



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
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### **Seniors Invited to Receive Weekly Check-In from a Friendly Caller**

As we approach one year since the outbreak of the COVID 19 pandemic, we still see the senior population at great risk. They have been disproportionately affected by the virus physically and psychologically. Social isolation, sweeping lock downs, and not being able to connect families or friends for dinner or activities has made older adults, who were already one of the loneliest demographics in America, feel even more isolated and in need of meaningful connections.

In March of 2020, Area Agency on Aging launched the Friendly Caller initiative. This service provides a weekly 'check in' call to any senior on Berrien, Cass or Van Buren counties who would like to talk with someone each week. The program, now serving over 200 seniors weekly, has the capacity to serve more. Area Agency on Aging invites any senior who would like a weekly phone call, to sign up.

This program is open to any older adult who would like to talk to a friendly person. During these calls our highly trained volunteers will reach out to provide a friendly voice on the other line. Volunteer callers also help connect seniors to information regarding services they may need, and mostly, make sure they are not feeling lonely or isolated. Seniors are encouraged to call on their own behalf, or family and friends are welcome to refer a senior family member or loved one. To find out more call the Info-Line for Aging and Disability at (800) 654-2810 or visit [www.AreaAgencyonAging.org](http://www.AreaAgencyonAging.org).

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