

January 2022



Dear Volunteer,

January is a time for fresh starts and new beginnings. Are there others in your life looking to get involved in their community? Tell them about Eras and have them contact us to learn all about the different volunteer opportunities we have to offer! We are always in need of more volunteers to help provide the wonderful services that so many of our older adults rely on. Thank you for everything you do, and Happy New Year!

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.



Driving Reminder

Now that we have entered the snowy season, we wanted to remind our volunteer drivers what to do in case of inclement weather. If you are scheduled for a ride and are not comfortable driving in the snow, please let us know right away so we can find a replacement or schedule alternate transportation for the client.

Volunteer Needs

Tighten Fence Boards: A client in Menomonee Falls needs a volunteer to help secure some loose boards in her fence.

Painting and Clean Up: A client in Waukesha needs a volunteer to help with a couple different projects. 1) Paint board on the 2nd floor from when gutters were replaced. 2) Clean up foam from animal prevention spray.

Cell Phone Set Up: A client in New Berlin needs a volunteer to help set up a MiniVision2 cell phone and show the client how it works. This is a cell phone for a visually impaired client. There is an online manual, but the client is not able to see or access it.

Battery Replacement: A client in Waukesha needs a volunteer to help change the batteries in their solar lights.

Plastic on Windows: A client in Muskego needs a volunteer to help cover their windows in plastic and possibly assist with their curtains as well.

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

Snow Removal

There are almost 30 clients in need of snow removal help this winter. Volunteers will be matched with a senior or adult with a disability in their community to remove snow from their driveway and sidewalk. Volunteers can help individually, with their family, or with a group of friends (rotating throughout the season). The current needs are listed below, if you are able to help any of these clients, please contact Marisa at (262) 522-2402 or Marisa.Strothenke@Eras.org.

Big Bend	(1) client has snow blower
Brookfield	(2) client has shovel (1) does not have equipment (1) unsure if they have equipment
Menomonee Falls	(1) client has shovel and snowblower
Muskego	(1) client has snowblower
New Berlin	(1) client has shovel and snowblower
Oconomowoc	(1) client has shovel
Pewaukee	(2) client has shovel (1) unsure if they have equipment
Waukesha	(3) client has shovel (9) client has shovel and snowblower (4) unsure if they have equipment



Volunteers Needed for Friendly Phone Call Program

We are putting out a call for volunteers to join the Friendly Phone Call program! This program pairs an Eras client with a volunteer to have regular conversations by phone. The Friendly Phone Call program is a longer-term commitment (12+ weeks) and seeks to decrease social isolation and reduce the feelings of loneliness in our clients.

How does it work?

- The volunteer will complete an application, be screened, and matched with a client(s).
- The volunteer calls the client to introduce themselves and, along with the client, decides when and how often they should connect (usually between 2-4 times a month, with calls typically lasting 20 minutes or less- but may be longer if time permits).
- After each call, the volunteer lets Eras know whether they were able to connect with the client (through a quick email, phone call, or online survey).
- If a client asks for a ride, assistance, resources, or has questions or concerns, volunteers should refer them to our main line. Eras staff will follow up on any additional needs that the client has.
- Repeat!

Specific Friendly Phone Call Needs: A client in Waukesha County is looking to be matched with a volunteer who is fluent in Spanish (check-in calls would take place in Spanish)

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a volunteer, or you have questions about the program, please contact Marisa at (262) 522-2402 or Marisa.Strothenke@Eras.org.

Friendly Visiting Opportunities

The Friendly Visiting program aims to match clients and volunteers through a more strategic method. Clients may request volunteers who are similar in age or have had similar life experiences, and staff work to fill those requests with interested volunteers. Currently, all Friendly Visiting matches are taking place over the phone, rather than in-person. Volunteers are asked to call these clients on a regular basis to increase socialization. Please 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 a Friendly Visitor, please contact Shannon at (262) 522-2405 or Shannon.Fogle@Eras.org.

Winter Driving Tips from Eras' Mobility Management Team

Tips for driving in cold and snowy weather:

- **Stock up.** Keep a bundle of cold-weather gear in your car, such as warm clothing, a flashlight, a glass scraper, and blankets.
- **Avoid the cruise.** Do not use cruise control when driving on any slippery surface, such as on ice and snow.
- **Keep things maintained.** Make certain that your tires have plenty of tread and are properly inflated.
- **Fuel up.** Keep your gas tank half full in your vehicle.
- **Drive slowly.** Always adjust your speed to account for lower traction when driving on snow or ice. Remember: It takes longer to slow down on icy roads.
- **Increase your following distance.** An increased Margin of safety will provide the longer distance needed if you must stop.

If you are looking for an opportunity to become a volunteer driver without utilizing your own vehicle, please contact Sarah Harvey at (262) 522-2408 or Sarah.Harvey@Eras.org.



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](#).



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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Attachments



[Friendly Visiting Opportunities \(January 2022\).pdf](#)

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