

**2007 JANE KENNEDY
EXCELLENCE IN AGING AWARD
Dennis W. Streets**

As the son of a physician, Dennis Streets had the seeds of his career laid early. Streets said that it was during the time he accompanied his father on visits to nursing homes and to house calls with the elderly that he developed an interest in working with older adults.

The commitment to caring that he witnessed through his father's example has been carried on throughout his own career.

Dennis Streets is the director of the North Carolina Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS). He was appointed by the Secretary of Health and Human Services in February 2006, after serving as the chief of the DAAS Budget, Planning, and Systems Support Section. He has worked at the Division since 1996. In announcing his appointment as director, DHHS Secretary Carmen Hooker Odom said, "Dennis has been a chief architect in planning for the future of aging in North Carolina. He has been a leader in preparing for the retirement of the baby boomer generation and in continuing to further the mission of the division to promote the independence and dignity of our seniors and disabled adults. He has been a tremendous asset to DHHS in his 10 years with the division."

Streets has devoted his career towards working in the field of aging and adult services. His other work experience includes government service with the Division of Social Services and the Triangle J Area Agency on Aging; time spent in the private sector as the executive director of The Evergreens, Inc, a non-profit long-term care organization, and as a professional relations representative with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina; and time spent as coordinator of the Center for Aging Research and Educational Services at the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Social Work.

He was co-editor of the book *The Field of Adult Services*, published in 1995. He has received many honors including the Year 2000 recipient of the Executive Leader of the Year Award of the NC Association on Aging, the state's largest

professional association of local aging services providers. Streets earned his BA in Political Science, a Masters in Public Health (with a concentration in Health Administration and Policy), and a Masters in the Arts of Teaching from UNC-Chapel Hill; he is also a licensed nursing home administrator. He lives in Chatham County with his wife, Dawn, who is a middle school teacher, and coaches the baseball teams of his two sons, Clark and Matt.