Community Connectors Program

The Community Connectors program was developed by the Tri-County Rural Health Network due to the need for better long-term care in the Delta region. “The purpose of Community Connectors is to focus primarily on empowering elderly and adult disabled citizens to stay in their own home as long as possible rather than going to an institution. The goal is to enhance the quality of life through use of home and community based and to reduce costs for Medicaid.”

The Community Health Workers/Connectors are recruited out of the communities in which they serve due to their ties to that community. They assist in communicating information to the community members. They assist in determining an individual’s eligibility for medical, social or financial services, and link people to the necessary healthcare providers or home care services. The 3 year implementation and evaluation of the program was conducted via a community-university-state agency collaboration. An evaluation of the program found it to be cost saving to Medicaid. A program expansion plan has been proposed to include 12 new high-poverty, high minority Delta counties, in addition to sustained service in Phillips, Lee, and Monroe counties.

Photograph: The Community Health Connectors

For more information about Community Connectors visit:

www.communityconnecting.net

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service January 18, 2010

UAMS faculty, students, Arkansas Minority Health Commission and the community came together in a “Day of Service” in recognition of Martin Luther King, Jr. at the Village Commons. Village Commons is a nonprofit grassroots organization raising awareness through education and programs on sustainable living. Village Commons programs include promoting healthy homes, youth programs, mentoring green organizations and urban gardening. Volunteers brought garden tools and helped with cleaning, and garden cleanup.