

The History of JABA

Since 1975, JABA has been serving the needs of the aging community in the Thomas Jefferson Planning district (the city of Charlottesville and Albemarle, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa and Nelson counties.) Through the years, from our roots as a federally mandated Area Agency on Aging to our current position as one of the most innovative and successful aging organizations in the nation, JABA has never lost focus of the needs and desires of the community. Working with state and local government, educational institutions, private citizens, businesses, and other nonprofit organizations, JABA has consistently risen to the challenge of its mission: to promote, establish and preserve communities for healthy aging that benefit individuals and families of all ages.

JABA has been recognized repeatedly as a national leader in providing services to the aging community. Thanks to JABA's tireless efforts to plan and coordinate regional efforts on aging, Central Virginia was named as one of the United State's top seven "Livable Communities for All Ages".

A National Model

JABA has actively embraced a leadership role in developing new networks and ideas providing services to the aging community and supporting sustainable, age-friendly communities, where people can age in place.

Award highlights include:

- In 2005, JABA was the national winner of the Administration on Aging Livable Communities Award for coordinating the development of the Long Term Care Partners for Health (LTC PATH.)
- Thanks to JABA's tireless efforts to plan and coordinate regional efforts on aging, Central Virginia was named as one of the top seven "Livable Communities for All Ages" in the United States by the federal Administration Aging in 2005.
- JABA co-authored a Viable Futures Toolkit to help communities advance intergenerational and environmentally sound policy and practices, garnering a U.S. Administration Overall Excellence Award.
- JABA developed Club Pathway, an activity based program offering socialization for individuals with early to mid-stage memory loss. In 2007, Club Pathways received an award for innovation from the National Council on Aging.
- In 2006, JABA received the n4a's Innovations Award for our work to save Mountainside Senior Living. JABA manages this unique affordable assisted living facility, which won 2007 Best Housing Program from the Virginia Governor.
- In 2007, JABA's CEO, Gordon Walker, received the United Way's first Excellence in Nonprofit Leadership Award.



JABA, Inc.

In order to meet the demand beyond mandated services and attract funding to provide additional services, we established JABA Inc., a non-profit corporation, in 1986. JABA Inc. acts as our entrepreneurial wing, attracting private funding, controlling JABA property, and administering fee-based programs that add to our revenue. We also formed Jefferson Elder Care, an affiliated non-profit that operates Mountainside Senior Living, JABA's local assisted living facility.

Throughout JABA's expansion, we have remained a leader in offering innovative services to support seniors and their families. Along the way JABA has pioneered new services, creatively diversified our revenue base, and built our own facilities to serve the aging population, while planning for the future.

Creating a Vision for the Future

In 2001, JABA began collaborating with more than 500 individuals and 85 public and private organizations to develop the 2020 Community Plan on Aging, a multi-year initiative that will prepare our region for the shift in demographics as the local senior population doubles by 2020. The plan has received national recognition by the Federal Administration on Aging, and in September of 2005 was awarded by the National Administration on Aging the Overall Excellence Award for Mid-Sized National Livable Communities. The award recognizes promising practices that can be used by local governments throughout the country in preparing for the aging of the baby boom population.

To meet these expanding future needs, JABA is actively working to ensure that its financial future is secure. In 2005, JABA created the Hovey S. Dabney Foundation for Elders. The Foundation raises funds through an endowment process to support JABA in the long term.

There are many challenges to supporting a growing population of elders, especially with limited government funding, but JABA has shown that we can rise above this challenge. Now and in the future, the people of our region can be secure in the knowledge that JABA will always respond to the needs of our community.

