

September 2021



Waukesha County Volunteer Newsletter

Dear Volunteer,

“Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.” – Leo Buscaglia

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.

Breanne Delisle
Pat Corcoran
Terry Brown
Angela Berquist

Christine Delisle
Phil Hagedorn
Benjamin Hilbelink
Kathryn Lenz
Tracey Hassinger

Shannon Sweek
Nanc Ihrcke
Amy Stehr
Tammy Vogel



Eras Phone Number Update

Eras Senior Network, Inc. has recently been made aware that the phone numbers we are calling from have been appearing as Potential SPAM or SPAM Risk on some of your telephones. We are working to resolve the issue, but in the meantime, we are asking those who have a cell phone to add the Eras main line phone number as a contact in your phone. When a contact is in your cell phone, it appears that it will not display as SPAM. The main line phone number that you should add to your phone is **(262) 549-3348**.

For more details on this topic please read the article titled [How Do I Fix My Caller ID Showing "Scam Likely"?](#)

Volunteer Needs

Fix Doorknob: A client in Brookfield is in need of a volunteer to fix a passage doorknob. The client is unsure if the doorknob can be repaired or if it will need to be replaced. The client has a replacement knob.

Reattach Outdoor Hose: A client in Waukesha is in need of a volunteer to help reattach a flexible hose on the outside of their house. This hose is to prevent water from getting into the basement. The client is unsure how to reattach the hose or if a new part is going to be needed.

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

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

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)
- **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)
- **Waukesha** (pull weeds, clean gutters, trim edges of grass, wash rocks, clean windows, rake leaves)
- **Waukesha** (rake leaves)
- **Waukesha** (pull weeds, cut down perennials)
- **Waukesha** (transplant 5 Hostas into flower garden)
- **Waukesha** (rake leaves, cut back Buckthorn Trees)
- **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** (pull weeds)

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)
- **Menomonee Falls** (1 client - has a lawn mower)
- **Muskego** (2 clients - one can supply a push mower, one is unknown)
- **Sussex** (1 client - has a lawn mower and tractor)
- **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. 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.

One Year of Eras Vans!

Almost one year ago, Eras Mobility Specialist started providing rides to clients that were left unmatched with a volunteer. To date, we have provided over 250 rides to healthcare appointments, food pantries and grocery stores, covering a total of 11,836 miles. As we continue to navigate the uncertainty of Covid-19, rides are provided to clients (masks required) one at a time with the hope to offer shared-rides as it becomes safe to do so.



If you are interested in helping with this program, there is availability for volunteers, new and existing, to drive the van. To schedule a time to discuss this option, please contact Sarah Harvey at (262) 522-2408 or Sarah.Harvey@Eras.org.

Have You Registered for Virtual Tapestry Event?

Join us for our Virtual Tapestry Event on Thursday, September 30th, 2021 – [free registration is open!](#)

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. [Click here](#) for session descriptions.



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 Online Auction and Wine Pull starts at noon on Monday, September 27th and closes at 6:00pm on September 30th. Preview a few of the many items we will have up for bid [here](#). New auction items will be featured in the weeks leading up to the event.

We hope you join us on September 30th!

Santa 5K Run and Walk Registration Now Open!

Registration is open for our 13th Annual Santa 5K Run & Walk scheduled for December 5th, 2021. You can participate in this year's event in-person in downtown Waukesha **OR** virtually with our Run-Your-Own-Route option.

Proceeds from the Santa 5K Run & Walk benefit Eras Senior Network's programming for older adults in Milwaukee County and Waukesha County. Your participation is truly appreciated.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR THE 2021 SANTA 5K RUN & WALK](#)

Registration Details

- Early Bird Registration for the in-person or virtual race is \$20 for students and \$25 for adults now through 11:59pm September 19th, 2021. Adult prices increase to \$30 on September 20th.
- Sign up a team of five or more and receive an additional 10% off per person.
- Want more discounts? For every three friends who register through your referral link, we'll refund \$10.00 of your registration fee.



Included with your registration is our 2021 limited edition Santa Run shirt

Race App: Runners who wish to participate virtually and run their own route will have access to the event through the app, RaceJoy. Using the app, you'll have the opportunity to time yourself, track yourself with GPS, provide your spectators an opportunity to track your progress, and hear audio cheer messages of encouragement.

Questions? Contact Becca Snow at (262) 522-2409 or 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 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 8:30 am and 4:30 pm. 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 (Milwaukee) and St. Alphonsus Parish (Greendale) between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm. 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.

Community Needs

Help UWM Graduate Students Practice their Interview and Assessment Skills

Eras is excited to share an opportunity for volunteers to help the next generation of healthcare workers advance their interview and assessment skills. Students from UWM in social work and health sciences are seeking older adult participants to conduct a practice interview over the phone. Students will utilize an interview and assessment tool from their coursework, and the name and responses of participants will be kept confidential. If you are interested in participating or would like to learn more, please reach out to Sophia Franklin at Sophia.Franklin@Eras.org or (414) 488-6929.

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

(414) 488-6500 • (262) 549-3348 • Eras.org



Attachments



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

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