



Bears for Elder Welfare

October 2014

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CLUB MISSION: BEARS FOR ELDER WELFARE STRIVES TO PROMOTE CAMPUS AWARENESS OF ISSUES IN AGING, TO CULTIVATE APPRECIATION IN ELDER, AND TO ENCOURAGE STUDENTS INVOLVEMENT IN ACTIVITIES PROMOTING ELDER WELFARE.

SEPTEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

With September being the start of our semester, we still have plenty more new activities to finalize. One of our newest projects was the mug decoating event in which we raised money through selling mugs that members decorated. All of the money raised went toward research via the Cure

Alzheimer's Fund, who uses 100% of the donations toward research.

Another successful event we had this month was the first general meeting. Thank you to those who came out! We can't wait to meet more of you during our socials, future general meetings, and volunteer events!

Kyakameena

Hey Bears! This semester, we have a new senior home to volunteer at. As a Dutch-African phrase for "Welcome to our peaceful home," Kyakameena is more than just a facility for elders. There is a wide diversity of residents at the center, some of which are more cognizant and talkative while others are more introverted. Located on Fulton and Carleton, it is only about a 15 minute walk from campus. We are currently planning a wide range of activities with the facility, so get pumped! If we have enough passionate volunteers, we may host more events at Kyakameena!

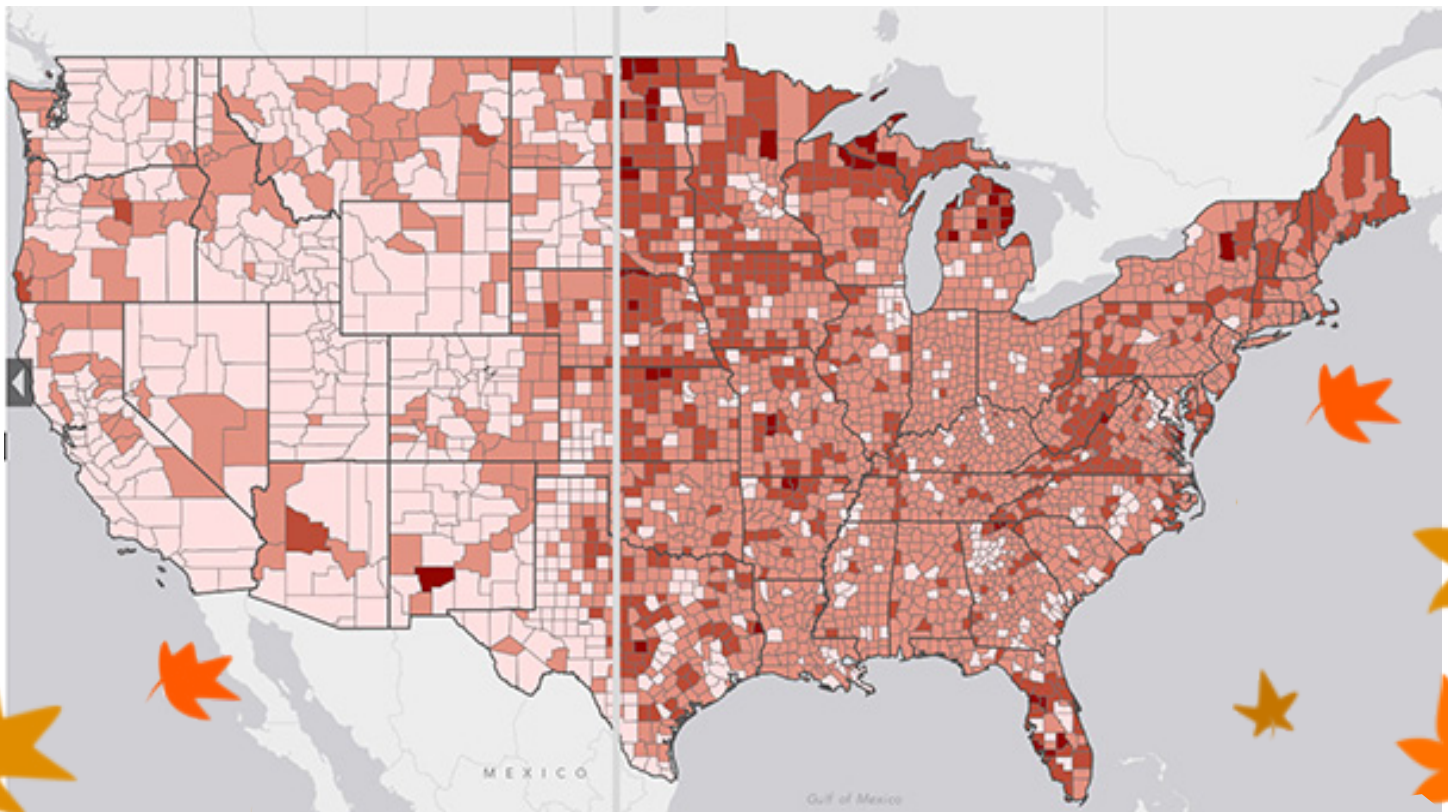


Upcoming Events

OCTOBER 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

- 2ND GENERAL MEETING: Oct. 8, 7-8PM @ 182 Dwinelle
- KYAKAMEENA: Do fun activities with residents and elders! Oct. 18 and 25, 2-3:30 PM
- CENTER FOR ELDER'S INDEPENDENCE: Oct. 17, 2-2:45PM - Do fun activities with elders!
- Oct. 24, 2-2:45PM - Do activities with elders for United Nations Day!
- Oct. 31, 2-2:45PM - Walk in the community with elders!
- AMISTAD HALLOWEEN CRAFTS: Oct. 31, 10-11AM
- ELDERWISE: Help elders overcome isolation and loneliness through a one-on-one match!
- SENIORS CENTER WITHOUT WALLS: A free telephone program connecting elders through activities, friendship, and community

CONTACT US AT BEARS4ELDERWELFARE@GMAIL.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION!



The split map shows the percentage of the population aged 50 and over in 1990 (left side) and in 2010 (right side). The darker the color, the higher the percentage of elders aged 50 or older. *Photo credit: ESRI/DeLorme*

HOUSING FOR THE AGING POPULATION

By **Spencer Liem**
Education Officer

As the U.S. population gets older, the amount of housing to accommodate elders has stagnated. According to a Harvard study and an AARP report, in the next 20 years, the expected number of elders (70+) will double to 13.4 million. By 2050, those living in assisted living homes and retirement homes will balloon to 27 million.

Housing has always been a critical issue in America, most notably for the elderly population which commit nearly $\frac{1}{3}$ of their income on housing and basic needs

associated with housing. Lack of housing will likely drive up prices and cost of living, leading to less allocation of money towards food, healthcare, and a quicker depletion of an already deprived retirement savings fund.

A quick solution would be to say, "Why don't elders simply live where they live now, in homes or with their immediate/extended families?" But an estimated 70% of elders are expected to be eventually moved to retirement or assisted-living facilities, a product of both American stigma of living

with elders incapable of self care and inconvenience on the part of the family.

What can be done? It will take a joint effort from both housing programs and the government to create solutions to the housing dilemma. Currently, housing programs are at a disconnect with elders, who they see as less exploitable. There is also talk of creating retirement villages which are specific communities designated for elders to live in together. Either way, America will soon have to address the issue of its aging population. As it stands right now, it is entirely unprepared for the baby boom generation to retire.