

# The Pathfinder Post

March 2008

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Welcome to the Pathfinder Post—a monthly legislative and senior issues update from Pathfinder Care Management / “Rent A Daughter™”. Our goal is to provide you with pertinent and important information you need to keep up to date on challenges facing seniors and those who serve them.

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The recently passed Economic Stimulus legislation promising \$300 **rebate checks to seniors requires them to file an income tax return, even if they will not be paying any tax or receiving a tax refund.** Information on exactly which forms to file and procedures to follow can be found at <http://www.irs.gov/irs/article/0,,id=177937,00.html> If the IRS site leaves you cold you may find helpful information at <http://www.seniorjournal.com/NEWS/Alerts/2008/8-02-19-IRSHelpsLow-Income.htm> Again, be sure to consult a tax professional if necessary.



The **British Journal of Ophthalmology** reports that, in evaluating the visual health of 3600 people over a span of 15 years, Australian researchers have found that age related Macular Degeneration, or AMD, was associated with a doubling in the risks of dying from a heart attack or stroke. A short article, with a link to the study, can be found at <http://www.news-medical.net/?id=35747> Current treatment options for AMD can be found at [http://www.amd.org/site/PageServer?pagename=copy\\_of\\_Current\\_Treatments](http://www.amd.org/site/PageServer?pagename=copy_of_Current_Treatments)



**Planning ahead to avoid financial crisis** is important to all ages. Talking with parents about their finances can be difficult but rewarding when done with care. Discussing with them how they want to spend their money in their last years can develop into conversations about what is important to them. For **tips on fostering these discussions** see <http://www.ec-online.net/Knowledge/Articles/finances.html>



A financial boost for veterans, called the Special Pension with Aid and Attendance, (**A & A Special Pension**) that is not dependent on service related injuries, can help with home care, assisted living or nursing home costs. Qualifications and how to apply can be found at [http://www.aging-parents-and-elder-care.com/newsletters/2008\\_02.html](http://www.aging-parents-and-elder-care.com/newsletters/2008_02.html)



**Quality of Life:** Spring brings out the talent in local schools as they perform their yearly plays and musical concerts. Enjoying the budding artists in elementary schools or being amazed at the quality of performance at the high school level is an inexpensive treat for families. If your elderly loved one cannot attend an evening performance, try calling the school to ask about viewing a dress rehearsal during the school day.



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