

September 2018



Volunteer Newsletter

Volunteer Opportunities

Dear Volunteer,

Looking for something to do? Check out our [Community Calendar](#) for upcoming events in the county.

Welcome to the Eras Team, New Volunteers!

Thank you for giving your time to help support seniors and adults with disabilities in Waukesha County! The impact of your gift will be felt by all that you serve.

Betsy Forrest
Stephen Welch

Pat Zupke



Volunteer Needs

Driver Feedback Needed: We are looking into buying [car handles](#) that our volunteer drivers can use in their car to help clients who might be struggling to get out have a more secure handle to hold on to rather than the door. We are hoping to get your feedback to see if they would be something you would use. Please let us know your thoughts by contacting Hannah at HannahL@ErasWaukesha.org.

Fall Yard Clean Up: Help someone prepare for the changing seasons as a Fall Yard Clean Up volunteer. This opportunity is perfect for individuals and groups. Clients need help with weeding, raking leaves, washing windows, cleaning first floor gutters, and/or putting away lawn furniture. Dates and time are flexible around your availability. Contact Hannah for more details at (262) 522-2405 or HannahL@ErasWaukesha.org.

Friendly Visitor: An 81 year old woman in New Berlin is looking for a Friendly Visitor. She lost her husband last year and is feeling isolated and "down in the dumps." Are you available once a week for about an hour to sit and talk? Contact Spring for more details at (262) 522-2407 or SpringK@ErasWaukesha.org.

Minor Home Repair: A woman in Muskego is looking for a volunteer who would be able to install a bar mount in her shower. She recently broke her femur and has found it very difficult to shower. The volunteer would need to look at the bathtub and then go to the store to purchase the bar mount before installing it. Contact Spring for more details at (262) 522-2407 or SpringK@ErasWaukesha.org.

Pen Pal (School District of Menomonee Falls): Do you like writing letters and want to volunteer from home? Help a 2nd-5th grade student with their penmanship and build an intergenerational relationship as you exchange correspondence over the school year. At the end of the school year Pen Pals will meet their students face-to-face at the meet and greet party. Contact Dawn Hinton for more information at (262) 617-8061 or DawnH@ErasWaukesha.org.

StoryCorps: Horning Middle School in Waukesha will be continuing their StoryCorps program for the 2018-2019 school year and Eras Senior Network is looking for volunteers like to you keep it going! The StoryCorps program is designed to heighten 8th grade students' awareness of the stories all around them and to encourage them to dialogue with others in searching out these rich stories.

The program sessions will take place one Wednesday a month from October through May for 1 hour. 30 minutes will be spent with one pair of students and then 30 minutes will be spent with another pair from a different class. Each month there will be a topic to focus stories around which will be made available ahead of time. Topics are being selected this summer, but could include civil rights, conflict, etc. *"Thank you for coming and influencing my life."* – 8th grade student. Come be the next influencer in someone else's story. Contact Corinn Marich at CorinnM@ErasWaukesha.org or 262-522-2403 for more information.



Vello links volunteer online tutors to local students to help them read better.

Kids need your help!

Kids who aren't strong readers by fourth grade are at risk of never catching up. Help kids in local schools read better with Vello, an online program that links volunteer tutors with local students using your computer or smartphone.

How Does Vello Work?

- Teachers pick five to six struggling readers from their class who need extra help.
- Each student is scheduled for two 30-minute online tutoring sessions per week.
- Volunteers choose one or more sessions each week to tutor a student remotely.
- When it's time, students use their classroom computer and a headset to read books aloud to volunteers and answer questions to test their understanding.
- Volunteers see the students' screen and share audio communication to help with tough words, ask questions, and celebrate with them as they learn.
- As students improve, the software adapts to match their ability – no prep work needed.
- Several optional in-person opportunities to meet students and teachers at their school will be scheduled throughout the school year.

Volunteer Expectations

- Commit to tutor a student in 1st and 3rd grade for at least one 30-minute session per week for a semester, usually between 8-11 a.m.
- Pass a background check.
- Complete a one-hour training in person or via webinar.

Thank you for your interest in supporting the community through United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County!

**THANKS TO OUR
SPONSORS**



Contact Corinn Marich at CorinnM@ErasWaukesha.org or 262-522-2403 for more information.



engage. relate.
advocate. support.

Your Donation Matters

We are a United Way partner agency, receiving funding allocations from United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County, and directed donations from UWGMWC and United Ways in other communities throughout the country. Our agency is grateful for the financial support that allows us to serve seniors and adults with disabilities who struggle to manage their basic needs. Our support is made up of an allocation amount set by UWGMWC and donor designations from generous community members like you!

The United Way campaign has begun. As you consider your United Way donation, please note that our agency is listed as **36050 ERAs Senior Network**. We are no longer listed with our previous name "Interfaith." All donor designations to 36050 ERAs Senior Network will benefit seniors and adults with disabilities in Waukesha County.



Santa Run-Save the Date

Join us on Sunday, December 2nd, 2018 for the 10th annual Santa 5k Run & Walk Fundraiser benefitting Eras Senior Network. Register NOW at ErasWaukesha.org or click the image below.



Chronic Pain Self-Management Workshop

Learn practical skills and tools to improve your daily life.

The Chronic Pain Self-Management workshop is recommended for adults living with chronic pain and those who love and support them. Participants develop self-management skills, build self-confidence and increase motivation to meet the day-to-day challenges of living with chronic pain by learning techniques to deal with problems such as frustration, fatigue, isolation and poor sleep, appropriate exercise for maintaining and improving strength, flexibility, endurance and more.

Join Us!

Date: Thursdays, Sept. 20-Oct. 25

Time: 8:30-11 a.m.

