



June 8, 2022

To Whom it May Concern,

Eastside Senior Services is incredibly grateful for the critical support of Saint Mark's Episcopal Church. For a number of years we have partnered with them in order to provide our services and would not see our high level of success without them.

The mission of Eastside Senior Services is to help adults aged 60 and older to live independently and stay connected to their community on the east side and Shorewood. Volunteers help with rides, grocery shopping, errands, companionship, minor home repairs and chores. A medical equipment loan closet is available to those in need of items such as wheelchairs and walkers. Office staff assist callers in referrals, advocacy, and community offering awareness. We also do several serving events or gatherings. We've distributed birthday cards, holiday cards, letters, and holiday calls. All services are *free*, and there are no income restrictions. With two part-time staff and 96 volunteers, we provided over 5000 services to 193 clients in 2021.

Saint Mark's embodies a true Christian spirit in acting out their faith. Having partnered with and attended many churches throughout the years, I can say with all my heart that the level of community service at Saint Mark's is unparalleled. Saint Mark's provides the highest number of volunteers compared to any other area congregation for Eastside Senior Services, and those who are involved volunteer many hours. Currently we have 10 volunteers from Saint Mark's who have provided 217 services in 2022, which is 17% of all the services we have provided so far this year! Our volunteers have hearts of gold and serve with such deep love and compassion. Each board member who has represented Saint Mark's has played a tremendous role in the success and drive of our agency, and I can confidently say without that leadership, we would not be what we are today without them.



In addition to volunteers, Saint Mark's helps us financially. We often receive \$2000-3000 annually from the church, not including individual contributions of those who attend. We are provided free office space and storage for our medical equipment loan closet. With a small budget we have very little overhead outside of staff expenses which include phone, internet, and insurance. We often use common space in the building for board meetings, client/volunteer gatherings, and other miscellaneous meetings.

When we have a fundraiser to promote, volunteers to recruit, or events to spread the word on, Saint Mark's is always there, spreading the word in communications. We've attended coffee hour and church services, promoting our services and educating congregation members on topics such as dementia and isolation/loneliness. In July, Saint Mark's volunteers will be organizing and serving a meal for our clients, most of whom live alone and rarely have the opportunity to leave their homes for a social gathering. Eastside Senior Services Volunteer Drivers will offer the clients a ride. This will be such a treat! Saint Mark's plays an important role in the success of our fundraisers, including selling a large number of flower baskets/gift cards for our annual flower sale, and purchasing, wrapping, and delivering holiday gifts for area seniors who live alone.

Overall, Saint Mark's plays a vital role in our community and in the lives of area seniors who otherwise would not be able to find affordable transportation and assistance. They help seniors remain in their own homes and to live a better quality of life. I know they play a vital role in several other nonprofits as well. They make the eastside a better place to live, and it's a privilege to see a congregation serve the community in such a tangible, full hearted way.

Sincerely,

Melissa Meier, Executive Director

## Elmer, Linda

---

**From:** Erik Kennedy <erikk292@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 7, 2022 12:17 PM  
**To:** Elmer, Linda  
**Subject:** RE: In Support of HPC File #220279, St. Mark's Church and Apartment Certificate of Appropriateness

You don't often get email from erikk292@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

To whomever this may concern:

I am writing in support of the development of the St. Mark's Church and Apartment through Three Leaf Partners and Catalyst as I know this be a welcomed addition to Downer Avenue community as it will revitalize a historical building. In addition, this project will continue to help address housing needs and make a viable economic impact throughout our community. Plus this is a beautiful example of community collaboration-partnerships as these stakeholders are invested in the community.

Although I will be unable to attend Monday's meeting, I hope this email helps with the HPC process.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Erik Kennedy  
Ph: 330-607-2791  
Email: erikk292@yahoo.com

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." -Winston Churchill

"Everybody can be great...because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love." -Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.