



Changing Seasons

4 Valley Mill Road ♦ Holyoke, MA. 01040 ♦ (413)538-9020 ♦ Winter 2018

WestMass ElderCare Inc.

From the desk of Executive Director Priscilla L. Chalmers

HAPPY
New Year

Dear Readers:

I hope the holiday season brought you much happiness. As we embark on another new year, there will be a number of programmatic changes for WMEC.

Last summer, WMEC became the lead agency of the Care Alliance of Western Massachusetts with the specific task to apply for state funding to become a Long Term Support Services Community Partner (LTSS-CP). Along with WestMass, the group of agencies within the Alliance are: Greater Springfield Senior Services, LifePath, Inc., Highland Valley Elder Services, Elder Services of Berkshire County, Stavros, AdLib and Behavioral Health Network. I am pleased to report that we were successful in securing this funding and are now positioned to work with several health plans in our region to provide supportive services and care coordination for individuals between the ages of 3-64 years old receiving MassHealth benefits. Providing supportive services to a population in a wider age range will broaden

the scope of our work. We look forward to this growth and the challenges to serve a more diverse population in collaboration with our other partner organizations.

The WestMass ElderCare Information and Referral Dept. (I&R) has a new Director. Terry Lozyniak, who served for many years as a State Home Care Supervisor, filled this new position. Terry will be working with the I&R Supervisor and staff to manage service inquiries from elders, persons with disabilities, family caregivers, as well as referrals from professional staff from different local social service programs. Also, the I&R Dept. will have a key role in the new Long Term Support Services Community Partners Initiative.

Another development: WMEC has a SHINE (Serving the Health Needs of Everyone) Volunteer Counselor. Karen Fisk, who Served in various roles in our

Human Resources Department, recently retired and became certified as a counselor in SHINE to assist elders to better understand their health insurance options under Medicare, MassHealth, Supplemental Health Insurance and Part D Medicare drug plans.

Finally, I have announced my own upcoming retirement. After 43 years of service, I will be leaving on March 16th. It has been indeed an honor to serve elders and disabled individuals in their quest to remain at home. I could not have found a more meaningful career over the years. Our efforts have assisted many thousands of needy individuals, their caregivers and families to receive care in their setting of choice.

The wonderful work of WestMass ElderCare will continue without interruption. An announcement on my successor will soon be made. For now, I thank you and extend my well wishes.

Changing Seasons is a periodic update of WestMass ElderCare’s services and activities with useful information for local elders, their families and people who care about the well-being of our elder population. WestMass ElderCare has existed since 1974 to serve the elders of Belchertown, Chicopee, Granby, Holyoke, Ludlow, South Hadley and Ware by providing a wide range of services to help maintain independence in the community.

WestMass ElderCare is funded in part by grants and contracts from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs. We are part of a network of Aging Services Access Points and Area Agencies on Aging. Visit www.800AgeInfo.com or call **1-800-243-4636**. Title III, Older Americans Act funding is made available to WestMass ElderCare through the MA Executive Office of Elder Affairs and the Federal Administration for Community Living.

WestMass ElderCare is a member of the Pioneer Valley Aging and Disabilities Resource Consortium.
WestMass ElderCare, Inc., 4 Valley Mill Road, Holyoke, MA 01040 **413-538-9020** **800-875-0287** V/TTY www.wmelder.org

Announcement of Title III Funded Community Grant Programs

Below please find a listing of the Older Americans Act, Title III Programs that received funding through WestMass ElderCare in order to address the unmet needs of elders and their family caregivers. The funding period covers federal fiscal years 2018 and 2019 (October 1, 2017-September 30, 2019). Please contact Gary Donnelly, WMEC Planner if you have questions about these programs (413-538-9020 or gdonnelly@wmelder.org):

Organization	Services	Description
Belchertown COA	Nutrition Program Outreach Companion/Errand	Home-delivered & congregate meals Elder services program outreach Family caregiver respite service
RiverMills Center/Chicopee COA	Older Adult Transportation	Van transportation services
Community Legal Aid	Elder Law Services	Legal representation & advocacy
Ludlow COA	Memory Café for Caregivers	Support group for elders with dementia & their caregivers
Senior Nutrition Assessment	Nutrition Assessment/Counseling	Registered dietitian in-home visit
South Hadley COA	Elder Transportation Alzheimer’s Caregiver Support	Transportation services Support group for caregivers
Valley Opportunity Council	Senior Companion Program	Family caregiver respite services
Ware COA	Elder Transportation	Van transportation services

~ Testimonials ~

“Thank you so much for this wonderful access to great meals”

“Thank you all for what you do... you deserve a round of praise. You are all God’s helpers...be proud of yourselves cause God is proud of all of you”



~ Testimonials ~

“Thank you for all you do to feed the elderly” from a very grateful daughter.

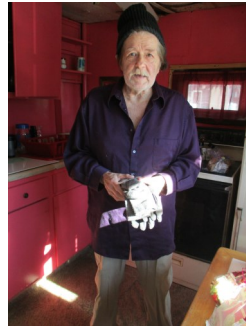
“Thank you for the care and attention given to my aunt. Your help has allowed her to stay at home much longer than she ever expected.

She is grateful..we are grateful”

Holyoke Community College Giving Tree Campaign

Once again the Holyoke Community College community showed enormous generosity in providing consumers of WestMass ElderCare with holiday gifts. The HCC Giving Tree event involves students, faculty and staff who provide wrapped gifts for persons who might not otherwise have a gift to open this season.

WMEC Case Managers and Nurses make a special visit to the consumer who were identified on the package. So much joy and cheer is created though the Giving Tree. Here are a few of the WMEC consumers who received a gift.



“thank you to all for this moment”

“this kindness is unmeasurable”



“I’m so thankful for this beautiful gift”



“God bless all of you for your kind and big heart”



Caregiver Technology Funding

WestMass ElderCare has received a caregiver grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs to provide funding towards the purchase of certain technologies to enhance the lives of people living with Dementia or Alzheimer’s disease and their caregivers.

Below are several technology options, which may benefit you and your loved one with Dementia or Alzheimer’s disease:

- Portable digital music players
- Video monitoring devices
- GPS and other tracking devices
- Electronic medication management systems



Portable Music Player



Simple Music Player



Security System



Monitor



Picture Phone



Digital Frame



Tablet



Personal Tracker



Wireless Security Camera

Please note that funding for this technology will only be available until 2/28/18. If you are interested in learning more about one of these options, contact the WestMass ElderCare Intake and Referral Department at 413-538-9020.

HELP US HELP OTHERS WITH YOUR GENEROUS GIFT TO WESTMASS ELDERCARE

Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift of \$ _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

NOW ACCEPTING DONATIONS ONLINE AT:

www.wmelder.org

Click on the **DONATE TODAY** button



Mail to WestMass ElderCare
4 Valley Mill Road
Holyoke, MA 01040

(All gifts will be acknowledged)

If you do not want to receive future fundraising requests supporting WestMass ElderCare please call us at 413-538-9020 to have yourself removed from our mailing list.

Thank You

Services include:

- Resources for Frail Elders
- Information and Referral
- Caremanagement
- Caring for Aging Parents
- Meeting the Needs for Caregiver/Respite
- Housing Options
- Personal Care
- Housework
- Laundry
- Shopping
- Money Management
- Meals
- Nursing Home Selection and Screening
- Volunteer Opportunities & Internships
- Social and Adult Day Health

Address Service Requested

*Holyoke, MA 01040-5855
4 Valley Mill Road*



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