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DECEMBER GIVEAWAY

This month we will draw two ExpertCare employees at random who will each receive a \$50 Amazon gift card.



Winners will be announced in the January 2026 Newsletter.

Congratulations to November gift card winners -
Menayetta Yeager
Kyra Berry
We hope you had a wonderful
Thanksgiving with your family and friends.



RARA Diner's Club

Monday, December 1, 2025 from 5:15 pm -6:30 pm
Select Rochester/Rochester Hills Area Restaurants
This opportunity is designed to support persons with special needs. Participants pay for their own meal, beverage, and tip. PRE-REGISTER EARLY as spots are very limited and so we have enough assistance and space reserved in the restaurants. Exact restaurant choices will be announced at a later date. 14+ Years. \$6-\$8 per participant. To register, visit www.rararecreation.org.

TR Pizza and Movie Night

Friday, December 5, 2025 at 6 pm
[Clintonwood Park](#) (6000 Clarkston Road, Clarkson, MI 48348)

Enjoy an evening with your friends for a favorite movie and some delicious pizza. This program is for persons, ages 14+, with cognitive disabilities, with or without physical impairments. Call 248-625-8223 to register. \$10. Hosted by [Independence Twp Parks & Recreation](#).

2025 Holiday Party for Teens and Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders

Saturday, December 6, 2025 from 1 pm - 4 pm
Oakland University, Oakland Center Gold Room
This special event is designed to encourage independence and offer a fun social opportunity for teens and adults impacted by ASDs to engage with peers. Space is very limited. Please register a parent or caregiver only if the autistic individual requires continuous 1:1 support, as OUCARES volunteers will be available to assist. A \$15 registration fee applies for any parent or caregiver attending. Hosted by [OUCARES](#). For more info / registration info, visit www.oakland.edu/oucares/

Great Lakes Crossing Sensory Santa

Sunday, December 7, 2025 from 9am - 10:30 am.
By reservation only
Great Lakes Crossing Outlets at Santa's Flight Academy
Sensitive Santa has dimmer lights and softer music, creating a welcoming, sensory-friendly environment for children with sensory, physical, or other special needs. Plus, reserve online for your time slot and avoid long lines. Visit GreatLakesCrossingOutlets.com to find the reservation links.

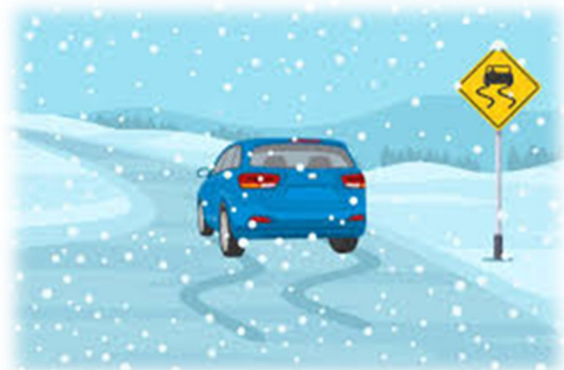


INCLEMENT WEATHER

What to do, who to call.

Here at ExpertCare safety is our top priority! This includes your driving during the winter season. If the roads are not safe to travel due to ice or snow then we ask you to do the following: First, please call the recipient/family you are supposed to work with and let them know that you are unable to come in that day, you can use this time to try and find an alternative day or time to work the planned hours when it is safer.

Second, please call us at ExpertCare and let us know that you will not be on shift that day as well. If it is after hours or the weekend you can call the emergency phone at (248) 229-3088 and tell the on-call recruiter you will be unable to make your shift.



Festive fun for the whole family

Holiday MARKET



Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2025

3-7 P.M.

**OAKLAND
COUNTY PARKS**
OaklandCountyParks.com

Photos with reindeer • S'mores station • Wagon rides

**Holiday vendors will feature a variety of seasonal treats,
including baked goods and gift items.**



**2350 Pontiac Lake Road
Waterford, MI 48328**

**For more information:
248-858-5495
OCmarket@oakgov.com**



FREE FOOD DISTRIBUTION

30 lbs of Nutritious Groceries*



9-11 a.m. each day

2025: Oct. 15, Oct. 29, Nov. 12, Dec. 10, Dec. 23.