Place: Community Memorial Hospital, Medical Staff Conference Room- W180 N8085 Town Hall Road, Menomonee Falls

The workshop is free. The workbook and Moving with Ease exercise CD is available to purchase for \$30 if desired, not required. Registration required. Space is limited. Please call (800) 272-3666. For more information, visit froedtert.com/living. Presented in partnership with our local Aging and Disability Resource Center.

Feel better • Be in control • Do the things you want to do

AG Schimel Partners with Wisconsin Banks and Credit Unions to Curtail Elder Financial Abuse

MILWAUKEE, Wis. – Attorney General Brad Schimel today released a new [training video](#) aimed at educating tellers and other banking professionals on how to spot financial elder abuse and report it, alongside the Wisconsin Bankers Association, Wisconsin Credit Union League, and Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions (DFI).

“Elder financial abuse is growing rapidly in Wisconsin; from 2016 to 2017, it increased 17.5 percent,” said Attorney General Brad Schimel. “Tellers at financial institutions are at the frontlines of financial scams. By offering this free training on how to spot financial exploitation at the teller window, we can create an easy defense that will protect consumers.”

The Department of Justice (DOJ) produced the ten-minute training video with assistance from the Wisconsin Bankers Association, Wisconsin Credit Union League, and members of the Attorney General’s Task Force on Elder Abuse. The video details common red-flags that tellers in financial institutions should watch for when interacting with older adults who are often susceptible to financial exploitation.

“I applaud Attorney General Brad Schimel and his team at the Department of Justice for producing this video and encourage everyone at banks and credit unions in Wisconsin to watch it,” DFI Secretary Jay Risch said, adding, “Any one of them could be the person who spots the abuse and saves one of our seniors from becoming a victim.”

“Identifying and preventing elder financial abuse has always been a priority for Wisconsin bankers,” said Rose Oswald Poels, President & CEO of the Wisconsin Bankers Association. “We were pleased to work with the Attorney General’s Task Force and the Department of Justice team to develop this useful resource to help our members with this critical mission.”

A [report](#) from 2015 estimates that elders lose nearly \$35 billion annually to elder financial abuse. The report also shows that the impact of financial exploitation extends beyond just economic damage, with

954,000 seniors skipping meals due to the abuse.

“The impact of financial elder abuse on Wisconsin seniors is real and growing,” said Brett Thompson, President & CEO of the Wisconsin Credit Union League. “We applaud Attorney General Schimel’s efforts on this important issue and credit unions across the state look forward to utilizing this new educational tool to better serve and protect their senior members.”

The Wisconsin Bankers Association and Wisconsin Credit Union League will be distributing the training video to members and encouraging them to utilize this new tool for their employees. The video will be made available for download for any financial institution or can be viewed on Attorney General Schimel’s Respect Your Elders Report Abuse website at www.reportelderabusewi.org.

Attorney General Schimel has prioritized elder abuse, and in August 2017, launched the Attorney General’s Task Force on Elder Abuse. The task force is charged with compiling the resources and knowledge of a multi-disciplinary team of professionals to study the impact of elder abuse in Wisconsin and assess ways to improve outcomes for this growing population of citizens. In addition to developing strategies to address barriers in investigations and prosecutions of elder abuse, the task force will strengthen consumer protection for seniors and create recommendations for improved cross-system communications.

In addition to the task force’s work, Attorney General Schimel has moved quickly to provide public safety tools to seniors and their loved ones. DOJ worked with law enforcement and aging and senior care experts and advocates to raise awareness about elder abuse and encourage citizens to report abuse against seniors. The public awareness campaign, first launched in January 2018 with [radio ads](#), encourages citizens to report suspected elder abuse of any kind, teaches how to recognize elder abuse, and connects victims with resources. In May 2018, Attorney General Schimel launched a new website, www.ReportElderAbuseWI.org, and paid online outreach aimed at elder abuse victims.

In October 2017, Attorney General Schimel expanded [Dose of Reality](#), a statewide prevention campaign designed to raise awareness about prescription drug abuse and its effect on the opioid epidemic, to include resources and information unique to seniors and caregivers.

The attorney general also started the “[Safe Seniors Camera Program](#),” a new pilot project in Brown, Outagamie, and Winnebago counties that allows Wisconsin residents who suspect a caregiver is abusing their loved one to use a covert camera to provide surveillance over someone who may have been harmed by a caregiver in their residence.

To report suspected financial, physical, emotional, or sexual abuse, please [contact your county elder adult-at-risk agency](#) or call 1-800-488-3780. If you witness an act of abuse, neglect, or exploitation that requires immediate attention, please call 911.

To learn more about elder abuse, go to www.ReportElderAbuseWI.org.

Addressing Opioid Use in Older Adults

Opioid-related hospital visits in Waukesha County have nearly doubled, from 105 visits in 2006 to 191 visits during 2014. For every five hospital visits involving opioids, there was one death. A team of professionals and community members are addressing opioid use among older adults through the Waukesha County Heroin Task Force and the Community Health Improvement Plan Process. The goal is to reduce the impact of the opioid epidemic in Waukesha County. Eras is helping to gather information from older adults in Waukesha County to assist the task force in understanding the problem and developing ways to help our community's seniors. Your voice is needed! Please go to our website at www.ErasWaukesha.org and look for the CHIPP logo at the bottom of the page to complete a short survey. You'll be entered in a random drawing for a gift card if you choose to participate.



Have you submitted your hours?

Help us each month by reporting your hours. It's one of the ways we stay funded! Submit your hours on our [website](#) OR [email](#) them to us!

**Pen Pals and School Tutors don't need to submit hours. They are tracked by letters written and sign in sheets. If you have questions about submitting hours please [contact us](#).



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