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 and former 2013 Board President, Glen Choban.
Glen Choban
Board President, 2013
Director Strategic Partnerships
Capri Senior Communities

**Board of Directors Bio**

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

For the past 40+ years, I have been involved in senior care. Eras offers assistance to seniors in order to help them stay in their home setting as long as possible. While we offer living opportunities at Capri, we are always happy to assist people in retaining their independence as long as possible. Eras is a respected community based organization, and people are drawn in by Kathy Gale, Executive Director, the best ambassador for motivating people to support Eras.

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

My mother-in-law is a meaningful senior in my life. Both of my parents and my father-in-law have passed away, and at age 90, Mom remains active in an independent senior community. Mom still has 4 remaining siblings, and two are older than her. They are very special people to me. At a recent family gathering, one of her older brothers shared some information with me about his service in WWII. Some family were surprised, since they had not heard that story before.

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

Being semi-retired has not been a boring experience. In addition to my work with Capri, and serving on the Eras board, I am active on other boards. I currently serve as Board President for the Wisconsin Assisted Living Association, and Board Chairman for Chiara Communities, a 14-community portfolio of senior living properties. Our son with disabilities lives 3 hours north and my mother-in-law lives 3 hours south, and we try to visit each monthly.
Become a Volunteer Driver for Eras Senior Network

Volunteer drivers at Eras make it possible for local seniors and adults with disabilities to get to their medical appointments, as well as providing a way for clients to receive groceries and food pantry stock boxes through contactless delivery.

The pandemic has affected the number of volunteers able to help, but those with the capacity to continue volunteering have gone above and beyond to support our clients. Many volunteers have taken on double - or even triple - their normal amount of rides to ensure our clients receive the services they need.

Eras is looking for more drivers to help keep rides manageable for our current volunteers.

Click [HERE](#) to view our short video to learn more about our volunteer driving program. 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

Volunteers Needed - Grocery Assistance

Along with drivers, Eras is looking for volunteers to assist clients with grocery shopping. We need volunteers to:

- Drive clients to the grocery store
- Assist clients with carrying bags
- Accompany clients while they shop to help read labels, and select items
- Shop for clients and deliver their groceries to their homes

Right now, we are still following our COVID-19 procedures which include wearing a mask at all times while serving and interacting with clients. If you or someone you know is interested, 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
Volunteer Appreciation

Last month with the help of our partners at the Laureate Group, we were able to show appreciation to our volunteers in Milwaukee County and Waukesha County with a Route 66 themed drive-thru lunch!

Thank you so much to everyone who has donated their time and energy to serving older adults and adults with disabilities in our communities!

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 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 and haven't registered yet, 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

Register Now for our Virtual Tapestry Event – Free Registration

Join us on September 30th for our free Virtual Tapestry Event!

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.

[Click Here to Register](#)

[Click here](#) to preview some of the great Online Auction items that will be available for bid beginning September 27th at noon. New items are added to our preview weekly.
**Healing Spaces Initiative Making an Impact**

This year Eras Senior Network has partnered with the Milwaukee Neighborhood Improvement Development Corporation (NIDC) to help launch the Healing Spaces Initiative (HSI) in the Harambee neighborhood. Other community partners include Groundwork MKE, Safe & Sound, and True Skool. The HSI is funded through a grant awarded to the NIDC by Bader Philanthropies, Inc.

With the help of dedicated volunteers, eight therapeutic areas have been created for the Harambee community to enjoy.

[Click here](#) to read the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel's recent article on the Healing Spaces Initiative.

**Your Medicare Stories Are Needed!**

The history of Medicare in the United States dates to 1965 when President Lyndon B. Johnson signed into law the bill that created Medicare and Medicaid. Over the years, expansions have been made to Medicare to include people with disabilities and people with end-stage renal disease, and to offer more benefits such as prescription drugs. What started out as Part A and Part B is now known as “Original Medicare” and the prescription drug benefit is Part D.

Fifty-five years later, there are efforts in place to expand Medicare to include benefits for hearing, dental, and vision care. Senator Tammy Baldwin’s office is looking for stories from Medicare beneficiaries to help other lawmakers understand the urgency of this request. Have you had to go without hearing, dental, or vision care, or do you know someone who needs these services? Consider telling your story by calling the Senator’s office at (202) 224-5653 or visit the website at [www.baldwin.senate.gov](http://www.baldwin.senate.gov) to send a message with your story.
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.

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 September 19th, 2021. Adult prices increase to $30 on September 20th.
- 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).

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**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 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](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.
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.

**National Fall Prevention Week 2021**
The Milwaukee County Falls Prevention Coalition is hosting events in September during National Falls Prevention Week. Please see the flyer below for more information.
Read Our 50 Plus News Magazine March Article: Fall Prevention With Small Changes

Each month, Eras Executive Director, Kathy Gale, shares an article with 50 Plus News Magazine. This month, we raise awareness about fall prevention 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  
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