

December 2008

Dear AARP Alaska Member:

As 2008 comes to an end, I want to share some important news. Many of you have already had the experience of trying to find a physician who'll accept Medicare. Gerontology is much more than finding a primary care physician. An aging society has an impact in multiple areas and Alaska's senior population is growing at **FOUR TIMES** the national average. There is a growing need for professionals of all disciplines to be trained to work with older persons.

To encourage University students to become educated on gerontology issues, we worked with the University of Alaska to establish the **AARP Alaska Gerontology Scholarship** for students minoring in gerontology at the Alaska Geriatric Education Center.

Gerontology minors major in many fields, including psychology, sociology, social work, nursing science, justice, health sciences, biological sciences, anthropology, human services, Alaska Native studies, management, business and economics. Even students with pre-med concentrations are increasingly attracted to gerontology courses.

The AARP Alaska State Office contributed \$5,000 toward the establishment of an endowed scholarship for students with a declared minor in gerontology at the University of Alaska. Once the endowed amount reaches \$25,000, the fund will be able to sustain itself in perpetuity.

Donations are made to the University of Alaska Foundation, and thus, they are tax deductible as charitable contributions. If you are interested in contributing to the **AARP Alaska Gerontology Scholarship** (Fund #20405), contact:

Mary Rutherford, President or  
Dory Straight, Scholarship Officer  
University of Alaska Foundation  
PO Box 755080  
Fairbanks, AK 99775  
907-450-8033

Because this is an AARP sponsored scholarship, AARP will note gifts to the scholarship fund of \$250, \$500, and \$1,000 or more on a permanent plaque in the AARP Alaska State Office. Once the endowed amount is reached, AARP will acknowledge all donors in several major Alaskan newspapers.

Sincerely,



Ken Osterkamp, Ph.D.  
State Director