

November 2021



Community Newsletter

Engaging & Supporting Seniors During COVID-19

An Update on Eras Senior Network's 2021 Santa 5K Run & Walk

Out of respect to everyone affected by the tragic events during the Waukesha Parade, **this year's event will now be a virtual event only and will no longer be in person.** By changing to a virtual event, we will not require the Waukesha police department personnel to devote resources to our run at a time when they are needed for investigations and dealing with their own trauma from the events of November 21.

All registrants will be converted to a virtual registration and able to complete their run or walk between December 5, 2021 – December 13, 2021. Information on how to download the RaceJoy app and participate in the virtual race will be sent in the days prior to December 5th.

T-shirt pickup will still be on Friday, December 3rd, and Saturday, December 4th.

- **Friday, December 3rd, 2021, 3 pm to 6 pm within Eras Senior Network's Community Room:**

Eras Senior Network is located at
2607 N Grandview Blvd, Suite 150, Waukesha WI 53188.

Please come to Door A on the south side of the office building, take the elevator to Floor 1, turn left off the elevator and follow the signs to Eras Senior Network Community Room.

- **Saturday, December 4th, 2021, 10 am to 1 pm Drive Up T-shirt Pickup outside Eras Senior Network:**

Packet Pickup outside Eras Senior Network
2607 N Grandview Blvd, Suite 150, Waukesha WI 53188.

Please come to Door A on the south side of the building and follow the signs.

If you have any questions, please email Becca Snow at Becca.Snow@Eras.org or (262) 522-2409. Thank you for your support of our mission and your flexibility with this year's event.

Holiday Giving Program 2021

Even amid a pandemic, last year's Holiday Giving Program was a huge success! With so many generous donations from partners throughout Milwaukee County and Waukesha County, we were able to provide 891 low-income seniors (572 in Milwaukee County and 319 in Waukesha County) with self-sufficiency care packages valued at \$60 each. These packages included gift cards to local grocery stores and pharmacies, a book of stamps, and a hand-decorated holiday card.

We hope to continue bringing a bit of holiday cheer to clients in need this year with the help of the community and our local partners. Due to the uncertainty of COVID-19, we will be mailing our gifts again this year and focusing on the most basic needs. Below is our wish list:



- Books of Forever Stamps
- \$10 Walgreens Gift Cards
- \$10 Pick 'n Save Gift Cards
- \$10 Walmart Gift Cards

Unwrapped items and money collected to purchase gifts are due by December 13th, 2021.

Mailing Your Donation: If you are able to mail your donation to us, please do so to help with social distancing.

Donations of items or funds to purchase items can be mailed to:

Eras Senior Network (Attn: Becca Snow)
2607 N Grandview Blvd Suite 150
Waukesha, WI 53188

Dropping Off Your Donation or Scheduling a Pick-Up:

Waukesha County: Donations may be dropped off at our Waukesha office (same address as above) Monday through Friday between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm. Please note, during this time, all visitors entering the office building and Eras suite are required to wear a face covering. We are happy to coordinate a curbside pick-up if you would prefer to remain in your vehicle.

Milwaukee County: Donations may be dropped off at our Milwaukee County offices located in the YWCA and St. Alphonsus Parish in Greendale between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm. To drop off at the YWCA, please reach out to Vanessa.Harris@Eras.org to schedule a time. To drop off at St. Alphonsus in Greendale, please reach out to Vicki.Henning@Eras.org to schedule a time. Please note, all guests entering our offices are asked to wear a mask at this time. We are happy to accommodate a curbside pick-up if you would prefer to stay in your vehicle.

Eras Senior Network c/o YWCA
Attn: Vanessa Harris
1915 N Doctor MLK Drive
Milwaukee, WI 53212

Eras Senior Network
Attn: Vicki Henning
5960 W Loomis Road
Greendale, WI 53129

Thank you for your consideration in supporting our Holiday Giving Program! Please contact Becca Snow at (262) 522-2409 or Becca.Snow@Eras.org with any questions or click [HERE](#) to learn more.



Support Eras on #GivingTuesday

November 30th is #GivingTuesday! Giving Tuesday is a global movement that inspires generosity, change, and gratitude. Your support during Giving Tuesday helps us continue to serve more than 4,700 older adults in Milwaukee County and Waukesha County. Our services for older adults, including transportation to medical appointments and grocery stores, yard cleanup, Friendly Phone Calls, and so much more, would not be possible without the support of the community. Below are a few quotes from people who you help by making a donation to Eras.

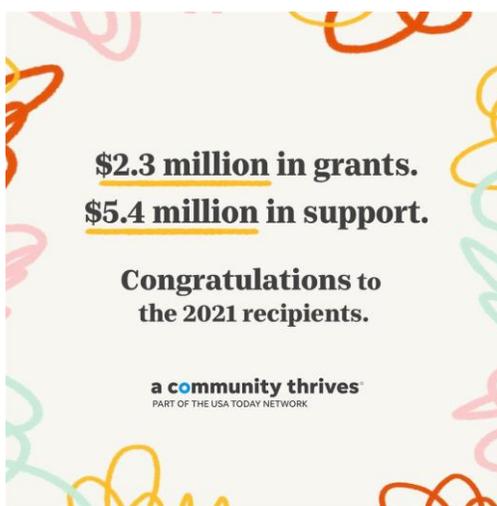
"I am very thankful for Eras for their programs that help senior citizens. there are so many senior citizens that could benefit from this." -Diane, Milwaukee

"I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for giving me a ride to go to Walmart this morning for some groceries.