2026: Jan. 7, Jan. 21, Feb. 4, Feb. 18, March 4, March 18, April 1, April 15, April 29, May 13, May 27, June 10, June 24, July 8, July 22, Aug. 5, Aug. 19, Sept. 2, Sept. 16, Sept. 30.



Oakland County Farmers Market
2350 Pontiac Lake Road, Waterford

HELPING OUR COMMUNITY DURING URGENT TIMES OF NEED

Thank you for making us your only stop for meals! We love serving our community and we want to ensure all families wishing to receive meals can do so. Families and individuals in need of food are encouraged to attend an upcoming drive-up distribution provided by Gleaners Community Food Bank.

- **~30 pounds of groceries**—Items like milk, fresh fruits, vegetables, lean protein and other shelf-stable items.
- **Drive-up or walk-up**—Stay in your vehicle, and groceries will be placed into your trunk. Walk up guests without vehicles or those without a trunk are welcome to obtain groceries from a self-service table. If walking, please be prepared to carry the groceries or have a cart.
- **No appointment needed**—You do not need to bring identification or proof of eligibility to receive food. Our requirements have recently changed and you do need to provide: name, address, # of people living in the household, and # of children living in the household.
- **Increasing safety**—If you wish to pick up for another household you may do so without their presence in the car, however you will need to provide that same info mentioned above for each household. Thank you for your cooperation!

Please check our website for up to date changes/cancellations:
PANTRYNET.ORG/MOBILE-DISTRIBUTION-EVENTS/

Together with Gleaners Community Food Bank, we are taking all necessary precautions to distribute food safely.



This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

**Food items may vary by distribution site*

FOOD PANTRIES

Visit Foodpantries.org

Auburn Hills

New Covenant Church - Food Pantry

4217 Squirrel Rd. Auburn Hills

Open 2nd Wed. of the month from 5pm-6:40

More info call Susie @ 248-249-0204

Clarkston

Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church

6805 Bluegrass Dr. Clarkston

Tues/Thurs 9am-1pm

Holly

St. Rita Catholic Parish

309 E. Maple Holly

By appt. only - Please contact the Rectory

if you are in need 248-634-4841

First Baptist Church of Holly

1st and 3rd Fridays of every month.

Drive thru distribution begins at 9:30am

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)

Quarterly food distribution for low income families.

Distributed the 2nd Fri of March, June, Sept, and Dec

Register by calling church office at 248-634-8772

between 10am-1:30pm Tues-Thurs before Fri. pick up.

Lake Orion

Woodside Bible Church

Canterbury Village

2500 Joslyn Rd. Lake Orion

Mon/Wed 9am-10:30 - Forgotten Harvest available
for drive up distribution Mon starting at 9am

Oak Park

Oak Park Gifting Little Pantry

23400 Seneca St. Oak Park

Open 9:00am-7:00pm Daily

Oxford

Oxford Orion Fish

1060 S. Lapeer Rd. Oxford

Mon-Thurs 1:00-5:00, 3rd Sat 9am-11am

Pontiac

Lighthouse of Oakland

46156 Woodward Ave. Pontiac - Door D

Mon/Wed/Fri 9:30am-3:00pm

When you arrive, park near Door D and

call 248-920-6000 x2225 to place your order

Oakland HOPE

20 E. Walton Blvd. Pontiac

Walk-ins Tues-Sat 11am-3pm

Must have ID and meet eligibility oaklandhope.org



FOOD PANTRIES

Rochester

First Congregational Church

1315 North Pine St Rochester

248-656-4904

Mon-Thurs 11:30-3:00, Sat 11:30-2:00

Southfield

St. David's Episcopal Church

16200 W 12 Mile Rd. Southfield

Mon/Wed/Fri 9am-12pm

Troy

Troy International Church of God

1285 E Wattles Rd. Troy

<https://troychurchofgod.com/pantry>

Complete pantry form ^

Enter thru fellowship hall at back of the building

Sun 12:30-1:30, Thurs 10:00-11:00

Waterford

Open Door Outreach Center

7124 Cooley Lake Rd. Waterford

Schedule an appt @ 248-360-2930

Tues/Wed/Fri 10:00-4:00 and Thur 1:00-4:00

<https://opendoormi.org/food-pantry>

Checkout these organizations for locations and distribution:

