli, Senior Spectrum; Maria Hinteregger, United Way of Mid-Coast Maine, and Sarah McLuer, United Way Intern, work together on the File of Life – a project of *SpectrumLink*, Aging Disability Connections, Bath/Brunswick.

(August 15, 2007 – Central Maine) Senior Spectrum has expanded its services to create *SpectrumLink* – Aging and Disability Connections. Senior Spectrum is the Central Maine Area Agency on Aging with seven community centers serving mature adults and their families across central Maine. *SpectrumLink* is built upon Senior Spectrum’s existing Consumer Information Services.

In addition to expanding outreach to the disability community network, *SpectrumLink* builds upon existing information and referral services, and streamlines the clinical and financial eligibility process for MaineCare and Medicare long-term support benefits. It enhances the “front end” of the consumer process by improving access for consumers and reducing duplication of effort in the system.

SpectrumLink services include eligibility screening for area services and long term supports such as community-based nursing or other home care services, assistance with completion of Medicaid and Medicare applications and identification of transportation options, prescription assistance, meals on wheels, assisted living, programs for caregivers, and information on nursing facilities.

SpectrumLink services are offered free of charge to adults age 60 and over, adults 18 and over with disabilities or chronic conditions, caregivers, family members, providers, or anyone who has questions about services or persons planning for future long-term care needs. Consumers can contact one office to determine all the options and services available to them, instead of piecing together assistance from multiple agencies and programs.

In central Maine, *SpectrumLink* services can be accessed Monday through Friday during regular business hours via a toll-free number, 1-800-639-1553, or by visiting any of Senior Spectrum’s seven community centers located in Hallowell, Waterville, Belfast, Rockland, Damariscotta, Skowhegan, and Brunswick. Services can also be accessed via the web at www.seniorspectrum.com.

Trained staffs at *SpectrumLink* help identify service options and conduct assessments to determine what services and programs people qualify. According to Mary Nicholas, Consumer Information Specialist, “*Spectrum Link makes it easier to help consumers connect with support systems and services, and help people living at home maintain their independence.*”

SpectrumLink – Aging and Disability Connections has been made possible by grant funds awarded to Maine by the Administration on Aging, and is also supported in local communities with two active resource coalitions: Bath/Brunswick and Lincoln/Knox.

Providers of services meet together on a regular basis with a goal “to have the best possible community system to help seniors and other adults who need long term services find the help that’s right for them,” according to the United Way of Mid Coast Maine, who administers Bath Brunswick *SpectrumLink* Coalition.

For more information on how to access these services, please call Senior Spectrum at 1-800-639-1553 or online at www.seniorspectrum.com.