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Local Businesses Team Up To Serve Seniors

Anne Osmer Reporting

James Speir had a well-established career in nonprofit mental health services when he decided to switch gears and become a financial consultant.

But he didn't leave his social work experience behind. In fact, his extensive agency work with senior clients set the foundation for the group he recently founded, the [Southern Michigan Service & Respect for Seniors Alliance](#). A nonprofit group whose members provide a variety of services to seniors, the SR Alliance strives to serve as a resource hub for whatever services a senior may seek, while at the same time growing contacts and business for its members.

"Linking clients with services was always a big part of what I did," said Speir (pictured above) of his previous role as director of outpatient programs at the [Guidance Center](#) in Southgate. "We really want to be the one-stop shop for folks."

The group has established relationships with entities such as the [Wayne State University's Institute of Gerontology](#), the [Area Agency on Aging 1-B](#), and other groups, and intends to reach out to more. The SR Alliance also has a fundraising component and recently raised approximately \$600 for the Area Agency on Aging 1-B's Holiday Meals on Wheels program.

Currently made up of about a dozen service providers in areas such as financial services, construction, physical therapy, skilled nursing facilities, home health care and even a cleaning and organizing service, Speir envisions the group growing to 25 or 30 members. For now, though, he's focused on putting together a board of directors, getting the word out about the group and seeking qualified members.

For more information about the SR Alliance visit their Web site at <http://www.michsra.com/> or call (866) 642-4772.

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["A Fine Farewell" Film Contest](#)

Hospice of Michigan, one of the nation's largest hospices, is sponsoring the film contest as a way to illuminate the issue of life.

[Watch Your Feet! Diabetics Pay Special Attention](#)

Diabetes puts you at risk for a number of health problems, including damage to the nervous system, which can lead to impaired walking.

[Older Americans More Likely to Suffer from Sleep Apnea](#)

Do you snore? Are you often tired during the day? Are you having trouble concentrating? You may have sleep apnea, a condition that affects 10 million Americans.

[Detroit's Older Adults Learn Healthy Habits](#)

The HBEC 6th Annual Health Reception, hosted by the Institute of Gerontology and the University of Michigan, will be held from 10 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. at Bert's Warehouse.

[Even the Insured Feel Strain of Health Costs](#)

According to the *New York Times*, the economic downturn has put a strain on people without health insurance. But now it is affecting people who have insurance but find that the coverage does not afford their own share of medical costs.

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