



# The New York Academy of Medicine

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**Age-friendly New York City Community Forum Notes  
Amico Senior Center  
Council Member Vincent Gentile  
April 11, 2008**

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Approximate number of attendees: 120

More than half of attendees indicated that have lived in the community for more than 30 years; about 75% for more than 20; only about 10 folks raised their hand to indicate 50 years or more.

- Computers
  - Only a handful of people raised their hand to indicate they now use computers. However, when asked, about a quarter of participants raised their hands to indicate that they would like to learn how to use computers or increase their use of computers
  
- Thoughts on living in this community?
  - One gentleman said he tried to move away but came back to the neighborhood. “I tried to live in Staten Island to be close to family but I felt like I was in prison. I kissed the ground when I moved back to Brooklyn!”
  
- What do you like to do?
  - Go to the Crystal City club for dancing
  - Go to church
  - Play music
  - See plays in Brooklyn using a senior discount (“for only 10, 12, or 14 bucks!”)
  - Bowling
  - Soccer in the park
  - Play cards
  - Golf once a week

- Lots of people play pool
- Swimming in the local community pool
- Barriers to walking
  - Broken sidewalks
  - People riding bikes on sidewalks is dangerous
  - Cars parked in driveways poking out and obstructing sidewalk
  - About 25% of attendees indicated that there are a lot of kids out on the corners and they're concerned they're up to no good
- Transportation – area seems well served and good in the big picture
  - About 25% of attendees indicated they have a car
  - Stairs become more of a problem as we age
  - Buses are unreliable
  - Lighting on buses is bad; can't see the streets and street signs
  - Not enough street lights
  - Access-a-Ride:
    - problems sometimes but good overall
    - we need it, it's a good system
- Working for pay
  - Only two individuals indicated that they are currently working for pay; about 75% of all attendees indicated that they are retired from paid work (all indicated this work was in New York City)
  - One woman said she wants to work for pay and is in the process of moving so she hasn't pursued it but feels she could do a few hours for someone
  - We need to showcase the power of seniors more
  - An older gentleman: "I don't want a full-time job but there should be part-time jobs available for older people like me. Organizations should probably do more along those lines."
  - One person said they volunteer at Amico Senior Center for 30 years
  - Attendees didn't seem to indicate a huge desire to learn about volunteer opportunities available
- Isolation?
  - Fewer than 10 people have children in the community; about five of these people live with their children in the community
  - About 25% live alone
  - The neighborhood is spread out geographically

- An older woman: “I have no one. I only have my friends.”
  - People call each other through the senior center if someone doesn’t show up for awhile. “We look out for one another.”
  - There is need for people to go in and check on the homebound sometimes
  - An older gentleman said that since moving into his building 3 or 4 people were found dead days after anyone noticed
  - The Post Office is aware of isolated people because if the mail starts piling up for several days, they will contact building management or neighbors
  - The people who live alone don’t want our help; they want to be loners
- Health
    - Where do you go for help/answers?
      - Go to the doctor for a check-up
      - Dial 311
    - Medicare doesn’t cover dental plans which is expensive
    - Many of us have HMOs and they’re not all equal. We need more information about which option is best for whom