Gleaners: <https://www.gcfb.org/>

Forgotten Harvest: <https://www.forgottenharvest.org/>

Meals on Wheels:

<https://www.mealsonwheelsamerica.org/find-meals-and-services/>



MEAL PROGRAMS

Baldwin Center

212 Baldwin Ave. Pontiac

Takeout Service: Walk-up or drive thru meals

Typically Mon/Wed/Fri 10:30am-12:30

No charge, no questions, no parking

Matchan Nurtition Center

All Saints' Episcopal Church

171 W Pike St Pontiac

Free hot meals

Tues and Thurs 10:30-12:30

Immanuel Congregational Church

1 Hovey St Oxford

Drive-thru Tuesdays 5:30-6:30

Drive-thru and grocery dist. Wed 5:00-6:30

No qualifications - all are welcome

Lake Orion United Methodist Church

140 E Flint St Lake Orion

In-person dining Mondays 5:30-6:30

No qualifications - all are welcome

Oxford United Methodist

21 E. Burdick St. Oxford

Free community breakfast

Saturday mornings 9:30

Royal Oak First United Methodist

320 W. Seventh St. Royal Oak

Hot lunch and bagged lunch

available 10:30-11:30 Mon-Fri, year round

Clothing and toiletries closet also available



Adaptive Recreation

Call 248-858-0916 to register

Call or text 248-221-8040 for
program information

For individuals ages 16 and older
with intellectual and
developmental disabilities

Jingle Bell Ball



**Thursday, Dec. 11 2025
& Friday Dec. 12, 2025
6-8 p.m.**

Waterford Oaks Event Center
2800 Watkins Lake Road
Waterford, MI 48328

**\$10/person
(caregivers and participants)**

Register by Friday, Dec. 5, 2025

Preregistration with payment required; no walk-ins, no refunds.

Music, dancing and Jet's pizza, plus a visit from Santa. Gift for participant only.

Adaptive Recreation programming fosters a sense of camaraderie and provides fellowship opportunities for both participants and caregivers.

**OAKLAND
COUNTY PARKS**
OaklandCountyParks.com



Celebrate the Solstice

*Sat. Dec. 20, 10:30 a.m.-
12:30 p.m. or 2-4 p.m.*

Celebrate the winter solstice by exploring traditions and legends that surround the shortest day of the year. Make a yule log to decorate your table or burn on the solstice. All supplies are included. Suitable for ages 8+. **\$10/person.**

Ye Ol' Yule Log

Sat. Dec. 13, 2-3:30 p.m.

Create a festive centerpiece as you learn the history of the Yule Log tradition. All supplies will be provided. Suitable for ages 8+. **\$10/person.**



PROGRAM REGISTRATION

Preregistration with payment is required for all nature center programs. Walk-ins are accommodated as space allows. Refunds are issued only for extenuating circumstances.

Register and pay: Visa, Mastercard, Discover and American Express are accepted. Call 248-858-0916 to register during regular business hours or call the nature centers during open

hours. For field trips and outreach inquiries, please use the booking request forms on the website or call or email the nature centers directly.

Programs take place rain or shine. Dress for the weather as programs may be held outdoors. Programs will be cancelled if weather is inclement.

OAKLAND COMMUNITY HEALTH NETWORK

Veteran and Military Family Drive Thru Food & Resource Event

Join Oakland Community Health Network and Gleaners as we partner to help our communities this holiday season!



WHEN:

Tuesday, December 9, 2025
9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

WHERE:

5505 Corporate Dr.
Troy, MI 48098

What to Expect:

- Food box
- Gift card (1 \$25 card per car)
- Naloxone Save a Life Training
- Resource bag
- Suicide prevention info



[Click here or scan QR code to register](#)



A Disabled American Veterans (DAV) representative will be onsite to assist with intent to file claims

For questions, contact Chaka McDonald at 248-764-4443 or mcdonaldc@oaklandchn.org

Former service members in the surrounding counties are welcome to attend!



