



Eastside  
Senior  
Services

serving seniors since 1974



SPRING  
2024

WELCOME TO OUR

# Annual Newsletter

A lot of great things happened in 2023, and there is much excitement to look forward to in 2024. We celebrate our 50th anniversary this year, and we will be putting on a fantastic in-person fundraising event to celebrate. This year, our focus as an agency is to honor the past, serve the best way we can in the present, and deliberately plan for the future to serve our community in a deeply meaningful, intentional way.

The need for service has exploded and there is no sign of it stopping. As a result, our agency is also growing. We added Bill, a third part-time staff member, in late 2022 and we hope to expand our funding to support additional staffing time in the future. This will help us position ourselves to better serve our community and to grow along with the increasing demand we are seeing. Though we've increased our volunteer numbers, we require so many more to meet our needs - please spread the word!

*(more on page 2)*

## In this newsletter you will find:



Year in review, statistics, what's ahead, celebrating 50 years and more.  
Keep Reading!



ESS STAFF: (L TO R)  
BILL, MELISSA AND KELLY

(cont') We've permanently moved our office to Saint John's On The Lake and are so grateful for the donated space. Our clients and volunteers celebrated the holidays with a luncheon held at and donated by Saint John's On The Lake. Thanks to gracious donors and a few Girl Scout troops, volunteers were able to deliver holiday gifts and cards to clients served in 2023.

Thank you to our incredible volunteers and community partners - we would never be able to do what we do without you. Thank you to our clients - it is a true privilege to serve you and to be part of your lives.

## About Us...

Our mission is to “help adults aged 60 and older live independently and stay connected to their community on the east side and Shorewood.” With three part-time staff and 108 volunteers, we've served 229 clients in 2023. All services are FREE, but donations are always welcome. We operate on 100% donations, with 13 primary supporters listed at the end of this newsletter. The majority of tasks are provided by our volunteers. Staff help with advocacy, information/referral, and coordination of services. Our loan closet offers gently used medical equipment such as wheelchairs, shower chairs, and walkers for FREE to those who need it, either temporary or permanent. We are always looking for selected donated items that you may have around your home that you no longer use.

## IN 2023 WE PROVIDED...



Sent over 400 birthday cards  
Received hundreds of information and advocacy calls  
Delivered dozens of free medical equipment

## 108 VOLUNTEERS

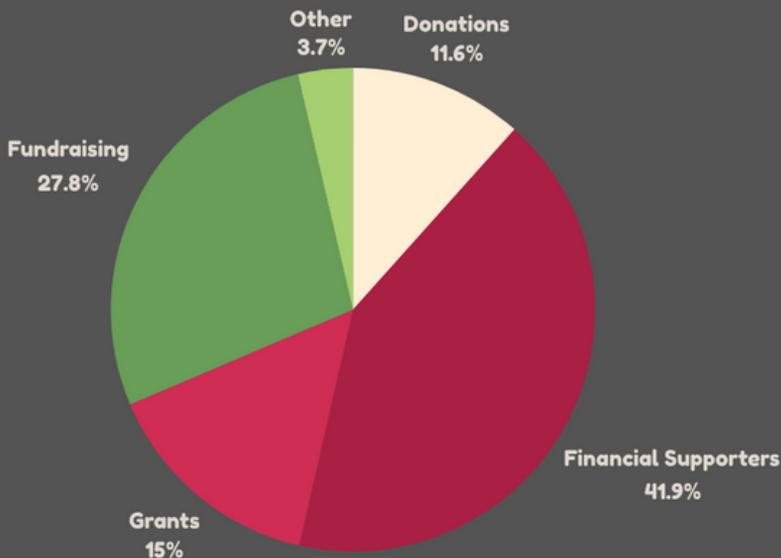


SERVED



229 CLIENTS

## In 2023, we received \$91,904



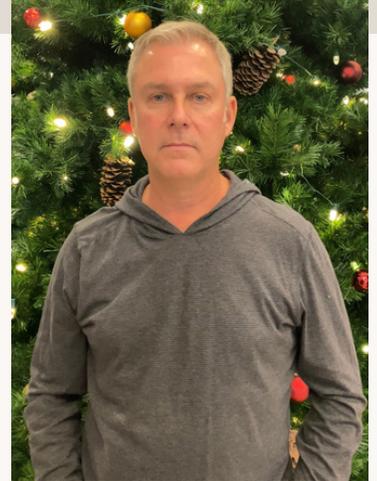
**ABOVE:** HERB AND JENNIFER GO SHOPPING

