

May 2016



Journeys

A Newsletter of Travelers Aid International

OUR NEWS

2016 Annual Meeting Nears

A full agenda is now in place for the 2016 Travelers Aid International Annual Conference, June 13-15, in Las Vegas. Participants will tackle a diverse range of subjects including domestic violence, crowdfunding, marketing, volunteer HR issues and elements of an effective customer service program.

Agenda features national speakers:

Natalie Martinez and **Gretchen Shaw**, of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, will discuss funding options for local agencies; a new program to assist abuse victims to achieve financial independence as well as programs to reform the batterer to prevent future abuse.

Caryn Stein, of Network for Good, will provide a primer on crowdfunding also known as fundraising using social media. Fundraising experts note that crowdfunding is the most effective way to tap the millennial generation. Several members already use this technique and they will share their insights.

Carol Hollowell, executive director of the Switchpoint Community Resource Center in St. George, Utah, will be the keynote speaker. Hollowell will recount her 39-day cross-country bike trip last summer where she visited a number of homeless shelters to learn new and effective ideas to help individuals overcome poverty.

Gretchen Meyer, director of customer service at Chicago O'Hare International Airport, will share the contract administrator's perspective as to how a Travelers Aid volunteer operation can truly become indispensable to an airport's management team.

Member participants:

- Daystar Life Center
- FamilyAid Boston

- Society of St. Vincent de Paul - Marin County
- Travelers Aid Chicago
- Travelers Aid of the Inland Empire

[Complete agenda](#)

[Registration remains open.](#)

Travelers Aid Website: New Look, More Resources

Earlier this month, Travelers Aid International replaced its tired, outdated website with a new look and more member resources. The URL remains the same - www.travelersaid.org.

When we began the redesign process, we set 3 primary goals:

- To make it easier for those in need to find help - we have included a locator map on the homepage
- To raise our profile - we now have upfront stats on just what Travelers Aid is all about
- Facilitate peer-to-peer communication - a new members only area contains the Membership Directory, Best Practices ideas and discussion forums, and a searchable database on member news.

This and earlier newsletters are now archived on the website. Complete PDFs of each newsletter are available at www.travelersaid.org/newsroom. While a searchable database of all newsletter stories is available to members at www.travelersaid.org/members-news.

The new design is also mobile-friendly.

To access the Members Only area, you will need credentials to pass thru the gateway. Unique login credentials have been created for each member agency. If you need your credentials, please contact Tom Smith at tom@travelersaid.org.

YOUR NEWS

Volunteers

Ontario - The Moreno Valley Unified School District honored Travelers Aid of the Inland Empire with its 2016 Community Service Award. Every Friday Travelers Aid volunteers assist two Moreno Valley students navigate the airport as they return from the California School for the Blind.

Milwaukee - Travelers Aid of Milwaukee hosted an Appreciation Luncheon on April 16 for its airport volunteers.

The Travelers Aid of Milwaukee is in the midst of making a video. The primary goal is to increase the general awareness of the Travelers Aid services; as a tool on social media to recruit volunteers along with placement on the General Mitchell International Airport's web page listing volunteer opportunities.

Wilkes-Barre - The Commission on Economic Opportunity honored its volunteers on May 17 with a celebration at Wilkes University.

Toronto - The Travellers Aid Society of Toronto on May 7 presented service awards during its volunteer

appreciation celebration. Ontario Minister Citizenship, Immigration and International Trade, Michael Chan, attended the event.

Community Involvement

Washington - The Travelers Aid volunteers at Washington Reagan National Airport participated in World Wish Day on April 29 by assisting the family of five-year-old Sammy in his flight to Orlando. The trip was featured on the local Fox affiliate. The staff at Orlando International Airport tweeted about Sammy's travels through their airport.