Oakland Community
Health Network

Developmental Disabilities • Mental Health • Substance Recovery



ALLIANCE
OF COALITIONS
for Healthy Communities

HOME VACCINATION PROGRAM



Get Vaccinated in the Comfort of Your Own Home

Routine adult and childhood vaccines available including covid vaccines.

Available for those who have:

A disability, injury, or illness preventing travel
without a supportive device or caregiver



Medical, financial or transportation barriers

Higher risk of illness

Considerable, taxing effort
to leave the home

Call Nurse on Call at 800-848-5533 for more information.

*The Health Division accepts most insurances including Medicare and Medicaid.
No one will be denied services if uninsured or due to inability to pay.*

OakGov.com/Health | Nurse On Call: 800.848.5533 | NOC@OakGov.com |   @PublicHealthOC

The Oakland County Health Division will not deny participation in its programs based on race, sex, religion, national origin, age or disability. State and federal eligibility requirements apply for certain programs. 24-118_4.19.24

FINANCIAL LITERACY TRAINING



DECEMBER 16, 2025

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

8726 WOODWARD AVE.,

DETROIT, MI 48202

JOIN US FOR AN INFORMATIVE SESSION WHERE
WE WILL EXPLORE TOPICS SUCH AS TAXES,
CREDIT AND DEBIT, LOANS, AND EFFECTIVE
MONEY MANAGEMENT.

REGISTER HERE

FREE
REFRESHMENTS



wcyouthunited@dwihn.org



W-2 Electronic Enrollment

IRS form W-2, Wage and Tax Statement, will be mailed by the end of January to the mailing address we have on file for each employee who has not enrolled in our Early W-2 program. Please make sure to review your listed mailing address and update as necessary. This will avoid W-2's being delivered to incorrect addresses.

All address changes must be done through the PrismHR Employee Portal or in writing. We will accept an email or text message from the contact information we have on file. If sending updated address information via email, please send to HR@versicaregroup.com.

It's not too late to opt-in for electronic W-2's! What are the benefits of enrolling in the Early W-2 program? Identity protection! This legal document contains your social security number and annual earnings which may be compromised in the event it is lost in the mail or misplaced. Electronic W-2's are stored in the Employee Portal which has additional safeguards in place making sure your information is protected. You will also have immediate access to your electronic W-2 form as soon as it is available with unlimited reprints!

Go to "My Taxes" in your Employee Portal and click on W-2. If you are not currently enrolled in the Early W-2 program, you will see the option to accept Early W-2 Election.



EXPERTCARE'S HOLIDAY

OFFICE HOURS

Christmas Holiday Hours:

The office will be closed starting at 4:30pm on Tuesday, December 23rd and we will reopen at 8am on Friday, December 26th.

New Year's Holiday Hours:

The office will be closed starting at 12pm on Wednesday, December 31st and we will reopen at 8am on Friday, January 2nd.



Exciting News: We're Moving to Paylocity!!

We're thrilled to announce that we are transitioning to **Paylocity** as our new payroll system provider! This change represents a major step forward in streamlining our payroll processes and enhancing your employee experience.

Why We're Making the Move to Paylocity

This transition is part of our ongoing commitment to improving the employee experience and modernizing our internal systems. Here's why we chose Paylocity:

- **Enhanced Employee Experience**

Paylocity offers a more intuitive and mobile-friendly platform, making it easier for you to access your pay stubs, update personal information, and manage benefits—all in one place.

- **Streamlined Processes**

With Paylocity, we can automate and simplify many of our payroll and HR tasks, reducing errors and saving time for both employees and administrators.

- **Scalability for Growth**

Paylocity provides the flexibility and the tools to support our evolving needs.