**BELOW:** STEVE AND MILES READ THE BOOK OF JOSHUA TOGETHER IN THE BIBLE



## Enriching His Life While Enriching Others' Lives

When GW retired early a few years ago, he wanted to learn more about his community, so he signed up to be a volunteer with ESS. GW has enjoyed time with older adults since his childhood and now often helps his 99-year-old mother. Volunteering with ESS as a driver and technology helper was appealing because he could help older adults within a few miles of where he lived and have flexibility to accommodate his schedule.



“I’ve met so many nice people, they are so grateful that you’ve taken the time to help them. I’ve gained relationships and have learned a great deal. For instance, I had an architecture conversation with one client, and if I didn’t volunteer I would never have had that experience. I always ask what books they are reading. I learn about the community and the struggles they are going through. Our time together enriches their life and my life too,” explained GW. He’s thankful for meeting new people in his life he would have never met otherwise and enjoys the exposure to different generations and perspectives.

When asked what impact our services have on our clients, GW said we are helping with their independence, freedom, and to live life on their terms. Public transportation can be a struggle to rely upon, especially when dealing with mobility issues and bad weather, as it can be dangerous. Options like Uber can be pricey with rides costing up to \$60-80 one way depending on where they are going. Many individuals that GW has helped are on a fixed income with rents increasing, leading to financial strain. “We as volunteers are making the world a better place in our corner.”

When asked what he would say to others on the fence about volunteering, GW encouraged others to “Give it a try. It’s a one to four hour commitment at a time, it’s flexible, and if it’s not for you, it’s not a big loss.” We are thankful for GW and his passion to serve older adults in the community where he lives!

# Janet's Experience With Multiple Facets of Eastside Senior Services

In the midst of the COVID shutdown, Janet identified that her stepfather with severe dementia craved socialization. She contacted ESS to ask for a volunteer to visit him, and we matched him with a volunteer who was a veteran, just like Janet's stepfather. The two of them enjoyed time together outside, and toward the end of their visit, the volunteer saluted Janet's stepfather James. He was wheelchair-bound for quite some time, but at that moment he got up on his feet, stood at attention, and saluted the volunteer back. That visit was incredibly meaningful to Janet and her stepfather. Janet later mentioned that this was the last time her stepfather stood, and two weeks later he passed away.



Janet later needed help with removing snow from her home, so she called to ask if someone could help. Thanks to our Neighbors Helping Neighbors program, we identified a volunteer living across the street who now snowblows her property for her. Over the holidays, we gave Janet a Pick n Save gift card along with a kind greeting, and she called to let us know what a blessing that card was, it came just at the right time. She also has been looking out for her neighbors on her block and referred someone to us who was in need.

Janet's story embodies what Eastside Senior Services strives to do - to keep people connected in their community and to help them remain independent. We are deeply thankful for the neighbors looking out for each other on Janet's block - this is what true community is all about!

Janet is part of the Amazing Grace Chorus, and her stepfather also participated when he was alive. The Amazing Grace Chorus is a Milwaukee-based community chorus made up of people living with dementia and their caregivers. They periodically perform in our community and also do virtual sing-alongs that anyone can join! To learn more, visit

<https://wai.wisc.edu/chorus/>

# Celebrating 50 Years of History



◆ SPECIAL INSERT



Two ESS clients reuniting at event

## Origin Story

**1972** - Greater Milwaukee Conference on Religion and Urban Affairs (aka The Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee) established a task force on aging.

