

Civic Engagement

"Civic engagement means working to make a difference in the civic life of our communities and developing the combination of knowledge, skills, values and motivation to make that difference. It means promoting the quality of life in a community, through both political and non-political processes." *Civic Responsibility and Higher Education*

Contrary to popular perception, the aging of the significant increase in the Baby Boom population presents our nation with a potentially powerful resource opportunity. If strategically mobilized, older adults can increasingly fill gaps in areas such as education, health care, and family support.

The net result would be billions of tax dollars and the wise use of older adult's time and talents. In fact, a June 2005 *Business Week* article stated that: "If society can tap [Boomer] talents, employers will benefit, living standards will be higher, and the financing problems of Social Security and Medicare will be easier to resolve."

In Colorado older adults in 2004 contributed to the community in a variety of ways through volunteering, care giving and paid work. The value of these unpaid contributions by older adults in the state of Colorado was over \$1.6 billion in a 12 month period.

So what are the ways in which you can get involved?

- ? Volunteer at the secondary schools
- ? Serve on the Boards of Non-profits or volunteer
- ? Design or volunteer a Intergenerational program in your community
- ? Assisting grandparents raising grand children
- ? Support older volunteers who support families with special needs children
- ? Volunteer at the local library
- ? Volunteer to deliver home delivered meals to senior who are home bound
- ? Participate with your local city council
- ? Provide transportation for an older adult to go to church, shopping, doctor appointments