

August 2021



# Community Newsletter

Engaging & Supporting Seniors During COVID-19

## Get to Know Our Board of Directors

Each member of Eras Senior Network's Board of Directors has a deep connection to our mission and a strong desire to help our organization make an impact in the lives of older adults and adults with disabilities.

This month, learn more about Board Member, Donna Dziewik



**Eras**  
SENIOR NETWORK

## Donna Dziewik

President  
101 Mobility

### Board of Directors Bio

#### Why did you choose to get involved with Eras Senior Network?

When I started 101 Mobility, I got to know the wonderful people who worked at Eras Senior Network and their passion to make a difference in lives of adults and seniors with disability. For years, I wanted to volunteer but my career path didn't allow me much free time. Since starting my own company, Eras is the perfect fit for me and I love giving back to the community.

#### Who is a meaningful senior in your life and why?

I have had the opportunity to spend time with one of the volunteers from Eras. Bill is a driver and loves helping out. Every once in a while, he stops by our office to visit. He shares many stories of his life in the Korean War, his family and the people he has gotten to know at Eras through volunteering. At 90 years old, he has lived a full life and continues to give back to his community. It is a true honor to spend time with Bill. Not only is he an upstanding gentleman but he puts the needs of others before his own.

#### Outside of your work and board service, how do you like to spend your time?

I enjoy going for walks, spending time with family and friends. I also love getting away to somewhere warm when the weather gets cold in Wisconsin.





## Volunteers Needed for Friendly Phone Call Program

Many of our student volunteers have gone home for the summer, growing our need for volunteers to place calls as a part of our Friendly Phone Call Program.

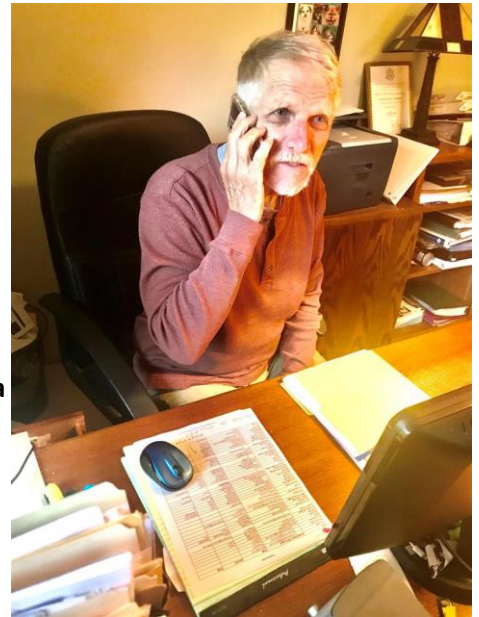
The Friendly Phone Call Program seeks to decrease social isolation and reduce the feelings of loneliness in our senior clients. Though guidelines are constantly changing regarding COVID-19, the Friendly Phone Call Program allows clients a safe and consistent way to socially engage with others from the comfort of their own homes.

**There are currently 70 clients in Milwaukee County and 50 clients in Waukesha County in need of a Friendly Phone Call volunteer.**

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact:

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

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



## Seeking Fall Yard Clean Up Volunteers

This fall, we will need many volunteers to help local seniors and adults with disabilities prepare their yards for winter.

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 includes 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 and haven't registered yet, please contact:

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

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

**Register Now for our Virtual Tapestry Event – Free Registration**



## *Entertaining Breakout Sessions*



Baking with You  
Are Special



Milwaukee's Finest  
Jazz Music by The  
Terry Smirl Trio



Victorian Etiquette  
with Heritage Fair  
and Waukesha  
County Museum



Jeopardy For the  
Generations



Children's  
Story with  
RSVP Volunteer

[Free registration is open](#) for our Virtual Tapestry Event scheduled for Thursday, September 30th!

Funds raised at the Virtual Tapestry Event, presented by ProHealth Care, support the programs of Eras Senior Network, serving over 4,700 older adults and adults with disabilities in Milwaukee County and Waukesha County.

Our one-hour event will feature stories from our programs and will recognize Community Volunteers John and Midge McDermott with the Edmond J. Vaklyes Jr. Memorial Award and Helen Ramon with the Board of Directors Award. The evening will conclude with two entertaining breakout sessions – with options for the whole family.

**Our online auction starts at noon on Monday, September 27th, and closes at 6 pm on Thursday, September 30th.**

## **Seeking Auction Items for Virtual Tapestry Event**

Help get us closer to our net goal of \$75,000 during the Tapestry Event by donating items for the Silent Auction. All funds raised at the event support older adults in Milwaukee County and Waukesha County.