- **Modernization**

- Paylocity offers a modern, user-friendly platform that empowers you with:

- ⇒ **Easy access** to your pay information

- ⇒ **Mobile-friendly tools** for on-the-go convenience

- **Enhanced self-service features** to manage your profile, benefits, and more

What's Next

We'll be sharing more details soon via txt & email, including:

- Key dates for the transition
- Support resources to help you get started



5

WINTER HEALTH & SAFETY TIPS



Dress Warmly Wear dry, loose-fitting layers that will hold your body heat and cover exposed skin, like your face and hands.

- **Prevent Falls** Watch out for slips on ice and snow by wearing sturdy shoes and walking at a slow pace.



Winterize Your Home Install insulation, weather stripping, storm windows, and check your heating systems.

Watch Your Shoveling
If you have snow to shovel, take breaks often.



Be a Winter Buddy Check on family, friends and neighbors, especially older adults, to make sure they have heat and are safe inside.

WAYNE COUNTY PARKS PRESENTS

32nd Annual *Lightfest*

Nov. 20 - Dec. 24

Wednesday – Sunday **only** from 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM

Bonus days of Monday, December 22 and Tuesday, December 23.

Cash payments only:

\$5 Per Car

40 Passenger Bus - \$50

Minibus - \$25

Limo/Commercial Van - \$20

There will be five food trucks
halfway through the show at
Perrin Park.

Listen to AM 1640 for traffic
updates and event information
as you enter the event areas.

Merriman Hollow Park, Westland
7651 North Merriman Road, Westland, MI
(Enter Hines Drive at Merriman Road)

For more information go to www.waynecountymi.gov
or call 734-261-1990



HHA Tip of the Month

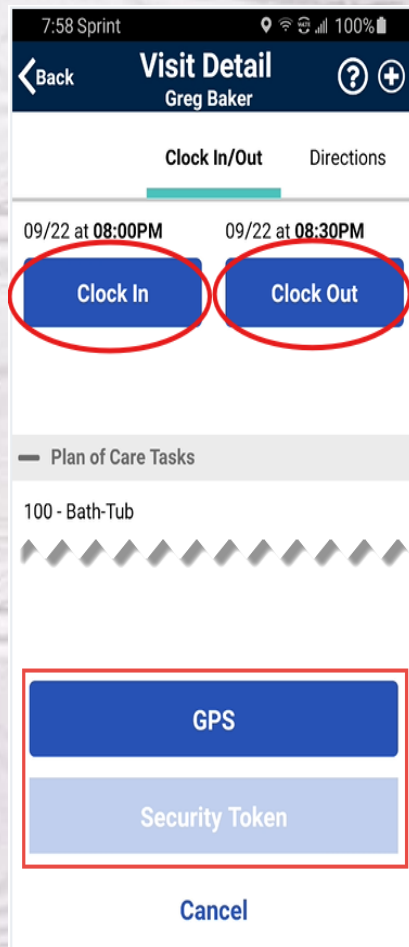
Happy Holidays ExpertCare Caregivers!

For the HHA Tip of the Month for December, we are going to go over the process to be EVV compliant with your timesheet.

To be EVV compliant, you must Clock In and Clock Out using the GPS verification for every shift. We want to make sure everyone is doing this correctly for every Clock In and Clock Out since this is a requirement from the State of Michigan. It is **VERY** important that you are EVV Compliant, as it could effect your visits being processed.

If you have any questions on the EVV process or if you are experiencing any issues with the HHAeXchange app please reach out and we can assist you.

Thank you for all that you do!



7:58 Sprint

Back Visit Detail ? +

Greg Baker

Clock In/Out Directions

09/22 at 08:00PM 09/22 at 08:30PM

Clock In Clock Out

Plan of Care Tasks

100 - Bath-Tub

GPS

Security Token

Cancel

HHA eXchange



Have questions regarding the HHA app? Each month ExpertCare will be holding open HHA training sessions. If you need any help navigating the app or have questions, please attend one of the sessions listed below.

Thursday, December 4 @ 2pm

Thursday, December 11 @ 3pm

Tuesday, December 16 @ 3pm

Please call our office to get scheduled for a refresher course. If you are unable to attend any of the sessions listed, call the office and we will answer your questions or work to schedule a different time. Keep an eye out for the training sessions for January in next month's newsletter!