I deeply appreciate it and I wanna say thank you, thank you from the bottom of my heart." - Claudette, Milwaukee

"I cannot thank you enough, every one of your drivers have been amazing. I had a stroke in January and you are helping me get to physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy." -Mary Jane, Waukesha

Please consider making a donation to Eras on Giving Tuesday by clicking [here](#). To learn more about Giving Tuesday, please click [here](#). Thank you for your consideration.



Eras Senior Network Recipient of A Community Thrives Grant

Thank you to [Gannett | USA TODAY NETWORK](#) for naming Eras one of 16 recipients of the A Community Thrives grant! We are so honored!

Between our A Community Thrives grant, community donations, and support from Bader Philanthropies, we will be purchasing a vehicle after the first of the year.

Click [here](#) to learn more about the grant.

Volunteers Needed for Friendly Phone Call Program

We are putting out a call for volunteers to join the Friendly Phone Call program! This program pairs a client and a volunteer up to have regular conversations by phone. This program seeks to decrease social isolation and reduce the feelings of loneliness in our senior clients.

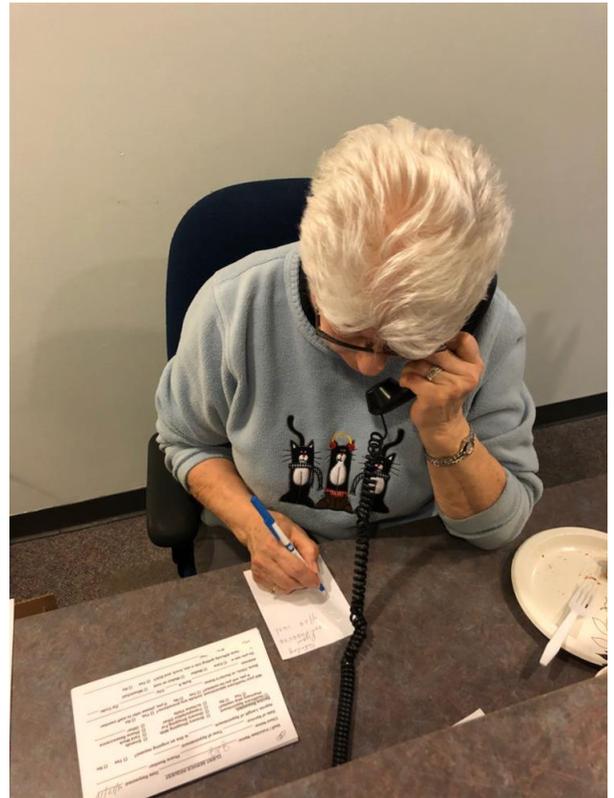
How does it work?

- The volunteer will complete an application then be screened and matched with a senior client.
- The volunteer calls the client to introduce themselves and, along with the client, decides how often they should connect and when.
- After each call, the volunteer lets Eras know whether they were able to connect with the client (by a quick email, phone call, or online survey).
- Repeat!

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a volunteer, or you have questions about the program, please contact:

Milwaukee County: Gabby Huff at Gabby.Huff@eras.org or (414) 488-6931

Waukesha County: Marisa Strothenke at Marisa.Strothenke@Eras.org or (262) 522-2402



Seeking Fall Yard Clean-Up Volunteers

Are you looking for a way to help older adults stay safe in their homes this fall? You can still volunteer to assist local seniors and adults with disabilities with their yards!

Duties include: raking leaves, cleaning flower beds, pulling weeds, trimming bushes, cleaning gutters, storing lawn furniture, washing windows, etc.

Right now, we are still following our COVID-19 procedures which include wearing a mask at all times while serving, remaining at least 6 feet away from others, and limiting the group size to no more than 4 volunteers per home.

If you are interested in helping please contact:

Milwaukee County: Suzy Endres at Suzanne.Endres@eras.org or (414) 488-6930

Waukesha County: Marisa Strothenke at Marisa.Strothenke@Eras.org or (262) 522-2402

November is National Family Caregivers Month

November is National Family Caregivers Month, a time to recognize and honor family caregivers across the country.

Celebrating Family Caregivers enables all of us to:

- Raise awareness of family caregiver issues
- Celebrate the efforts of family caregivers
- Educate family caregivers about self-identification
- Increase support for family caregivers



For more information on the Caregiver Action Network, please visit their [website](#).

Read Our 50 Plus News Magazine Article: Medicare Open Enrollment Period



Each month, Eras Executive Director, Kathy Gale, shares an article with 50 Plus News Magazine. This month, learn about the Medicare Open Enrollment period.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the article.

We'd Love to Connect With You: Virtually or In-Person!

We have started meeting with our community partners in person again. Our staff will continue to wear masks while inside but are happy to be able to bring our in-person programming back to the community.

- **Eras Presentation:** We would love the opportunity to present information about Eras Senior Network during a church service or small group gathering.
- **S.T.O.P. Senior Frauds and Scams Presentation:** Learn about popular scams targeting the senior population during our 1-hour presentation for seniors and caregivers.
- **Meeting With You:** Would you like to talk one-on-one about how our organization can provide support for older adults in your congregation or community group? We would be happy to set up a telephone call, video call, or in-person meeting.
- **Booth at Event:** We would love to share our resources with the community by having a booth at your event or church service.



Milwaukee County:
 Vanessa Harris
 Milwaukee County
 Outreach Manager
 (414) 488-6780
Vanessa.Harris@Eras.org



Waukesha County:
 Heather Uzowulu
 Development Director
 (262) 522-2404
Heather.Uzowulu@Eras.org

Eras Senior Network

Milwaukee County Main Office: c/o YWCA, 1915 N Doctor MLK Jr Drive, Milwaukee, WI 53212

Waukesha County Main Office: 2607 N Grandview Boulevard, Suite 150, Waukesha, WI 53188

(414) 488-6500 • (262) 549-3348 • Eras.org

