



AARP is an organization for people with birthdays. This year we're celebrating a big one of our own – 50 years of service to America.

Since AARP was founded in 1958, we have been the nation's leading nonprofit membership organization for people aged 50+. We have used our members' collective voices, collective action and collective purchasing power to enhance the quality of life for all generations.

Today we are building on these past successes and creating new legacies for the future. We are more committed than ever to AARP's vision of a society where everyone ages with dignity and purpose, reaching to fulfill their goals and dreams.

It all began with AARP's visionary founder, Ethel Percy Andrus, a noted educator who was California's first female high school principal. She understood that to secure a better life for all Americans, you need to foster change across all generations.

Today, AARP has more than 39 million members. We are working across all generations to be an even stronger advocate for the peace of mind that comes from having affordable health care and long-term financial security, and from designing communities to meet the needs of all generations. We also use the collective power of our members to reshape the marketplace with innovative programs, products and services while meeting the diverse needs of all people as they age.

AARP will celebrate our 50th anniversary by focusing on **"Generations Connecting to Change."** This coast-to-coast celebration builds on our strong foundation of leadership and service to others, and creates new legacies for the future. Special events are being held in seven major cities: Los Angeles, Chicago, Philadelphia, Houston, Atlanta, Miami and Washington, D.C.

Expanding its dedication to lifelong learning, AARP is providing grants to select high schools across America through its **Connecting to Learn** initiative. More than \$1.5 million in **Ethel Percy Andrus Legacy Awards** are being given to innovative high schools that demonstrate a commitment to linking the generations and foster greater civic engagement among students and communities. In

Philadelphia our Andrus Legacy Awards winner is Central High School's Power of Student Voices program, which helps connect citizens to the political process and has engaged policymakers across all levels of government.

Another aspect of **Connecting to Learn** involves helping the public learn about issues of the day, so they can make more informed decisions. AARP is proud to sponsor eight segments of the popular Friday public affairs TV program "Washington Week with Gwen Ifill & National Journal." AARP members will have an opportunity to join the studio audience for these shows, which will be taped on the road in several major cities this year. In Philadelphia, AARP and WHYY are teaming up to present local AARP members with an opportunity to attend the show taping at the University of Pennsylvania's Irvine Auditorium.

Through **Connecting to Change**, we will promote communities that meet the needs of all generations---for today and for the future. This echoes AARP's pioneering leadership in developing one of the nation's first "universal design" homes in 1961. This year, we will adapt homes to make them safer and more comfortable for residents. In May AARP and Rebuilding Together Philadelphia will join forces with other community partners for the West Shore Neighborhood Revitalization Project. Teams of volunteers from AARP and Rebuilding Together Philadelphia will donate their time in order to make the West Shore Community more livable for people as they age.

The culmination of "**Generations Connecting to Change**" take place in Washington, D.C., from September 4 – 6, 2008 at a bigger and better than ever Life@50+ National Event & Expo. There will be fun, food, entertainment by the legendary band, Chicago, and learning opportunities for all. We hope you will plan to join us there.

AARP began with a dedication to making life better for people as they age.

As the world redefines what it means to be 50, so does AARP.