### Goals:

- coordinate existing services for the elderly sponsored by religious congregations;
- obtain and distribute information about services for older adults;
- support the development of programs to serve older adults and to advocate for just social policy.

**1972** - Sister Margaret Shekleton hired, familiarized self with current aging needs & made recommendations.

**1973** - Sister Margaret S. headed the pilot program called *Target Communities Interfaith Project*.

**1974** - Milwaukee's eastside was targeted area due to high aging & congregational population. With the support of St Rita, St Hedwig, Holy Rosary, SS Peter & Paul, *We Four Program for the Elderly* was developed. Sister Margaret Underwood was the first ESS Director.

**1975** - *Interfaith Milwaukee* was established, overseeing *We Four Program* along with other new Milwaukee neighborhood programs.

Soon after, organizations throughout the nation were modeled after Interfaith. Eastside Senior Services was the first of it's kind!

## Names of Our Organization

We Four Program for the Elderly

1974 - 1976

East Side Service for Senior Citizens

1976 - 1988

Eastside Senior Services

1988 - present





## The Later Years

**1979** - East Side Service for Senior Citizens was incorporated as a 501(c)3

**1975 - 1990's** - ESS grew, formed processes, increasingly served the community under the Interfaith umbrella, serving alongside 17 other "Neighborhood Outreach Programs" (NOP) throughout Milwaukee County

**1994** - Riverside West NOP merged with Eastside Senior Services

**2006** - Interchange NOP merged with Eastside Senior Services



**2016** - ESS separated from Interfaith and began operating under their own 501c3

**2019** - Interfaith dissolved; later that year, Eras in Waukesha began managing Milwaukee Interfaith transportation and now Eras serves all of Milwaukee and Waukesha. ESS still continues to operate as usual and partners regularly with Eras.

**2020** - Shorewood was added as a service area to ESS

### Interfaith Directors

Sister Margaret Shekleton  
(1975-1977)

Sister Adele Henneberry  
(1977-1986)

Romaine Chritton  
(1986)

Carol Eschner  
(1987 - 2011)

Lisa Bitman  
(2011 - 2017)

### ESS Directors

Sister Margaret Underwood  
(1974-1976)

Byford Baker  
(1976-1978)

Sister Ruth Gauthier  
(1978-1979)

JoAnn Schmidt  
(1979-1996)

Marylou Parthum  
(1996-2005)

Jane Raymer  
(2005-2018)

Melissa Meier  
(2019-present)

# SPECIAL INSERT

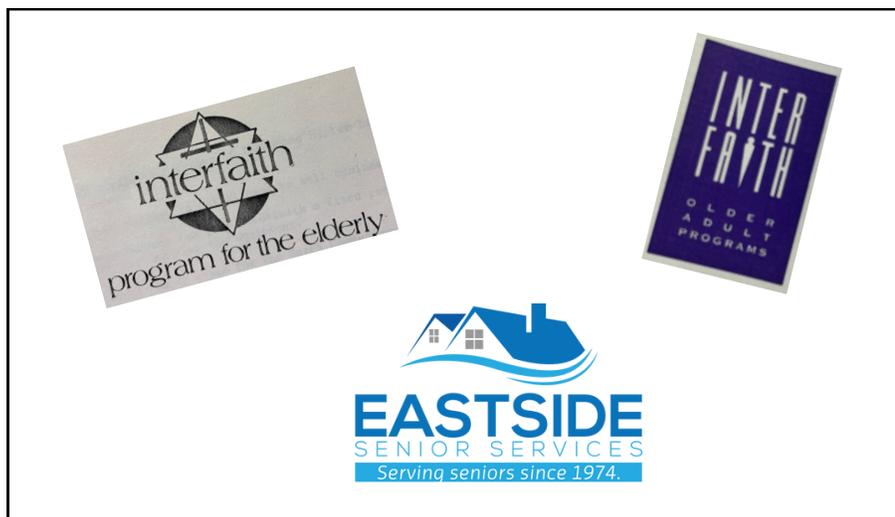
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## Service Offerings, Past and Present

