



## **Aging in Vermont: Communities on the Move**

### **SPEAKERS**

#### **Katherine Freund**

Our keynote speaker, Katherine Freund is the founder of the Independent Transportation Network®(ITN), and founder and President of ITNAmerica®. She Chaired the Task Force to Study the Safe Mobility of Maine's Aging Population, served on the Advisory Committee for the 2005 White House Conference on Aging and as a National Transit Institute Fellow.



Katherine has participated in more than 150 national and international panels and conference sessions on alternative transportation for older people. She has received AARP's Inspire Award, the Maxwell Pollack Award from the Gerontological Society of America, and the Social Enterprise Alliance award for Leadership in Innovative Enterprise Ideas. Katherine is also the recipient of the Archstone Award for Excellence in Program Innovation from the American Public Health Association.

#### **Kelly Melekis**

Our lead panelist on self-neglect is Kelly Melekis, Ph.D. Dr. Melekis is a Professor of Social Work at Skidmore College. Formerly with the University of Vermont, her scholarly work in the field of elder self-neglect helped form the foundation of the current practices and policies utilized by the State of Vermont and Area Agencies on Aging in responding to self-neglect and supporting those whose lives are impacted.



Dr. Melekis is the author of "Responding to Self-Neglect in Vermont," a report to the Vermont Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living (2014) and her scholarly work has included "Establishing a Community Response to Elder Self-Neglect" (Gerontologist, 2015).

Dr. Melekis also serves on the Governor's Commission on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias. She recently conducted a statewide survey of caregivers of persons with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders (ADRD). The results from this survey will help Vermont better plan for the growing needs of families that are dealing with the challenges of caring for a loved one with a memory disorder.