GHS

Genesee **HEALTH SYSTEM**

WINTERFEST

FOR GHS CONSUMERS

DECEMBER 11, 2025
4 - 7 PM

**FIRST 300 GUESTS RECEIVE A
\$10 VOUCHER TO SHOP FOR A
GIFT TO GIVE
DANCING - FOOD - GAMES**

GHS Main Campus - 1040 W. Bristol Rd.

For more information please contact Customer Service
810-257-3705

Sensory Santa / Caring Santa

Sunday, December 7, 2025

from 9 am -10:30 am

Twelve Oaks Mall

27500 Novi Road, Novi, MI 48377

Families with special needs can experience the time-honored tradition of a visit with Santa during an event created just for them. Must pre-register. [Pre-registration required](#). For more info, visit shoptwelveoaks.com.

AMC Sensory Friendly Films

Wednesday, December 10, 2025 at 7 pm

AMC Forum 30 – 44681 Mound Road, Sterling Heights, Michigan 48314

AMC Livonia 20 – 19500 Haggerty Rd, Livonia, Michigan, 734-542-3191

AMC Star Gratiot – 35705 South Gratiot Ave, Clinton Twp, Michigan 48035

[Sensory film](#) showings feature lowered sound and dim lighting. Patrons can bring their own gluten-free or casein-free snacks and the kids can “dance, walk, shout or sing” or move about the aisles. No previews or advertisements will be shown before the movies. The movies are geared toward children ages 5 & up. Dates and films are subject to change.

RARA Social Nights

Thursday, December 11, 2025

from 6 pm - 8 pm

[RARA Recreation](#) (500 E Second Street, Rochester, Michigan 48307)

[Hosted by RARA Recreation](#). Social Nights are seasonal events designed for persons ages 14+ who have special needs. Sometimes, music, sometimes, dancing, sometimes games, always fun. Refreshments will be served. Cost is \$20 for residents & \$24 non-residents. Register via RARAREcreation.org. Each Social Night has a holiday theme.

December – Christmas Karaoke.



Friday Frolic Dance

Friday, December 12, 2025 from 7 pm – 9 pm

(Also January 9 & February 6)

Troy Community Center

3179 Livernois Rd, Troy, MI 48083

A social dance event with a seasonal theme, a live DJ, and fun for adults 18+ with disabilities. All dances provide light snack for participants. No refunds. Advance registration required \$10 admission. For more info, visit rec.troy.mi.gov.

Sensory-Friendly Planetarium Shows

Saturday, December 13, 2025 at 11am

Longway Planetarium (1310 E Kearsley St, Flint, Michigan 48503, 810-237-3400, sloanlongway.org)

Every 2nd Saturday, a new show at Longway Planetarium. During sensory-friendly shows, staff turn the lights up and turn the sound down to provide a safe, welcoming environment for friends with special needs.

Sensory Sunday at the Flint Children's Museum

Sunday, December 14, 2025 from 10 am – 12 pm

Flint Children's Museum

1602 W University Avenue, Flint, MI 48504

810-767-5437, flintchildrensmuseum.org

Quality quiet family time at the Children's Museum with a calm space, foam pit, bubble tubes, soft lighting and marble wall. Admission is \$8. For more info, visit flintchildrensmuseum.org.



