



PBS 45 & 49

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PBS 45 & 49 Presents Broadcasts and Conference on Caring for Elderly Parents

*Caring for Your Parents offers sound advice
and helpful community resources*

KENT, Ohio — March 20, 2008 — As the population ages, many adults are grappling with an unprecedented revolution as they become the primary caregivers for their aging parents. In concert with the national PBS premiere of **Caring for Your Parents**, PBS 45 & 49 will present a local follow-up program plus a conference. A comprehensive Web site that includes online registration for the conference is available at www.pbs4549.org/caringforyourparents.

Caring for Your Parents (the national program)

Through an intimate look at five American families, **Caring for Your Parents**, by award-winning filmmaker Michael Kirk, underscores today's struggle to keep parents at home, the tensions between siblings and the complexity of shifting caregiver roles. The 90-minute documentary will premiere on PBS 45 & 49 on Wednesday, April 2 at 9 p.m. It will repeat on Friday, April 4 at 3 a.m. and Sunday, April 6 at 5 p.m.

Caring for Your Parents: A Local Follow-Up

PBS 45 & 49 follows up with a 30-minute companion program that offers concrete advice and guidance to northeast Ohioans. It features local health care experts who offer important information about local resources and issues. **Caring for Your Parents: A Local Follow-Up** will air on Wednesday, April 2 at 10:30 p.m. It will repeat on Thursday, April 3 at 2 p.m.; Friday, April 4 at 4:30 a.m. and Sunday, April 6 at 6:30 p.m.

Co-produced by Summa Health System and the Area Agency on Aging, the program's topics include signs of decline in the elderly, geriatric assessment and options for caregiving. "The aging population, particularly those over 85, is increasing, and as a result, more family members are providing care and support for their loved ones," said

Pat Troyer, executive director of Post Acute and Senior Services at Summa Health System. “We are pleased to collaborate with our colleagues at the Area Agency on Aging and PBS 45 & 49 to provide information and resources that will help caregivers with this important responsibility.”

Susan Sigmon, vice president of managed long-term care at the Area Agency on Aging, added, “It’s the Area Agency on Aging’s mission to provide support to family caregivers who give their time, talents and ongoing concern to ensure their loved ones have independence with dignity. The Caring for Your Parents collaborative project enables us to provide crucial information that can affect family caregiving in positive ways.”

Because of the depth of the subject matter, PBS 45 & 49 will offer the full-length panel discussions from the program for viewing on demand at pbs4549.org/caringforyourparents.

Caring for Your Parents: The Conference

PBS 45 & 49 will hold a free conference on caring for elderly parents on Saturday, April 19 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Summa Health System’s Professional Center South, 55 Arch St., Akron. The conference will offer helpful sessions on topics including monitoring parents’ medications, modifying their homes for better safety and making difficult decisions about their care.

The conference will feature four one-hour sessions, with two topics to choose from per session. “PBS 45 & 49 strives to go beyond the national broadcast and localize our content,” said Heidi Johnson, PBS 45 & 49 community engagement coordinator. “This conference will allow us to offer assistance and resources to the ever-increasing number of people who find themselves caring for aging family members.” Advance registration for the conference is recommended, either by calling 1-800-554-4549 or by registering online at www.pbs4549.org/caringforyourparents.

About PBS 45 & 49

PBS 45 & 49 is owned and operated by Northeastern Educational Television of Ohio, Inc., a private, nonprofit corporation and consortium of Kent State University, The University of Akron and Youngstown State University. A trusted community resource, PBS 45 & 49 uses the power of commercial-free television and related services to enrich the lives of people through high-quality programming and educational services that teach, illuminate and inspire. Through funding from eTech Ohio, the organization provides K-12 educational technology training and instructional television programming. For more information about PBS 45 & 49, visit www.pbs4549.org or call 1-800-554-4549.

About Summa Health System

Summa Health System is one of the largest organized delivery systems in Ohio. Encompassing a network of hospitals, community health centers, a health plan, a physician-hospital organization, research and a foundation, Summa is nationally renowned for excellence in patient care and for exceptional approaches to healthcare delivery. Summa’s clinical services are consistently recognized by U.S. News and World Report, Thomson Healthcare (formerly Solucient) and The Leapfrog Group. For more information, visit www.summahealth.org.

About Area Agency on Aging

For more than 30 years, the Area Agency on Aging has been providing community-based long term care options and consumer protection and education for older adults in Portage, Stark, Summit and Wayne counties. These options include PASSPORT, which provides nursing home level services in an older adult's home; assisted living waiver funding so older adults can use assisted living options rather than more costly nursing home placement; the ombudsman program, which provides advocates for older adults using long term care; and the Family Caregiver Support Program, which provides individualized information and support to family and friends who care for aging loved ones.

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