

## Continuing the Conversation:

**A letter from Doug Ross with ideas on how to stay involved with the Institute for the Ages.**

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August 25, 2009

Hello,

We're writing this to keep you in the loop as summer draws to a close. RTI, our consultants, are doing diligence for us in accordance with their Phase One plan. We will have their results to share in late September. Meanwhile, some sub-groups seem to be congealing. There is a group of our members who are coming together around design of the living spaces. A second collection of individuals are interested in the various arts that Gene Cohen and his colleagues say prolongs the viability of the aging brain. We'd welcome one or two of you to call an informal start-up group together. We've met two or three people interested in the workforce or jobs issue.

While we see our role as being a clearing house for human services, we don't see the institute as creating such groups or competing with existing service providers. What we mean by clearing house is that we would index the organizations serving aging in any of a number of ways. Nonetheless, a group to help form and define the clearing house would certainly be welcomed. Perhaps we might host a services Think Tank. We'd characterize each in a short paragraph, and keep track of standing and newer services. Other ideas are to form a new web site, collaborate with the Non-Profit Resource Center and Senior Friendship Center, and some of the Assisted Living Centers, as examples.

So we are staying close to our concept that this new Institute will have grassroots support, and to us that means that you, our "pioneers", will self organize some working interest groups. If you would like to be a convener, contact Kim and we'll give you the names and email addresses of others we know might be interested. We invite you to call the meetings and set the agenda. We'll support your efforts as much as we can, but so far, we still don't have coffee money!

Also, be assured that you will remain on our mailing list and we will communicate about our next steps.

Doug Ross