Holiday Preparation

Plan Ahead to Spread Out Physical Tasks

- **Divide tasks over a few days** if possible. For example, prep veggies and make desserts the day before to avoid a full day on your feet.
- **Set up a workspace** close to your cooking area with all your tools nearby to reduce excessive reaching, twisting and bending.
- **Use Proper Lifting Technique** When lifting heavy items like a turkey or a large pot, **use a hip hinge or squat** to protect your back (keeping your core engaged).
- **Ask for help** if lifting a heavy dish out of the oven or lifting a big pan off the stovetop—especially if it's hot.
- **Alternate Positions**
 - * **Switch between sitting and standing** when doing prep work. For example, sit while peeling or chopping veggies to give your feet a break.
 - * Use a **kitchen stool** or chair for tasks that can be done seated, especially if you're prepping for an extended time.
- **Take Care of Your Hands and Wrists**
 - * Use tools that are easy on your hands, like **jar openers or ergonomic peelers** to avoid strain.
 - * **Switch hands** for tasks like stirring to distribute the work.
 - * Take a break and **stretch your wrists and fingers** periodically to avoid stiffness.
- **Prevent Upper Back and Shoulder Fatigue** Avoid hunching over the counter for long periods. **Stand close to the counter** to minimize leaning forward.
- **Wear Supportive Footwear** If you'll be on your feet for a while, wear **supportive shoes** or stand on an anti-fatigue mat to reduce strain on your legs and back.
- **Stretch and Hydrate**
 - * Stretch your neck, shoulders, back, and legs periodically. Some easy options include:
 - ⇒ **Pec Stretch:** Find a doorway and bring your arms up on either side of the doorframe. With staggered feet, gently lean forward keeping your shoulders square, until you feel a stretch in the front of your chest. Hold for 30 seconds.
 - ⇒ **Hamstring stretch:** Prop one foot on a stool, keep a slight bend in the knee, and hinge forward at the hips to stretch the back of your leg.
 - * **Stay hydrated** to prevent muscle fatigue and cramps, as dehydration can creep up, especially if you're moving around a lot.

Remember, a little preparation goes a long way! Wishing you a holiday full of good food, great company, and no post-cooking aches.

By Hannah Ford, PT, DPT, KEOMPT



Sensory Friendly Sundays at the Dodge Park Ice Skating Rink



December 14, 2025
from 11am - 1pm



(Also December 28)

Dodge Park Ice Skating Rink
40620 Utica Rd, Sterling Heights,
MI 48313, 586-446-2711



Accessible ice skating. Dimmed lighting, no music, and skate trainers will be available on a first come first serve basis. \$5 non-residents. Sterling Heights residents FREE. Hosted by the [City of Sterling Heights](https://www.sterlingheights.org/).





Wild Lights, presented by Michigan First Credit Union, is a holiday light show, a nighttime stroll and a core family memory waiting to happen. More than 500 dazzling displays and millions of LED lights guide you through a trail filled with wonder,

warmth, sound and surprise.

Whether it's a bundled-up family outing, a cheerful date night, a gathering with friends or simply a moment to breathe in the beauty of winter, this event offers something meaningful for anyone who experiences it.

When is Wild Lights happening in the 2025/26 season?

November: 22, 23, 28-30

December: 5-7, 11-23, 26-31

January: 2-4

Fridays and Saturdays: 5 – 10:30 p.m.

All other days: 5 – 9 p.m.

Note: Although January 2 (Friday) and January 3 (Saturday) are weekend dates, Wild Lights will close at 9:00 p.m. instead of the usual 10:30 p.m.

Wild Lights 2025 Admission + Packages

Ticket prices may vary by date, time and demand. All guests 2 and older require a ticket for entry.

Parking is \$8 per vehicle | [Zoo members](#) park free

Members get 10% off Wild Lights general admission! With a Detroit Zoo membership, you'll enjoy endless fun and great perks such as unlimited daytime admission, free Zoo parking, exclusive deals PLUS discounted access to ticketed events like Wild Lights.

MAGIC of LIGHTS

Magic of Lights, is a unique and dazzling drive-through holiday lights experience with more than a mile of spectacular light displays that bring to life your favorite holiday scenes and characters. Don't miss the larger-than-life sparkling Holiday Barbie display, the supersized Bigfoot Monster Truck, and life-sized dinosaurs of Prehistoric Christmas! Pile everyone into the car and experience more at the same low price!

November 21st through January 3rd

- 11/21—12/11 (Mon—Sun) 6 pm—9 pm
- 12/12—1/3 (Mon—Thurs) 6 pm—9 pm
- 12/12—1/3 (Fri—Sat) 5:30 pm—10 pm

Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Eve : 6 pm—9 pm

Holiday Lights at the Farm

6-9 p.m. Dec. 6, 12-13, 19-20, 2025 (multiple timed sessions each evening)

Address: Wolcott Mill Metropark, Farm Center, 65775 Wolcott Road, Ray Township

Cost: \$8 per child, \$8 per adult; free for children under 2. Registration required by 4 p.m. the day of the program.

