

Insights

April 2022



Our volunteers make a difference every day



April is National Volunteers Month, and we want to thank everyone who gives their time, compassion, and creativity to AgeSpan. This past year, more than 250 people have volunteered thousands of hours of service.

They have worked for SHINE (Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone), Meals on Wheels, Friendly Visitor, Medical Advocacy, Massachusetts Senior Medicare Patrol, Ombudsman, and Money Management programs.

Judy Farah of Methuen, left, a retired dental hygienist, has volunteered with the MA Senior Medicare Patrol two days a week for the past five years. She helps older adults negotiate the complex world of insurance copayments and deductibles typically by phone, handling four or five cases per month.

"So many people don't know how to get out of predicaments," Judy says. "I like helping people. It's great."

[Click here](#) to learn about volunteering at AgeSpan.

Register now for the LGBTQ+ Elders Conference

The 11th Annual [LGBTQ+ Elders in an Ever-Changing World Conference](#) will be held virtually on Friday, June 24, 2022, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Conference Fee: \$95 - with CEUs / \$75 - without CEUs / \$25 - seniors and students

This year's keynote speaker is award-winning filmmaker Stu Maddux, who will present on "**Social Isolation, Loneliness, and Resilience in LGBTQ Older Adults.**"



[Learn about presenters and workshops](#)



Enterprise Bank: 2022 Keynote Speaker Sponsor
To become a conference sponsor, contact Conference Committee Member Bonnie Sisson at bsisson@agespan.org or 978-946-1433.

Master's-level golf volunteers make a difference

Nancy and Jack McKenna are two of our prize volunteers. The couple has been scouting for raffle prizes for our annual AgeSpan Golf Classic for the past 10 years.

Jack owns an estate sale and junk removal business. Nancy is a retired community liaison for the Visiting Nurses Association (VNA), where she learned about AgeSpan's programs and services. They have fun working together to secure the best raffle prizes for the tournament.



"In my role in discharge planning, I saw the tremendous amount of good this agency does for patients and their families once the work of the VNA is completed," she says, and signed up to be a volunteer after meeting Bonnie Sisson, AgeSpan's Community Relations-Fundraising Coordinator.

"I love the feeling of helping others, of giving back to the community," Nancy says. "The idea that Jack and I are helping someone obtain healthcare, dental work, heat in the winter—that's just wonderful."

The 2022 AgeSpan Golf Classic is Tuesday, September 13 at the Haverhill Golf & Country Club. Proceeds from the event will help older adults with financial assistance in emergencies not covered by other resources. [Click here](#) to register and learn more.

Vaccine efforts reach thousands across NE Mass

AgeSpan is a participant in the state's [Covid-19 Vaccine Equity Initiative](#), with our outreach staff working hard to increase awareness of and access to the vaccine and boosters. The initiative focuses on the communities hit hardest by the pandemic, including Haverhill, Lawrence, Lowell, and Methuen.

In addition to hosting vaccine clinics, AgeSpan has assisted at more than 50 vaccine clinics, where over 2,500 vaccines were administered. Additionally, more than 4,000 people were given COVID-19 information in multiple languages.



For more information about vaccine resources, email vaccines@agespan.org

Caregiver resources featured in local podcast



AgeSpan's Crystal Polizzotti, director of the Family Caregiver Support Program, is featured in the first episode of the [North Andover Senior Center's](#) podcast "[Connecting Our Community](#)," hosted by Director Kathy Shelp. Crystal talks about the range of programs and services for family caregivers and the important role they play. Need caregiver help? Call us at 800-892-0890.

Veterans Collaborative offers support, networking



Happy 5th anniversary to the Merrimack Valley Veterans Collaborative. The Collaborative meets bimonthly for networking and to learn about local veterans' resources to strengthen the web of support for veterans by connecting military and civilian service providers.

Its members include representatives from local congressional offices, municipal directors of veterans' services, staff from VA Bedford, the Lowell Vet Center, the Department of Labor, MassHire, the aging services network, and local residents.

All are welcome to attend a virtual meeting. Contact Outreach Program Manager Nandi Munson at nmunson@agespan.org to receive the Zoom link. The next meeting is June 15 at 2 p.m.



2021 Annual Report is now online

This past year, our agency has grown stronger as we focused on our mission to help people in diverse communities live safely and independently at home.

As our agency continues to grow, we made the decision to rebrand to AgeSpan last December to better reflect the work we do to help people age across their lifespan, support caregiving, and promote health equity. [Click here for the annual report.](#)

Upcoming Events

APRIL

Breaking Down Silos: Reframing Aging: Free webinar on April 29 from 1 to 3 p.m. led by Melissa Donegan, assistant director of AgeSpan's [Healthy Living Center of Excellence](#). [Click here to register.](#)

MAY

Savvy Caregiver Workshops: Join us **in person** for one of two free training sessions for family and friends who are active caregivers, caring for those living with Alzheimer's or related dementias.

- **North Andover:** Wednesday, May 4 through June 8, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the North Andover Senior Center, 20 Main Street, rear entrance.
- **Danvers:** Thursday, May 19 through June 23, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Danvers office of AgeSpan, 300 Rosewood Drive, Suite 200.

Registration is required. [Click here to register.](#) Contact Molly Gerbutavich at 978-651-3033 or mgerbutavich@agespan.org for more information.

JUNE

11th Annual LGBTQ+ Elders in an Ever-Changing World Conference: Friday, June 24 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. This year's keynote speaker is award-winning filmmaker Stu Maddux, who will present on "Social Isolation, Loneliness, and Resilience in LGBTQ Older Adults." For more information and to purchase tickets visit [lgbtqeldersconference.org](#)

Ongoing Support Groups

Caregivers Caring for Those with Memory Loss: Day and evening options.

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren: Thursdays (3rd of the month), 11 a.m.–12 p.m.

General Caregiver Support: Thursdays (3rd of the month), 1–2 p.m.

[Click here to learn about caregiver support groups and register.](#)

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For questions or comments, contact us at 800-892-0890 or
communications@agespan.org

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