

Man makes helping seniors his business

snapshots.mysuburbanlife.com/842400 Staff photo by Mark Busch Dan Rattary, owner of the new Westmont-based business Seniors Helping Seniors, interviews candidate Barbara Krolak Sept. 22. Seniors Helping Seniors will match seniors in need, with others who want to work.

By David Heitz, dheitz@mysuburbanlife.com

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Westmont, IL - For Westmont resident Dan Rattary, the business of helping senior citizens in the community is not only his passion, it is now his full-time job.

Rattary has charted the first Seniors Helping Seniors franchise in the state as a business in his Westmont home with the hope of helping seniors by both providing jobs to active seniors, and hiring them to help other seniors who are in need in Westmont and surrounding area.

Rattary and his wife, Valerie, purchased the franchise earlier this year, and are currently interviewing candidates with plans to start serving the community sometime in October.

Rattary said his work with seniors started when he served as a caregiver for his grandmother for about six years before she died in 2003.

“It really was an eye-opener for me, and I realized that there are many older people out there who need help in their everyday lives,” he said. “I found out about the Seniors Helping Seniors program and realized this is something that I could really make this work.”

The program works by matching able seniors with those in need of non-health related issues, such as with doing house and yard work, meal service, pet sitting, transportation and other issues. Seniors providing help would work on a contractual, paid basis on a flexible schedule that meets their needs.

“I’ve always been the entrepreneur type, and this is something that can really give back to the community,” Rattary said.

More info

For more information on either being a provider, or if you qualify as a candidate in need, e-mail Rattary at SHSillinois@comcast.net.

Quotable

“DuPage County has a rapidly growing senior population and a high level of home ownership. Our residents want to remain in the homes they love, living independently for as long as possible.”

Philosophy

- “Giving and receiving is a very human thing, and I believe God calls us all to serve. ”
- “My model is ‘Why not love?’”