*(Note: items in italics were offered in the early years only)*

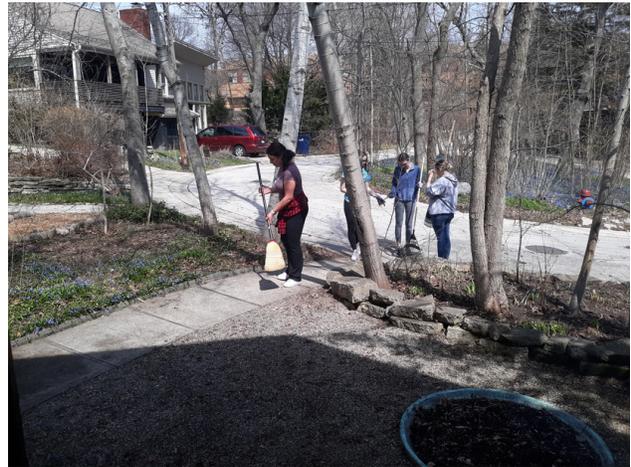
- *pastoral covering those aspects of care directed to the whole person - body, mind and spirit, and extension of the Church*
- *assist with liturgical celebrations in 5 nursing homes*
- *provide over 200 anointings annually*
- *bring Eucharist to homebound*
- *pray with clients, especially terminally ill*
- maintain contact with elderly who have limited social activities
- assistance in filing applications
- advocacy re: legal, health, housing issues
- consultation regarding services available through community agencies
- gifts for special occasions
- home repairs
- light housekeeping
- shopping
- snow shoveling
- transportation to church, grocery, doctor, bank, dentist



**Melissa Meier, current Executive Director  
and Kelly Glostott, Coordinator**

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# SPECIAL INSERT



## Faithful Community Sponsors

### Office Locations Throughout the Years

**SS Peter and Paul**

2491 N Murray, 2480 N Cramer

1974 - 1997

**Plymouth Church**

2717 E Hampshire

1997 - 2005

**St Mark's Episcopal**

2618 N Hackett Ave

2005-2023

**Saint John's On The Lake**

1840 N Prospect Ave

2023 - present



**1974 - Present**

St Hedwig

Holy Rosary

SS Peter & Paul

St Rita Catholic Congregations

(Three Holy Women currently represented)

**1987 - Present**

Lake Park Lutheran

**1997 - Present**

Plymouth Church UCC

**2000 - Present**

St Mark's Episcopal

**2006 - Present**

Immanuel Presbyterian

Cathedral of St. John

**Late 2010's**

Saint John's On The Lake

Suminski Family

**2020 - Present**

Shorewood Senior Resource Center

<p><b>EASTSIDE SENIOR SERVICES, INC.</b></p>	<p>414-210-5881</p>
<p><a href="http://www.essmilw.org">www.essmilw.org</a></p>	<p>1840 N Prospect Avenue, Box 216 Milwaukee, WI 53202</p>

# Eastside Senior Services Selected as the 2024 Charitable Partner for St Rita Square - a Capri Community

Eastside Senior Services is honored to be chosen as the 2024 “Community Charitable Partner” for St. Rita Square, a Capri Community.

Throughout the year, St. Rita Square will raise money for our cause through quarterly bake sales, a holiday wreath auction, and other fundraising events. Additionally, they will be hosting a variety of gatherings for our clients and volunteers. If you’d like to participate in baking items or donating a wreath for the auction, please let us know by calling 414-210-5881 or emailing at [essmilw@gmail.com](mailto:essmilw@gmail.com). Upcoming bake sales dates are June 28, September 27, and December 13.

St. Rita Square and Capri Communities have a commitment to engaging their local community, which echoes their mission of “Enriching the lives of our residents through service and commitment to family and community.” They have chosen Eastside Senior Services as their 2024 Charitable Partner as we are both dedicated to giving back to older adults in our community, specifically those on the eastside of Milwaukee.