IN THE NEWS



[Travellers Aid Australia in the news. \(Click to view\)](#)



[TV report on HELP of Southern Nevada's team that visits the homeless in the tunnels each day.](#)



[Expertise of Crisis Center CEO Clara Reynolds sought in high profile national news story.](#)

Marin Agency's Views Reported in Story Pushing for Year-Round Shelter

Suzanne Walker, deputy director of St. Vincent de Paul Society of Marin County, was interviewed on May 10 by *The Catholic San Francisco* on the need for a year-round homeless shelter. Her agency transports the individuals to shelters after screening them for safety and sobriety. [Read more.](#)

Ring Tells *Globe* Editors Nonprofits Working with State over Homelessness

FamilyAid Boston CEO Richard Ring on May 26 in a Letter to the Editor tells *The Globe* readers that family, shelter providers have always envisioned a system that is flexible and focused on preventing homelessness in the first place and then rapidly rehousing families. [Read more.](#)

MILESTONES

New Hires and Promotions

Green Bay - Cara Gosse was recently hired as the new vice president of communications and development for Family Services of Northeast Wisconsin. She was most recently the director of annual giving at Lawrence University in Appleton.

Newark - Rachel Friedrich was promoted as the program manager for Travelers Aid at Newark Liberty International Airport. Christian Haven was promoted to the assistant manager post.

Washington Reagan - In March, Priscilla Carey was promoted to be the full-time position of assistant manager for Travelers Aid at Washington Reagan Airport. A long-time volunteer, Ross Eisenman was hired as the part-time coordinator of volunteers.

[The digital Travelers Aid International Membership Directory has been updated on our website.](#)

FUNDRAISING

FamilyAid Boston's Anniversary Fund Continues to Grow

Boston's Ruby W. and LaVon P. Linn Foundation is providing a \$180,000 grant to FamilyAid Boston to be used to purchase a building for its HOMES program, which provides permanent, affordable housing to formerly homeless families. The gift, a first from the Linn Foundation, is part of the FamilyAid Boston's campaign to raise \$1 million to mark its 100th anniversary. The agency has now raised more than half its goal which will be used to purchase additional units of affordable housing for homeless families. It will mark its 100th anniversary with a gala event on Nov. 17.

The 14 members of the FamilyAid Boston team in the Boston Marathon raised \$134,000 to provide homeless parents and children with shelter and housing. The team exceeded its goal.

Annual Gala Sets Record for Community Link

Charlotte's Community Link raised \$131,400 from its Sweet Escapes gala in April. This is the first time the group has raised more than \$100,000 from the event.

Techies Donates to Hope Atlanta During 15-Minute Giving Spree

Hope Atlanta received \$56,000 in pledges during the May 7 Digital Ball sponsored by Atlanta's technology community, TechBridge®. The funds will support Hope Atlanta's vision to use technology to track the progress of their homelessness services. [Read more.](#)

Future Events

June 11, Annual Heartland Alliance Home & Garden Tour. [Learn more.](#)

June 14, HELP of Southern Nevada will host its annual 2016 Golfer's Roundup at Cascata Golf Club in Boulder City. [Learn more.](#)

June 18, the Butterfly Festival in Appleton will fund the programs of Family Services of Northeast Wisconsin. [Learn more.](#)

June 20, Baltimore's Catholic Charities will host its annual Blasé Cook Classic Golf Tournament at the Baltimore Country Club. [Learn more.](#)

July 11, HELP of Southern Nevada will benefit from Cabana Day at the Palms Pool.

July 22, Family Guidance Center will host its 22nd Annual Gold Rush Gala at the RSA Activity Center in Montgomery. [Learn more.](#)

July 23, Travelers Aid Society of Birmingham will host its Second Annual Senior Prom at the YWCA Birmingham to benefit its senior ride program. [Learn more.](#)

Aug 8, Golfn'4 Homeless Prevention benefitting the programs of Halifax Urban Ministries at River Bend Golf Club, Ormond. [Learn more.](#)

Aug. 31, Crisis Center of Tampa Bay will benefit from a social fundraiser, Beer & Bow Ties, at Ritz Ybor. [Learn more.](#)

Dave Asselin, President/CEO

dave@travelersaid.org

202-546-1127 ext. 101

Andrea Itkin, Senior Director, Transportation Programs

andrea@travelersaid.org

202-546-1127 ext. 103

David North, Director of Social Services Programs

dnorth@travelersaid.org

202-546-1127 ext. 104

Thomas J. Smith, Manager of Communications & Development

tom@travelersaid.org

202-546-1127 ext. 102

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