



# OCCOA

**OTSEGO COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING**



Submitted by  
**Eileen Godek**  
RESEARCH &  
VOLUNTEER  
COORDINATOR

*We Help.  
We Care*

**Home**

- Board of Directors
- Agency Representatives
- FAQ
- Customer Service
- Staff
- Aging Resources
- Community Resource Directory
- Complaint Resolution Procedure

**Activities Calendar**

**Adult Day Services - Otsego Haus**

**Advocacy Department**

**Caregiver Support Group**

**Creating Confident Caregivers Workshop**

**Donations and Planned Gifts**

- Make a Donation
- Make a Planned Gift
- Testimonials
- Donor Wall

**Educational Breakfast Series**

**Employment Opportunities**

**Fall Reduction Programs**

- A Matter of Balance
- Young at Heart

**Flu Shot Clinic**

**Grandparents Raising Grandkids**

**In-Home Service**

**Meal Program**

- Menus
- Meal Reservations

**Medical Resources Department**

**Medical Transportation Program**

**Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program (MMAP)**

**Parkinson Support Group**

**PATH Workshops**

**Prime Times**

**Senior Project FRESH**

**Special Events**

- See What's New!

**Technology & Aging**

- BeBloomin
- Computer Club
- TAP

**Volunteer Program**

- Volunteer Opportunities
- Volunteer Registration

120 Grandview Blvd., Gaylord, Michigan 49735



## What's The Buzz?

### BeBloomin Pilot Program is Buzzin' Along in the Touch Screen Phase!



**SIX BEBLOOMIN TOUCH SCREENS WILL BE LOCATED AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN OUR COMMUNITY!**

It's been just eight months' time since the OCCOA board gave its blessing on the pilot program between the OCCOA and BeBloomin, and excitement and interest for the program continues to grow. BeBloomin is an easy-to-use Internet technology that allows interface between older adults and their family members, friends, and community-based businesses and organizations for care, support, social interaction, services, and outreach. BeBloomin can currently be accessed through computers with Internet connections and will soon be accessible through android devices, iPads, and television sets.

OCCOA Executive Director Dona Wishart notes that the momentum for the project continues to grow. Just three months ago, there were 299 BeBloomin users located in 75 zip codes who were signed up for BeBloomin free-for-life accounts. She reports, "We now have 664 users in 177 zip codes!"

Wishart shares that the 14 organizations and businesses that were selected for free community partner accounts, including the OCCOA, have all been hard at work getting the cameras that have been provided by BeBloomin set up in their facilities. The cameras will make live streaming possible on the system for such things as church services, meetings, and events. She notes, "Right now, BeBloomin users can log into the system and see that the cameras at Trinity Lutheran and the First United Methodist Church are connected and live."

There is still a lot of work to be completed by the partners, and with their requests for additional time to complete the necessary installation and testing, Wishart has renegotiated with BeBloomin to extend the user account sign-up period to September 30, 2015.

Wishart reports that the program has entered its next planned phase, which is the installation of six 20" touch screens, provided by BeBloomin, within the community. This will allow individuals who do not have computers to see what BeBloomin is all about, sign up for accounts, and receive guidance or services for which they are in need.

She notes that the OCCOA has been testing its touch screen and will soon be making it available to the public at the Gaylord Meal Site, which is located in the Alpine Alten Zimmer. She notes that a second touch screen is up and running at the United Way Building and ready for use. She adds, "Touch screens will soon be available at each of the funeral homes to aid staff in conducting funeral planning with long-distance relatives of the recently deceased." One touch screen will also soon be available at the University Center and another will be located in one of the community's assisted living facilities.

The United Way building's touch screen is situated at its own station in the main office and provides a direct portal to the BeBloomin website. United Way Executive Director Keith Moore notes that it is available for anyone's use and that volunteers and staff members are looking forward to helping people sign up for BeBloomin accounts. They are also happy to demonstrate BeBloomin's features and to show them how easy it is to use.

Moore shares, "BeBloomin is a wonderful portal to volunteering because it offers people an additional way to connect their unique skills and talents to the community outside the confines of school, employment, or retirement." He muses, "A lot of people want to change the world, but there is so much we can all do right now to change our community to make it a better place."

The United Way building also houses the RSVP offices and staff. RSVP Director Judy Koronka is very excited about getting more of her volunteers signed up for BeBloomin accounts. Volunteers are constantly coming and going and the proximity of the touch screen will make it easy for them to stop by and see how wonderful and easy BeBloomin is to use.



**RSVP DIRECTOR JUDY KORONKA AND UNITED WAY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR KEITH MOORE ARE PROUD HOSTS TO THE BEBLOOMIN TOUCH SCREEN THAT IS LOCATED IN THE UNITED WAY BUILDING**

Koronka is also excited about making e-volunteering (volunteering through the Internet) opportunities available for homebound volunteers and for the community's youth. Through BeBloomin's high-quality video calling feature and live streaming capabilities, she envisions many intergenerational volunteering opportunities. She explains, "I can see older adult volunteers reading to classrooms of young children and interacting with them. I can see high school students providing basic assistance to older adults about computers and technology." She adds, "E-friendly visiting with homebound older adults is also a possibility for older and younger volunteers, alike."



**RSVP VOLUNTEER JUDY DANIELS ENJOYS A VIRTUAL VISIT TO THE PENGUIN EXHIBIT AT THE CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE.**

Judy Daniels, an RSVP volunteer who works at the United Way building's reception desk, shares her impressions of BeBloomin. "I think it's very easy to use!" She adds, "I like the games, and there are so many e-books to choose from!" Daniels marvels about how quick and easy it is to make live video calls through BeBloomin. She is also excited about BeBloomin's virtual travel events. She jokes, "I'm looking forward to telling my family and friends that I'm taking a live tour of the Tower of London next week!" Of course, a little explanation of how this will be possible is sure to follow!

Still don't have your free-for-life BeBloomin account? **You only have until September 30th to sign up.** To get in on the fun, just visit [www.bebloomin.com](http://www.bebloomin.com) on a Google Chrome or Firefox browser and be sure to enter OCCOA as the authorization code to get your **free-for-life** account.

**NEED HELP OR HAVE QUESTIONS? JUST PHONE THE OCCOA AT (989) 732-1122 OR LOG ONTO THE OCCOA WEBSITE AT [WWW.OTSEGOCOUNTYCOA.ORG](http://WWW.OTSEGOCOUNTYCOA.ORG).**

**989.732.1122 • [www.OtsegoCountyCOA.org](http://www.OtsegoCountyCOA.org) • Advocacy 989.732.9977**

IN-HOME SERVICE ~ 989.705.2574 • MEAL PROGRAM ~ 989.732.1746 • SPECIAL EVENTS ~ 989.732.4702 • VOLUNTEER ~ 989.705.2572 • WEATHER ~ 989.731.5652

**Fax: 989-731-2739 • [occoa@occoaonline.org](mailto:occoa@occoaonline.org) • Weekdays 8:30 am to Noon and 1:00 to 3:30 pm**

**120 GRANDVIEW BLVD. • GAYLORD, MICHIGAN 49735**