The roots of St. Rita Square on Milwaukee’s east side are deep. Capri Communities founder Jim Tarantino attended St. Rita’s School, and with a combination of his strong ties to his Italian heritage on the eastside of Milwaukee and love for the church and community, he started brainstorming an idea. *(cont. next page)*



JULIE GEY OF ST. RITA SQUARE, HOSTING RECENT BAKE SALE

# Eastside Senior Services Selected as the 2024 Charitable Partner for St Rita Square - a Capri Community

(cont') After years of conversations with church parishioners and Fr. Tim Kitzke, he purchased the "little pink church" for \$1 (along with two parcels of land) and rebuilt St. Rita's Church which is now connected to St. Rita Square, a Capri senior living community. Jim then sold the church back to parishioners for \$1, where services are now held regularly to the public.

Residents can attend those church services if they wish by simply traveling down a hallway. Tarantino passed away unexpectedly in January 2024, but his legacy and passion continue to thrive at St. Rita Square with deep ties to the Italian community and Catholic faith.

St. Rita Square is open to individuals of all faiths and has 72 independent living apartments, 33 assisted living apartments and 13 memory care studios.

"Neighbors live here, old friends and new friends too. They are a close knit, active community and all have a daily goal of enjoying life - the Capri tagline," says April Zwaschka of Capri.

St. Rita Square and Capri Communities are also proud sponsors of Festa Italiana and will be hosting their annual "Best Sauce Contest" at the Summerfest Grounds on June 2nd. St. Rita Square is located at 728 E. Pleasant Street. To learn more about the community or to set up a tour, contact Julie Gey at 414-485-6605.



MILWAUKEE'S  
**Best Sauce**  
PRESENTED BY ST. RITA SQUARE **CONTEST**

Interested in Competing?  
NOW THROUGH MAY 12

For full contest details and sauce entry, visit [mkebestsauce.com](http://mkebestsauce.com)

\$10 PER ENTRY

ST. RITA SQUARE  
a capri community

THE ITALIAN COMMUNITY CENTER  
MILWAUKEE

festa ITALIANA

The poster features a blue background with a pattern of small white dots. On the right side, there is a vertical illustration of a green-handled wooden spoon pouring red sauce into a white bowl. Surrounding the spoon and bowl are various fresh ingredients: a tomato, a slice of orange, a slice of banana, and several green olives. The text is arranged in a clear, hierarchical manner, with the contest name in large, bold letters at the top, followed by the dates and entry information. The logos for the Italian Community Center and Festa Italiana are positioned at the bottom.



## Support Eastside Senior Services - Purchase a Garden Gift Card!

Order a Bayside Garden Center gift card from Eastside Senior Services and 15% of the proceeds goes toward us:

- Order at Eastside Senior Services, 414-210-5881 or [essmilw@gmail.com](mailto:essmilw@gmail.com). Indicate the amount - \$25, \$50, or \$100
- Pay via check, mail to Eastside Senior Services, 1840 N Prospect, Box 216 Milwaukee WI 53202 or go to <https://essmilw.org/ess-donations/> and purchase via Paypal
- Orders and payment due by **May 1**
- Gift cards will be received in time for Mother's Day, **May 12**
- Use your gift card to purchase anything at Bayside Garden Center, 400 E Brown Deer Road. Gift cards do not expire or decrease in value. Visit [www.baysidegardencenter.com](http://www.baysidegardencenter.com) for more information.

*We help adults 60 and older living on the Eastside and Shorewood remain independent in their own homes through offering free services such as transportation, companionship, shopping, light chores, minor home repairs, yard work, and more. All of this is done through the generosity of volunteers. For more information, visit us at [www.essmilw.org](http://www.essmilw.org) or visit our Facebook page.*



ALICE AND MARK HEADING OFF  
TO AN APPOINTMENT

***Appointments can be done in your own home, or you can stop by their office***

MILWAUKEE COUNTY DHHS AGING & DISABILITIES SERVICES

## **Community Memory Screening**

**Get screened for early signs of memory loss**

### **Are you concerned about your memory?**

As we get older, it is important to recognize any changes we may experience, especially in relation to our memory. A memory screen is defined as a wellness tool that helps identify possible changes in memory and cognition. This is not a diagnostic tool, but a screen that can provide early detection for dementia.