Please click [HERE](#) for more details on how to donate to our auction.

### **Silent Auction Item Ideas (Valued \$100 - \$200)**

- Popular gadgets (air fryer, KitchenAid Mixer, Apple Watch, Dyson Vacuum)
- Gift certificates/cards for local restaurants, massages, car detailing, Door Dash)
- Gift cards for future travel (Airbnb, Southwest Airlines)
- Gifts for kids (puzzles, collectibles, games)
- Workout equipment (dumbbells, yoga mat)
- High-quality handbags
- Experiences (nice restaurants, event tickets, theatre tickets, kids events)
- Basket of local favorites (cheese, beer, wine, spices)
- Handmade artwork, photography, quilts

### **Silent Auction Item Ideas (Valued \$500+)**

- One-of-a-kind items (autographed sports memorabilia, etc.)
- Patio sets for garden, deck, or porch
- Use of cabin or other vacation homes (local or national)
- Vacation experience in Chicago or Wisconsin Dells
- Tickets or box seats to a sporting event or show (i.e. 4 Marquette tickets)
- Culinary Experience (Chef-made meal for 8, exclusive tour of restaurant with dinner)
- Unique Experience (Hunting or fishing with a pro, backstage tour, celebrity meet and greet)

Thank you for your consideration. If you are interested in seeing our Amazon Silent Auction Wish List for the Tapestry Event, have questions, or would like to donate, please contact Development Manager Becca Snow at (262) 522-2409 or at [Becca.Snow@eras.org](mailto:Becca.Snow@eras.org).



## Get in the Holiday Spirit with Card Decorating

Feeling crafty or in the holiday mood? We have more than 3,500 blank holiday cards in stock and are in need of creative decorators to make them festive for our older adult clients. This is the perfect project for congregations, schools, your company's break room, and groups of all sizes!

Cards will come in bundles of 25. For a single person or a family, we suggest starting off with 25-50 cards at a time. For groups, we can give up to 100 cards at a time. Instructions with an example on how we would like the cards decorated are included with your bundle of cards.

Pick-ups and drop-offs will be available at our Greendale, Milwaukee, and Waukesha offices Monday-Friday, 9 am to 4 pm. To help with social distancing, we have a table outside our office suites for you to pick up undecorated cards and return decorated cards.

If you would like to help with this project, please reach out to Becca Snow at [Becca.Snow@Eras.org](mailto:Becca.Snow@Eras.org).

## Eras Senior Network's 2021 Santa 5K Run & Walk

Registration is open for our 13th Annual Santa 5K Run & Walk scheduled for December 5th, 2021. You can participate in this year's event in person in downtown Waukesha **OR** virtually with our Run-Your-Own-Route option.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR THE 2021 SANTA 5K RUN & WALK](#)

### Registration Details

- Early Bird Registration for the in-person or virtual race is \$20 for students and \$25 for adults now through 11:59 pm August 31st, 2021. Adult prices increase to \$30 on September 1st.
- Sign up a team of five or more and receive an additional 10% off per person.
- Want more discounts? For every three friends who register through your referral link, we'll refund \$10.00 of your registration fee.





*Included with your registration is our 2021 limited edition Santa Run shirt!*

**Race App:** Runners who wish to participate virtually and run their own route will have access to the event through the app, RaceJoy. Using the app, you'll have the opportunity to time yourself, track yourself with GPS, provide your spectators an opportunity to track your progress and hear audio cheer messages of encouragement.

Want to Include your business' logo on the back of the 2021 Santa Run shirt? [Sponsorship opportunities](#) are available now through October 30th, 2021.

Questions? Contact Becca Snow at (262) 522-2409 or [Becca.Snow@Eras.org](mailto:Becca.Snow@Eras.org).

## 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 890 low-income seniors 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 13<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto:Vanessa.Harris@Eras.org) to schedule a time. To drop off at St. Alphonsus in Greendale, please reach out to [Vicki.Henning@Eras.org](mailto: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](mailto:Becca.Snow@Eras.org) with any questions or click [HERE](#) to learn more.

## Read Our 50 Plus News Magazine March Article: Celebrating Wisconsin's Farming Tradition



Each month, Eras Executive Director, Kathy Gale, shares an article with 50 Plus News Magazine. This month, we appreciate small farmers and the impact they have here in Wisconsin.

[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](mailto:Vanessa.Harris@Eras.org)



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

