

Local News

THE JOURNAL & TOPICS NEWSPAPERS | WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2007

Teens, Seniors Team Up

The Niles Teen Center plans to team up with the Niles Senior Center to help teens help seniors cope with the coming winter.

Youth Coordinator Mark Williams and Senior Center Representative Ginger Triani have been working to jump-start the program, which has brought helpful teens together with appreciative seniors on and off for the past four years. Though the program was designed primarily to be an aid for winter weather, Senior Center Director Kelly Mickle hopes to see teens continuing to help seniors out, perhaps even forging ongoing relationships.

"It's a fabulous program," said Mickle. "Ideally what we would like is if the kids stick with them through the winter, and then mow the lawn in the summer and rake the leaves in the fall."

Williams has helped her create one match already, ready for the snow predicted to fall this week, and has more in the works. The way the program works, seniors are provided with interested teens' telephone numbers so they can contact them at their convenience to negotiate prices and plans.

"Especially for middle school kids looking for the opportunity to earn extra money, it may become more popular," predicted Williams. "They already do this type of thing in their neighborhood informally."