



Senior Connection

An E-Newsletter of B/S/S/T Area Agency on Aging, Inc.

August 2020

"When all else fails, take a vacation."

-Betty Williams

Volunteer Spotlight: Joe Spencer

Joe Spencer started volunteering as a delivery driver for Meals on Wheels Endless Mountains in July of 2007. Joe has seen a lot of things over the years, but he recently enjoyed his first bear sighting while on his travels. Joe lives in Roaring Branch, PA with his lovely wife of 55 years. Joe and his wife have two daughters and one son; all of whom live close by in Blossburg, Canton, and West LeRoy outside of Canton. They are also proud to have four delightful granddaughters. Joe is glad they are girls so that he does not have to teach them to fish. You might've guessed that Joe is not a fan of fishing!



Joe retired from the Toshiba plant in Horse Heads, NY. While he has worked other jobs, he really likes delivering meals because he gets to travel places he never would have known about and he has met lots of interesting people.

We're overjoyed to have so many wonderful volunteers like Joe, and we thank him for his dedication to serving our community!

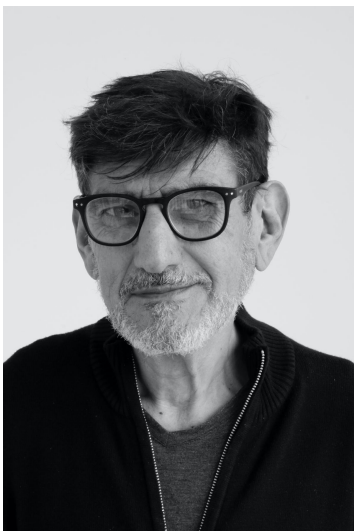
Active Living Center Menus



Meals on Wheels Endless Mountains is operating on an alternative delivery schedule and menu at this time to protect the health and safety of recipients, volunteers, and staff.

**Questions?
Call us! 1-800-982-4346**

Stay well, everyone!



August: Boomers Making A Difference Month

From the invention of the World Wide Web, to disposable cellphones and AEDs, the contributions of the Baby Boomer generation have helped to shape a more prosperous world for half a century or more. These are several examples of the major innovations that have had an immeasurable impact on our society at large, but the everyday contributions of the generation may be considered even more impactful. Everyday boomers are serving our communities through advocacy, charity, and volunteerism. Without the countless hours given, many worthy causes would go untended, and the needs of many may go unnoticed. While we take August to recognize this great generation, we are grateful year-round.

Interested in giving back to your community? Call us at 1-800-982-4346 to learn more about ways you can donate your time, or ask us about the benefits of in-home services made possible by our generous donors.

The Steadfast Advocacy of the Ombudsman Program

Like so many during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ombudsman Program of B/S/S/T Area Agency on Aging has been adapting to make sure the needs of residents of long-term care facilities are met. The ten Volunteer Ombudsman serving the program have been asked to call at least one resident in their assigned long term care facility weekly. They call to see how the residents are doing and hear about concerns they may have. This information is related back to the staff Ombudsman and recorded in a state database to make sure concerns are addressed as they arise.



Volunteer Ombudsman were also asked by the Volunteer Task Force and the PA State Office of the Long Term Care Ombudsman to gather stories from residents in long term care. These stories are meant capture the feelings around the COVID-19 pandemic from a resident's point of view.

While everyone is looking forward to connecting face-to-face once again, for now local meetings are held virtually to keep volunteers safe while still allowing for communication and fostering understanding.

Staff Ombudsman Carol Dieffenbach said, "the B/S/S/T Area Agency on Aging Volunteer Ombudsman have continued to show their care and commitment to serve the residents of long term care in these trying times."

The Volunteer Ombudsman Program of B/S/S/T Area Agency on Aging is currently looking for more dedicated advocates. Please call 1-800-982-4346 for more information.



Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program

The Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program provides eligible individuals with vouchers for fresh fruits and vegetables from local farmers' markets.

You may qualify for \$24 in vouchers if you:

- Are age 60 or older (by 12/31/20)
- Are a Pennsylvania resident
- Have a yearly household income less than \$23,606 for a single person, or \$31,894 for a couple

2020 Program Changes Due to COVID-19:

- Applications are available by mail, email, or online at bsstaaa.org
- Completed applications can be returned by mail or email
- Vouchers will be distributed to eligible recipients through the United States Postal Service

Please [click here](#) for more information, or call 1-800-982-4346.

Apprise Program Continues to Take Telephone Appointments

Representatives from the Apprise program of B/S/S/T Area Agency on Aging, Inc. remain available by phone to counsel individuals regarding Medicare, Medicaid, Advantage Plans, Medigap/Supplement, prescription plans and the Pennsylvania PACE program.

Information is available on the numerous medical insurance and prescription drug eligibility programs available. Assistance with the completion of various medical forms and applications is also available.

These services are offered as part of the Apprise program, and by telephone only until future notice to adhere to current social distancing procedures in place to reduce the spread of COVID-19.



Apprise representatives are available to discuss insurance and prescription medicine issues for Medicare beneficiaries of all ages, and to advocate for individuals as necessary. This service is confidential and offered at no cost.

For additional information or to schedule an appointment, please call 1-800-982-4346.



Red Cross Virtual Family Assistance Center for Those Who Have Lost Loved Ones to COVID-19

A virtual team of specially trained mental health, spiritual care and health services Red Cross volunteers are standing by to provide compassion, comfort and:

- Access to national, state or local resources such as grief counseling, legal resources, funeral information, financial information services or veterans' assistance
- Online classes to foster resilience and facilitate coping skills
- Support for virtual memorial services for families

- Additional state and local resources for many areas

Visit [redcross.org/VFAC](https://www.redcross.org/VFAC) or call toll-free 833-492-0094 for information, referrals and services to support families in need.



B/S/S/T Area Agency on Aging, Inc.
Serving Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna, and Tioga Counties

1-800-982-4346 | info@bsstaaa.org | [bsstaaa.org](https://www.bsstaaa.org)

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