

DFTA Age in Action 2007 Fest Honors Seniors



Photo Dominick Totino

Queens Borough President Helen Marshall addressed an Age in Action 2007 audience in Flushing Meadows-Corona Park on Wednesday, May 9. The annual festival, which attracts thousands of senior citizens, is co-sponsored by the city Department for the Aging and the Aging in New York Fund.

City Department For the Aging (DFTA) Commissioner Edwin Méndez-Santiago greeted 10,000 seniors at Age in Action 2007, a free day-long festival of healthy aging, celebrating the talents and accomplishments of older New Yorkers at Flushing Meadows Corona Park on May 9. Joining Méndez-Santiago were Public Advocate Betsy Gotbaum, Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrión Jr., Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz, Queens Borough President Helen Marshall, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Assistant Secretary for Aging Josefina G. Carbonell and Social Security Administration Regional Commissioner Bea Disman.

"Age in Action is a celebration not only of longevity, but of the vitality, talent and creativity of this city's diverse seniors," Méndez-Santiago said. "Today our seniors are learning about the secret to living long lives—staying active, fit and socially involved. Older New Yorkers from any number of our senior centers can participate in health screenings, learn about walking clubs, explore volunteer options and surf the Internet. New York seniors are essential to the vitality of this great city. It truly is a great place to grow old."

Presented by the DFTA and its charitable arm, the Aging in New York Fund, Age in Action is an annual event in honor of Older Americans Month. It has grown steadily to become one of the largest healthy aging, municipally sponsored initiatives in the country for people over the age of 60. Older New Yorkers from close to 200 senior centers throughout the city converged at last Wednesday's event to display their musical and artistic talents, receive free health screenings and socialize with thousands of other older New Yorkers.

Joel Jeske of the Big Apple Circus emceed the main stage at Age in Action. The New Jersey Nets Senior Dancers kicked off the program, followed by the New York Police Department Band and the New York City Housing Authority Choir. Senior Center groups also performed on the main stage and participated in a dance contest, health screenings, games, trolley rides and a senior art gallery.

A new feature added to this year's Age in Action was a Technology Center. Department for the Aging information technology staff and members of Older Adults Technology Services (OATS) assisted seniors with learning how to log onto the Internet, search for senior health-related information, access e-mail, and use Microsoft Word. OATS is a nonprofit organization that engages, trains and supports older adults in using technology to improve their quality of life and enhance their social and civic engagement. In addition to a presentation giving an overview of how to use the computer, seniors were able to use 15 wireless laptops for hands-on experience.

"The Department for the Aging celebrates the contributions and accomplishments of older adults by highlighting their creativity and diversity at Age in Action. The seniors here today are an example of vital and vibrant aging, and we are indebted to them for confronting ageism with dance, song and art. We encourage all New York City seniors to visit our senior centers and engage in their communities," Méndez-Santiago said.

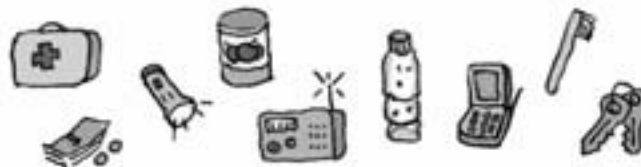
Age in Action 2007 sponsors included Affinity Health Plan, Empire City Yonkers Raceway, Forest City Ratner, HealthNet Medicare Programs, Secure Horizons and Touchstone Health.

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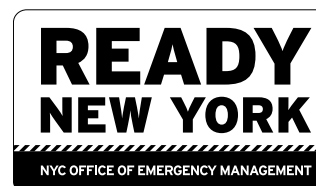


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