

May 2022



Dear Volunteer,

May is Older Americans Month! With the help of all our volunteers, Eras has been able to help older adults in Milwaukee County and Waukesha County stay in their homes and age in a way that's comfortable for them. Because of the services our volunteers provide, seniors have the option to continue living independently and contribute to their communities. Thank you for all you do both this month, and throughout the rest of the 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.



Thank you for an amazing National Volunteers Week in April!

Eras volunteers are incredible year-round, but this spring we wanted to help clients share their gratitude as well. Eras' client, Mary, shared her family recipe for Amish Sugar Cookies with volunteers in our community. We hope you were able to enjoy a few cookies from Mary's recipe. Pictured here are the cookies that Eras volunteer, Jay, made with his family. In Jay's words, "They're delicious!" A sincere thank you from the whole Eras community for all that you do to move our mission forward and help older adults remain independent and supported. – Gabby Huff, Volunteer Director



Driving Safety Tips Every Responsible Driver Should Know

Thank you to all our Eras Volunteer Drivers for driving safely! Here are some tips from Nationwide that we wanted to share with you.

Make a safe driving plan

- Build time into your trip schedule to stop for food, rest breaks, phone calls, or other business.
- Adjust your seat, mirrors, and climate controls before putting the car in gear.
- Pull over to eat or drink. It takes only a few minutes.

Eras Website Updates

Over the next several weeks Eras will be making some updates to our website www.Eras.org. All the information you are used to having at your fingertips will still be available, but it may look a little different next time you visit us online. Rest assured, we think these changes will make the website easier to use. Please feel free to reach out to us if you need assistance.

Volunteer Needs

Shower Curtain Install: A client in Waukesha needs a volunteer to help put up a shower curtain.

Staining Ramp: A client in Oconomowoc needs a volunteer to help stain their ramp.

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

Paint Porch Railings: A client in Waukesha needs a volunteer to touch up their front porch rails with paint.

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

Phone Call & Data Entry Help in Waukesha Office

Eras Faith In Action Waukesha County Staff are looking for office help on Wednesday mornings and afternoons. Volunteers should be able to help at least twice per month for 3-4 hours at a time. Volunteers should also be comfortable independently completing the following tasks.

- Answering incoming calls from clients
- Placing calls to clients
- Looking up clients and ride requests in our database
- Additional calling and clerical projects as assigned

If you are interested in helping, please contact Theresa at (262) 522-2412 or Theresa.Bryar@Eras.org.

Volunteers Needed for Spring Yard Clean Up

A huge thank you to groups and individuals who have volunteered to help our clients with their yard work this spring. We have matched over 80 clients in Waukesha County, but still have a number of clients looking to for help this season. Below are the communities that still need assistance with things like raking leaves, cleaning flower beds, pulling weeds, trimming bushes, cleaning gutters, placing lawn furniture, installing window screens, washing windows, etc.

- Brookfield (2 yards)
- Mukwonago (1 yard)
- Muskego (2 yards)
- New Berlin (3 yards)
- Oconomowoc (7 yards)
- North Prairie (1 yard)
- Waukesha (14 yards)

If you are interested in helping but haven't registered yet, please contact Marisa at (262) 522-2402 or Marisa.Strothenke@Eras.org.

We also have several clients throughout the season who request assistance with removing brush and leaves from their property. If this is something you would be able to help with, please let us know and we will add you to our list and contact you when these requests come through.



Volunteers Needed for 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! At the beginning of the summer Eras will match interested volunteers with one (or more) of our clients. Throughout the season volunteers are expected to stop over when the senior's lawn needs cutting. Groups can also participate in this opportunity and take turns mowing the client's lawn throughout the season.

If you are interested in helping but haven't registered yet, please contact Marisa at (262) 522-2402 or Marisa.Strothenke@Eras.org.



Friendly Visiting Opportunities

We are resuming all Friendly Visiting activities at this time. If you had a client that you were matched with in the past for Friendly Visiting, you may continue visits. Please discuss with client prior to visiting any preferences that either of you have about wearing a mask during visit. If you are no longer interested in visiting with the client that you had been a Friendly Visitor for, please contact Shannon Fogle at 262-522-2405 or Shannon.Fogle@Eras.org and staff will recruit another volunteer for the client. Please feel free contact Shannon with any questions or concerns regarding Friendly Visiting.

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!

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.



Community Needs

The Community Improvement Plan and Process (CHIPP) is a collaborative community-partner process, led by Waukesha County Public Health, to affect change and make improvements to the health of the Waukesha County community.

Five years ago CHIPP conducted a Quality of Life Assessment which helped shape their priorities to improve the communities health. Now five years later, they are conducting another Quality of Life Assessment, to help to identify the highest health priorities in Waukesha County, which will focus CHIPP's efforts for the next five years.

CHIPP is asking anyone who lives, works, and/or goes to school in Waukesha County, to participate in taking this assessment. All responses will be collected anonymously. Please [click here](#) to access and complete this 10 minute survey.

Feel free to share this link anytime in May with others who live, work, and/or go to school in Waukesha County.

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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