



# Central Alabama Aging Consortium

December '25

## Christmas Party Rocks

Christmas party 2025 is in the books and it was a great success. We expected more than 500 seniors and just about that many appeared. The big draws this year were the door prizes and, of course, pictures with Santa and dancing.

As usual, the party included a meal of holiday favorites. Seniors also showed an interest in our sponsors, and we thank them for turning out for the event. We could not put on the Christmas Party without their support. Thanks to the CAAC staff who worked behind the scenes and to our new party "boss" Melissa Stellhorn. She kept things moving and on schedule. It was an auspicious debut.



Thanks to everybody for making our 2025 party a success. We wish everyone a Happy New Year and get ready to count down to MayFest 2026!

## New Addition to Management Team



CAAC Executive Director Yolanda Evans has announced the appointment of Monica Barnes as the agency's new Assistant Director. The appointment takes effect on January 1.

In making the announcement, Evans said, "Monica's extensive experience in aging brings valuable leadership and strengthens our partnership in service. This important addition marks an exciting new chapter for our agency, equipping us to better support our team and further elevate the work we do for our community. Together, we welcome new energy, fresh ideas, and a stronger future for those we are honored to serve.

Monica currently serves as Program Coordinator of Alabama Cares. She has held that position for 10 years. Monica is a 2005 graduate of Troy University with a bachelor's degree in human services and a minor in Sociology. She has worked with different groups of people throughout the field of social service; from inpatient and outpatient children to families and now the aging population. Her training includes Mental health, foster care, adoption, Dementia, State Health Insurance Program, Ombudsman, and caregiving.

"I'm excited about this new journey," said Monica, "and I look forward to helping the agency continue to serve our community

## Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period

By Whitney Anderson SHIP Coordinator

Hello all! Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment will begin January 1, 2026, and end on March 31, 2026. This enrollment period is only for those who are actively on an advantage plan as of January 1<sup>st</sup> and it allows for a one-time change to your coverage. The change becomes effective the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the following month after the new plan receives your request. For example, if you change in February, it will become effective March 1<sup>st</sup>.

If you need or want to change plans, there are precautions you must take. First, verify all providers are in-network. This will include dental and vision if you are changing to another Medicare Advantage plan. Second, make sure that your medicines are covered, and third, verify that any treatments required for your health can be covered.

Remember! Once March 31<sup>st</sup> passes, there will be little to no chance of you being able to change plans again until Annual Open Enrollment begins in October 2026. If you need help or have questions, call us at Central Alabama Aging Consortium at 334-240-4680, and ask for our SHIP program.

You can get the full details from the SHIP/SMP page on our website: <https://centralalabamaaging.org/ship-smp/>

## SHARE THE WARMTH CAMPAIGN CONTINUES THROUGHOUT WINTER

We are seeing a solid response to our Share the Warmth campaign. We appreciate all the donations of gently used and new blankets. Many of you are giving plush toys for the youngest of our clients. If you haven't donated, please consider donating gloves, warm hats, plush toys or blankets to our campaign. This is NOT a Christmas campaign. We are taking donations throughout January, February and March. Just drop off your donations at our building, 400 Cotton Gin Road off Taylor Road in Montgomery.

### SHARE THE WARMTH

#### WHAT WE'RE ACCEPTING:

- New and gently used blankets
- New hats, gloves, and scarves
- New stuffed animals for children
- Monetary donations - anything helps!



Help us provide warmth and dignity to those in need.

#### DROP OFF LOCATION:

400 Cotton Gin Road  
Montgomery, AL 36117