

PRESS RELEASE

Area Agency on Aging Awards New Vehicles to Senior Nutrition Provider for Home Delivered Meals Program *Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Older Americans Month*

Kilgore, TX, May 6, 2015: Recently ETCOG and the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) presented its new senior nutrition contractor, Marshall-based Paths for Improved Living (PIL), with five new vehicles to assist in transporting home delivered meals to seniors in Camp, Harrison, Marion and Panola Counties. The senior nutrition program is funded and designated by the Older Americans Act to provide hot, nutritious meal services for persons sixty years of age and older. This month is the 50th anniversary of the Older Americans Act and we are focusing on how older adults are taking charge of their health, getting engaged in their communities, and making a positive impact in the lives of others.

"The Older American Act was enacted in 1965 by President Lyndon Johnson's 'The Great Society.' Seniors are a vital part of our society laying a strong foundation for our communities, our state and our nation. We honor our seniors for the vast contributions they have made to our nation," said ETCOG's Director of the Area Agency on Aging, Bettye Mitchell. "It is with great pleasure we welcome the newly established Paths For Improved Living as our newest nutrition provider. PIL open its doors in

January, and since then, we have seen a surge in the number of participants receiving meals in Marion, Camp, Harrison and Panola Counties. We are excited about the leadership of Claude Andrews, the former Director of the Area Agency of Aging of East Texas, as President/CEO of PIL. Mr. Andrews successfully developed programs to enhance the lives of seniors as Director of the Area Agency of Aging of East Texas. We look forward to the development of innovative programs serving our seniors by PIL in keeping with 50 years of legacy of the programs established by the Older Americans Act."



PIL began its contract for service in January 2015, to provide home delivered meal service and to serve congregate meals at Jefferson Senior Center, 111 W. Broadway, Jefferson, TX; Marshall Senior Center, 106 Crockett St., Marshall, TX; Newsome Senior Center, 267 CR 3516, Leesburg, TX; Pittsburg Senior Center, 525 Elm St.,

Pittsburg, TX; and Waskom Senior Center, 165 Texas Ave., Waskom, TX. The agency stepped in after a previous contractor opted to end its contract, and since its inception, PIL has seen a high interest, serving 1,465 seniors at the congregate site and 2,542 home delivered meals. PIL aims to fulfill its goal of taking care of its clients as a whole, providing education, technology, health and transportation. They have plans to offer computer courses, exercise classes, health information and transportation to the congregate site if needed. Seniors interested in the meal program may call (903) 923-8410 or toll free at (800) 442-8845.

"PIL is most grateful for the assistance we have received from ETCOG and the AAA staff. These vehicles will greatly assist us in being able to operate a more effective and efficient meal program. One of our goals is to provide a gap filling service for 60+ clients on Medicare and low income clients who need transportation services in coordination with Go Bus and the Medicaid transportation program. We are looking forward to having a great coordinated service delivery system for our seniors in Camp, Harrison, Marion and Panola Counties," said President/CEO of PIL, Claude Andrews.

The AAA senior nutrition program serves the entire ETCOG fourteen county region through three contractors and one vendor. In 2014, the program served 322,864 home delivered meals and 75,321 congregate meals through those contractors. For more information, contact ETCOG's Director of the Area Agency on Aging, Bettye Mitchell, at (903) 218- 6518.

About Area Agency on Aging of East Texas

The Area Agency on Aging of East Texas is designated by the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services to coordinate services for persons in East Texas who are 60 or older, with particular attention to low-income minority older individuals, older individuals with limited English proficiency, and older individuals residing in rural areas. Programs include, but are not limited to: Information, Referral and Assistance, Benefits Counseling/ Legal Assistance, Nursing home Ombudsman, Care Coordination, Caregiver Support Program and transportation provided by GOBUS. The Area Agency on Aging provides Nutrition programs delivering hot, nutritious meals to eligible homebound senior and providing congregate meals at local senior center. The Area Agency on Aging is a program of ETCOG serving its 14 county region.

About ETCOG

The East Texas Council of Governments (ETCOG) is a voluntary association of counties, cities, school districts and special districts within the fourteen-county East Texas region. ETCOG assists local governments in planning for common needs, cooperating for mutual benefit and coordinating for sound regional development. Established in 1970, ETCOG, either directly, or through its contractors, provides programs and services for East Texas seniors, employers, and job seekers. ETCOG and its contractors also build the 9-1-1 emergency call delivery system, provide peace officer training and homeland security planning services; and deliver rural transportation services, business finance programs, and environmental grant funding for the region.