

FROM:



**BROOKLINE COMMUNITY AGING NETWORK**  
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For immediate release, please

**Seniors Take Action, Town Repairs Sidewalks**

Until recently, residents of the five Brookline Senior Housing developments often found that a walk to the market or the library could be hazardous due to broken, uneven sidewalks. That is changing.

Thanks to an innovative project initiated by BrooklineCAN (Brookline Community Aging Network) and involving several Brookline organizations, senior housing residents learned how to organize and present their sidewalk concerns to the Brookline Housing Authority (BHA) and the Department of Public Works (DPW). To everyone's delight, the DPW committed to repairing the sidewalks identified by the residents. Many of those sidewalks have already been repaired

What makes this story so powerful is that the residents, community groups, the BHA and the DPW worked together to improve the lives of everyone who uses sidewalks. The project was initiated early in 2015 by BrooklineCAN, a volunteer group that aims to keep seniors active and engaged in the community.

Its Livable Community Advocacy Committee garnered support from the Brookline Council on Aging and funding from Jewish Family & Children's Services (JF&CS) to hire a community organizer to manage the project. Janet Selcer was hired through ReServe, an organization that provides experienced professionals over age 55 with meaningful work in nonprofit groups.

As a result of this project, Brookline residents of senior housing have an easier time walking to the market. Equally important, under the direction of BrooklineCAN they have gained the ability to organize and advocate for issues that affect the quality of their lives. They also have become acquainted with many neighbors in their building as well as residents in other senior housing developments.

And working together, they have made walking in Brookline safer for seniors and for residents of all ages.

For additional information about Brookline Community Aging Network and to request a copy of BrooklineCAN's informative monthly newsletter, visit <http://www.brooklineCAN.org> or call 617-730-2777.

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