

August 2021



Waukesha County
Volunteer Newsletter

Dear Volunteer,

It's hard to believe that we are already in the month of August. Eras Senior Network is preparing for a very busy and exciting fall season. There is so much to do and get involved with. See more details below on all of these opportunities.

We also wanted to share some wonderful thank you notes from our clients. Thank you to all of our volunteers who help provide services to those in our community.

- "Thanks to the wonderful, caring and supportive volunteer drivers who make these rides possible. I have been so lonely and blessed to meet so many especially during the past year with COVID. I have been so terribly lonely and all of the volunteers always brighten my day... I am so blessed and I would be lost without your company."
- "I cannot thank you enough. Everyone 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. I am a walking advertisement for you."
- "I just want to tell you that the people who came out Sunday to clean up the yard did a fabulous job. They trimmed the trees, the branches that were hanging down, they planted some flowers, weeded, and trimmed the hedges. Oh they were fabulous and so nice. Thank you so much for sending them. Thank you."

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.

Jesus Castro
Karen Brah

Marcy Sauer
Brittany Miller

Anna Hilbelink
Michelle Cheever



Volunteer Needs

Replace Toilet Seat: A client in Muskego is in need of a volunteer to replace a bathroom toilet seat.

Rehang Closet Doors: A client in Brookfield is in need of a volunteer to help place three closet doors back on the track.

Fixing Screen Door: A client in Brookfield is in need of a volunteer to look at a screen door and determine if they can repair it or if a new one is needed. The client would prefer to fix the current screen if possible. If a new one is needed, the volunteer could purchase the screen and get reimbursed by client, or the client could purchase. The client would also need the volunteer to help install it.

Fix Doorbell: A client in Brookfield is in need of a volunteer to help fix their doorbell.

Sand and Stain Chairs: A client in Muskego is in need of a volunteer to sand and stain two Adirondack chairs. Client has the stain but does not have sanding supplies.

If you are interested in volunteering please contact Shannon at (262) 522-2405 or Shannon.Fogle@Eras.org.

Yard Work and Lawn Mowing

Outdoor Yard Work: Clients throughout Waukesha County are still in need of outdoor yard help this season. Below is a list of various tasks and locations that clients are currently in need of help.

- **Brookfield** (pull weeds, trimming, clean outdoor windows - client has trimming shears)
- **Dousman** (trim overgrown bushes at front door - client does not have shears or weed whacker)
- **Hartland** (pull weeds, trim bushes, clean first floor gutters)
- **Mukwonago** (clean flower beds, clean first floor gutters)
- **Muskego** (trim shrubs, pull weeds - client can supply rake, pruning shears, broom, and gloves)
- **Muskego** (pull weeds, trim flowerbeds, wash windows)
- **Pewaukee** (wash windows)
- **Waukesha** (pull weeds by the garage)
- **Waukesha** (pull weeds and remove plants from front walkway - client has very specific needs and will require extra patience)
- **Waukesha** (trim edges of grass - client has manual hand trimmer/shears but does not have a weedwhacker)
- **Waukesha** (clean gutters, pressure wash patio)
- **Waukesha** (rake leaves)
- **Waukesha** (wash windows)

Lawn Mowing: Clients throughout Waukesha County are in need of lawn care this summer. Volunteer to be matched with a client and help them mow their lawn throughout the season. This opportunity is flexible around your schedule and dependent on how fast the grass grows! Below is a list of locations that clients are currently in need of help.

- **Brookfield** (1 client - does not have a lawn mower)
- **Muskego** (2 clients - one can supply a push mower, one is unknown)
- **Waukesha** (2 clients - one has a riding lawn mower, one does not have a lawn mower)

If you are interested in volunteering please contact Marisa at (262) 522-2402 or Marisa.Strothenke@Eras.org.

Telephone Reassurance Opportunities

We currently have one Eras Senior Network client looking to be matched with a Telephone Reassurance volunteer. Volunteers are asked to call these clients on a regular basis to increase socialization. See the attached document to read more about the clients and their interests.

If you are interested in any of these opportunities or would like to learn more about any of the clients seeking Telephone Reassurance, please contact Shannon at (262) 522-2405 or Shannon.Fogle@Eras.org.

Seeking Friendly Phone Call Volunteers

Eras is seeking additional volunteers to place ongoing friendly phone calls to local isolated seniors and adults with disabilities. Volunteers call our clients 2 to 4 times per month and engage in friendly conversation to help ease the feelings of loneliness. After each call, volunteers are asked to fill out a short online survey which helps Eras staff members identify any additional needs our clients may have. This can be a short-term volunteer opportunity during the summer, or you can commit to calling as long as you and the client wish to participate in the program. Most calls are around 20 minutes in length, but call lengths vary based on the preference of the client you're calling.

If you'd like to learn more about how to partake in this easy and rewarding program, please contact Marisa at (262) 522-2402 or Marisa.Strothenke@Eras.org.

Virtual Tapestry Event Registration Now Open!

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

The Virtual Tapestry Event, presented by ProHealth Care, supports older adults 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.



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

The event also includes an online auction starting at noon on Monday, September 27th and closing at 6:00pm on Thursday, September 30th.

To learn more, please visit our [website](#). We hope you join us on September 30th!

Seeking Auction Items for Tapestry Fundraiser Event

Help get us get 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 go towards supporting older adults in Milwaukee County and Waukesha County.

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, collectables, 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)
- Patio sets for garden, deck, or porch
- Use of cabin or other vacation home (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 have questions or would like to donate, please contact Development Manager Becca Snow at (262) 522-2409 or at 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, 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, 9am to 4pm. 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'd like to help, please reach out to Becca Snow at (262) 522-2409 or 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 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 8:30am and 4:30pm. 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 9:00am and 5:00pm. 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.

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 do not 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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Attachments



[Telephone Reassurance Opportunities \(August 2021\).pdf](#)

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