

December 2020



## Community Newsletter

Engaging & Supporting Seniors During COVID-19

### Snow Removal Volunteers Needed

It's time to start planning for the snow! Volunteers will be matched with a senior or adult with a disability in their community to remove snow from their driveway and sidewalk. Details can be coordinated directly with the person you serve. Enjoy the crisp winter weather as you provide this needed service to an individual that is no longer able to shovel snow due to age or physical condition. Qualifications: dependable, responsible, and a positive attitude. Must be 15 years or older (children younger may be accompanied by an adult). Also consider teaming up with a few people for this project and alternate throughout the season.



For more information, please contact Betty at (414) 488-6500 ext. 6507 or [Betty.Smith@Eras.org](mailto:Betty.Smith@Eras.org) for Milwaukee County and Marisa Strothenke at (262) 522-2402 or [Marisa.Strothenke@Eras.org](mailto:Marisa.Strothenke@Eras.org) for Waukesha County.

### Friendly Phone Call Program - Volunteers Needed

We are continuing to recruit volunteers to help with our Friendly Phone Call program. We are looking for individuals interested in placing weekly calls to a client of Eras to ensure they have what they need at home like food, medication, and other essentials. Not only does this call help someone meet their basic needs, but it is a way to help reduce loneliness for those who are isolated - and our volunteers tell us it's a great way to make a new friend while serving the community! For more information about this program please read the following [instruction sheet](#).

If you are interested in volunteering for this opportunity, please contact Marisa at (262) 522-2402 or [Marisa.Strothenke@Eras.org](mailto:Marisa.Strothenke@Eras.org).

## Virtually Running Across America - A Santa Run Participant's Unique Story



This year's Santa 5K Run & Walk looked a little different. Though COVID-19 made it difficult to participate all together as a community, 2020's virtual event still managed to bring out the holiday spirit in many. One participant made it his mission to not only complete Eras virtual run and walk, **but also one in all 50 states!**

Gary Clark, a retired Navy veteran from Jacksonville, North Carolina, was looking for a way to give back. With the impacts of COVID leaving the country fatigued and frustrated, the idea of doing something different to support organizations really appealed to Gary. When deciding which virtual run in Wisconsin to participate in, he chose Eras Senior Network's Santa Run & Walk because of our mission and dedication to the communities we serve.

"I was looking for a new goal for 2021 other than putting 2020, the year of crazy, behind me. It was something different," explained Gary. Gary ran multiple marathons in the past but took a break from running after having a knee replacement. The virtual races allowed him to walk at his own pace while still being active and promoting the missions of 50 different organizations around the country.

"I can walk and do it as I'm going through my day working at a clinic or doing yard work. The money goes to a good cause and with virtual races it does not take time out of my day like an all-day thing."

A special thank you to not only Gary, but all of our 2020 Santa 5K Run & Walk participants! Your efforts are greatly appreciated and make a difference in the lives of our clients and their families!

## Holiday Giving 2020 - Providing Gifts to 890 Older Adults



This year's Holiday Giving Program was a huge success - thanks to you! Our goal was to provide 890 older adults with a gift that included \$50 in gift cards and stamps - and we exceeded that goal by providing each of our recipients with a gift valued at \$60!

We distributed Holiday Giving gifts to 315 older adults last year. By nearly tripling our number of recipients this year, we feared we would not collect enough donations to support this number of recipients, but the community came through like never before! Packages included gift cards to local grocery stores and pharmacies and a book of stamps. Gifts were mailed in holiday cards decorated by community members.

Thank you very much for helping 890 older adults in Milwaukee County and Waukesha County know they are important and remembered this holiday season.

## Read Our 50Plus News Magazine December Article



Each month, Eras Executive Director, Kathy Gale, shares an article with 50Plus News Magazine. This month's article focuses on the changing of the seasons and how they correspond with the changes happening in our own lives.

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

## Welcome Our New Milwaukee County Outreach Manager

Vanessa Harris joined the Eras Senior Network team on November 16th. She is serving as the Outreach Manager for all of Milwaukee County. She looks forward to working with our community partners and local congregations to help Milwaukee's older adults. Feel free to reach out to Vanessa at (414) 488-6780 or [Vanessa.Harris@eras.org](mailto:Vanessa.Harris@eras.org)



## Can We Virtually Connect With You?

During this time, we are refraining from in-person meetings and presentations but would still love to connect with you!

- We are happy to present about our volunteer opportunities and services over Zoom. We are also now presenting our S.T.O.P. Senior Frauds and Scams presentation virtually too.
- Would you like to talk one-on-one about how Eras Senior Network can provide support for older adults in your congregation or community group? We would be happy to set up a telephone call or video call.

**Waukesha County:** Contact Heather Uzowulu, Development Director, at (262) 522-2404 or [Heather.Uzowulu@Eras.org](mailto:Heather.Uzowulu@Eras.org) to set up a time to connect.

**Milwaukee County:** Contact Vanessa Harris, Milwaukee County Outreach Manager, at (414) 488-6780 or [Vanessa.Harris@Eras.org](mailto:Vanessa.Harris@Eras.org) to set up a time to connect.

## Read our December Client Newsletter



Eras Senior Network mails a hard copy client newsletter to 4,000 older adults in Milwaukee County and Waukesha County four times a year. We invite you to read our latest client newsletter by [clicking HERE](#).

Past newsletters can be found on our website by [clicking HERE](#).

2607 N Grandview Blvd, Suite 150 Waukesha, WI 53188  
Eras.org • Waukesha: (262) 549-3348 • Milwaukee: (414) 488-6500



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Eras Senior Network  
2607 N Grandview Blvd, Suite 150  
Waukesha, WI 53188