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Senior News
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As seen in the November 2009 issue of Chicagoland Senior News - 50 and Better!

Seniors Helping Seniors: New Idea in In-Home Care

A ribbon cutting and open house this month will celebrate the state's first Seniors Helping Seniors In-Home Services agency. The DuPage County franchise will follow a proven national model to help senior clients live independently while provided needed income opportunities for active, loving seniors.

The open house will be held from 5:30 to 6:30 Nov. 17 at the Westmont Chamber of Commerce, One S. Cass Ave.

To help seniors who want to remain in their own homes and stay as self-sufficient as possible, Westmont residents Dan and Valerie Rattary joined Seniors Helping Seniors(r) In-home Services to provide services to less active seniors and employment opportunities for more active seniors.

Seniors Helping Seniors In-home Services is the only national caregiver and companionship organization that matches seniors who need in-home care services with seniors who provide them. The Seniors Helping Seniors mission is to provide seniors with the ability to choose an independent lifestyle in their own homes, for as long as possible, with the dignity and respect they deserve by finding caring seniors to help each other. In-home services include personal care, transportation, light housekeeping, meal preparation, yard work, pet care and more.

"We want to provide the best non-medical in-home care for seniors in our community. Our services will make a difference in people's lives through loving, compassionate care, quick response time and a sense of community. We will benefit active seniors in our community by providing them with dignified and fulfilling opportunities to help others and supplement their income," said franchise owner Dan Rattary.

"DuPage County has a rapidly growing senior population and a high level of home ownership," he continued. Our residents want to remain in the homes they love, living independently for as long as possible. Together, we can provide superior services that will allow them to accomplish their goals. Our

passion, skills and experience will help our Seniors Helping Seniors center to become an important part of our community and the seniors who live here."

Both Dan and Valerie Rattary are natives of Chicago. Dan attended the University of California, Irvine, earning a bachelor's

degree in psychology. His background is in regional and national business development and marketing. Valerie attended Northern Illinois University, earning a bachelor's degree in education. Her bilingual background will allow them to provide exceptional services to Spanish speaking providers, receivers and their families. They have three children and are active in their church and community.

In 1997, Dan transferred from California back to Chicago. During this time, he reconnected with his grandmother and for six years took on the role as her primary caregiver. He was able to provide her with companionship, transportation, and help with yard work, among other needed activities. This experience gave him a deeply personal understanding of the assistance less active seniors require to maintain their quality of life, independence, dignity and respect. He recognized that there were others in the community who

did not have family members who were able to help them, eventually leaving them with no choice but to move into a senior living facility.

The opportunity to do good and help others is one of the reasons Seniors Helping Seniors franchises are so special. Seniors Helping

Seniors franchises have a positive impact on their communities by helping seniors and establishing a successful local business.

The DuPage County branch will be very active in the local senior community, as well as in charity fundraising events such

as races for Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease. Further plans include providing opportunities for seniors to get together and hear from speakers on a variety of senior-related topics.

"Seniors Helping Seniors services provide seniors with love, care and compassion. They receive the respectful assistance they need to continue to live independently. Val and I love the unique aspect of fellow seniors providing the services. Both our providers and receivers will benefit mutually and develop strong relationships. For all involved, it is truly a way to give and to receive," Dan said.

Philip Yocom, who manages the national Seniors Helping Seniors franchise organization, said he is pleased to welcome Dan and Valerie as the first franchise partners in Illinois. "They come to our Seniors Helping Seniors community with business knowledge and personal care giving experience. Dan and Valerie make an excellent addition to our franchise family. They are dedicated to providing the Seniors Helping Seniors brand of loving, giving, caring and compassionate service, fulfilling our mission."

"We are excited to embark on this journey," Dan said. "Our Seniors Helping Seniors center will directly help those in our community who need it the most. After 17 years in the corporate technology sales world, I feel so fortunate and blessed to be able to make this life change, and to improve lives and impact my community."

The Seniors Helping Seniors organization has ten regional owners and over sixty-five franchise partners in 25 states, including Illinois.

Yocom and his wife Kiran co-founded Seniors Helping Seniors In-home Services, which began as a non-profit organization serving Berks County, PA over 10 years ago. The original Seniors Helping Seniors center continues that tradition, providing over 1,000 hours of service every month.

"What began as a heartfelt mission to fill a need that was not being served by our local community is now being recognized as a prime business opportunity being fueled by the fastest growing demographic in our society," Yocom said. "We want the existing Seniors Helping Seniors organization and our franchises to be the first place that seniors in need of non-medical services and those seeking extra income call."

For more information, contact Dan and Valerie Rattary at 630-324-6086 or e-mail SHSillinois@comcast.net. You may also visit the website at www.SeniorsHelpingSeniors.com/DuPageCounty.



DuPage Seniors Helping Seniors owner Dan Rattary and senior Bernadette Glenn greet clients at a recent senior expo.