### **How does a memory screen work?**

The memory screen is very simple. You will be asked to answer some questions and complete a task. The memory screen is at no cost. The screen takes about 15 minutes.

### **If you are interested in scheduling or learning more about the community memory screen please contact:**

**Aging and Disabilities Resource Center: Dementia Care Specialist**

**Phone: (414) 289-6259**

**Email: [DCS@milwaukeecountywi.gov](mailto:DCS@milwaukeecountywi.gov)**

**Book an Appointment Today!**



MILWAUKEE COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
& HUMAN SERVICES  
**AGING & DISABILITIES  
SERVICES**



# Thank You To Our Supporters

We are so incredibly thankful for the ongoing, long-term and faithful support of our local congregations. Being a small agency, every dollar counts. Not only do these supporters help us monetarily, they are champions for our agency, helping us find volunteers and board members, providing space in church communications and buildings for our events, and extending our services out to their congregants. Congregations were how we started as an agency! Without their vision and momentum, we would not be here. We SO appreciate our other community partners, including Shorewood Senior Resource Center, Saint John's On The Lake, Suminski Family and our new sponsor this year, St. Rita - A Capri Community.

We extend a very special thanks to **Saint John's On The Lake** for the free office space along with being an amazing host for our annual holiday party.

Thank you to our **personal donors**! Every donation matters: from \$5 to \$5000, it adds up in a major way, allowing us to continue serving the best way we can in our community. We are so thankful for you!

The following are our primary supporters:

**Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist**  
**Immanuel Presbyterian Church**  
**Lake Park Lutheran Church**  
**Old St. Mary Catholic Church**  
**Our Lady of Divine Providence Catholic Parish**  
**Plymouth United Church of Christ**  
**Saint John's On The Lake**  
**St. Mark's Episcopal Church**  
**SS Peter and Paul Catholic Church**  
**St. Rita Square - A Capri Community**  
**Shorewood Senior Resource Center**  
**Suminski Family**  
**Three Holy Women Catholic Parish**

Thank you for the grants received!

- **Otto Bremer Trust** allowed us to expand staffing & obtain website support
- **WE Foundation** allowed us to continue website support
- **Bader Foundation** allowed us to explore a Neighbors Helping Neighbors pilot program along with the Corner Keepers shoveling project
- **Wispect Foundation** is providing us funding for Uber Health rides when we run short on volunteers, and for purchasing new medical equipment when needed

Thank you **community members**, for spreading the word on our needs, supporting our fundraisers, and being an avenue for us to share the good work with others who may be unaware of us.

# Board of Directors

*Save the  
Date*

NOVEMBER 7, 2024

AN EVENING FUNDRAISER AND  
CELEBRATION



MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW!

## STAFF

MELISSA MEIER  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

KELLY GLOSTOTT  
PROGRAM COORDINATOR

BILL FLORESCU  
RIDE COORDINATOR

CAROL ESCHNER: CHAIR  
PLYMOUTH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

PAT SUMINSKI: TREASURER  
THREE HOLY WOMEN CATHOLIC CHURCH

BOB TITLEY  
CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

JULIA VOSPER  
IMMANUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DEANNA MARCINIAK  
MEMBER AT LARGE

JOHN JACOBS  
THREE HOLY WOMEN CATHOLIC CHURCH

MARGARET WITTIG  
OLD ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

SUE ROHDE  
ST. MARKS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

KRISTINA EMMONS  
ASSOCIATED BANK, MEMBER AT LARGE

ALEINA MCGETTRICK  
MOERTL, WILKINS & CAMPBELL, S.C.,  
MEMBER AT LARGE

MELISSA MEIER  
EX-OFFICIO MEMBER

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