Parking: Onsite parking available at Wolcott Mill Metropark

Accessibility: Path is mostly flat but gravel; limited ADA accessibility. No sensory-friendly hours listed.

Families can stroll the farm decorated with thousands of holiday lights, visit Santa and make a holiday craft. Vendors will be on hand with unique gifts, and concessions will be available for purchase. Registration is required.



Recipient Rights Corner



ExpertCare would like to first thank you for providing the highest quality care to your Recipient. ExpertCare wants to ensure the safety of Recipients and continue to give you the tools to provide safe, quality care and wellbeing. Below is an incident that resulted in a Recipient Rights violation. Please review the following Rights reminders to prevent further violations.

⇒ ExpertCare, along with the Office of Recipient Rights, was recently informed of an incident involving a Caregiver who brought their son, a friend, and another Recipient along while providing services.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind all staff of the following **ExpertCare policy**:

“Your family, visitors, friends, and pets are not allowed to accompany you to work. Even if the Recipient or their family provides permission, this is not permitted.”

Please remember that Community Living Supports (CLS) and/or Respite Services must be provided one-on-one with the assigned Recipient unless otherwise specified and approved in the Individual Plan of Service (IPOS). Adhering to this policy is essential to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of the Recipient, as well as to maintain the highest standards of ethical and professional care.

When providing care to a Recipient there are many rules that need to be followed and at times these can be difficult to remember. If you have questions or concerns about your case or do not fully understand the IPOS, please call ExpertCare. We are here to help you better understand the Recipient's Rights before it becomes a violation. We appreciate your attention to this matter. If there are any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact ExpertCare at (248) 643-8900.



Employee Milestone Anniversaries

We would like to recognize and congratulate the employees below for reaching a milestone anniversary in November.

5 Years

Alfreda Hayes
Deidre Shaw
Thomas McCloud
Dipal Patel



10 Years

Malak Kassem
Angela Bollini



15 Years

Nicholas Gielniak

20 Years

Salwa Denha

Thank you for demonstrating a continued commitment to ExpertCare and the clients we service. You make a difference!



GETTING TO KNOW THE EXPERTCARE OFFICE STAFF

We thought it would be nice to introduce ourselves and tell you a little bit about each of our office staff. Each month we will feature a new interview with someone from our office.

MEET SOPHIA BURROUGHS

ECare: What is your job title and role at ExpertCare?

Sophia: My job title at ExpertCare is Occupational Therapist Supervisor. I have a few roles, including providing pediatric therapy, providing services for individuals living in group homes, training newly hired therapists on our documentation system, and a few other things here and there.

ECare: What is the most exciting part of your job?

Sophia: Working with my pediatric patients! I love getting to know the kids and their families. It is especially exciting when they succeed on something we've been working on together.

ECare: What's the best concert you've been to?

Sophia: I went to a concert that was held in the big top in my hometown (which has a circus) that was the final hurrah for a local band that had become popular. The local band teacher even came to do a saxophone solo. It was so fun.

ECare: What's your most-used productivity hack?

Sophia: My to-do list. I always keep a running list on a sheet of paper on my desk or wherever I'm working. It's satisfying to cross things off as I go, and it helps me to remember all the things I need to get done.

ECare: What's a skill you'd like to improve on?

Sophia: I'd love to get better at crocheting. I've tried teaching myself but it never turns out quite right!

ECare: What's an accomplishment that you're most proud of?

Sophia: Being a first-generation college student. There were many aspects of going to college that were new and confusing, and it was a difficult road to navigate. I'm proud of myself and so grateful to those who supported me along the way.

ECare: What's the best advice you have received?

Sophia: My mom always taught me to try to look at things from both sides. You never know what someone else may be going through, or what experiences they have lived. It has helped me approach many situations with patience and understanding.

ECare: Have you ever met anyone famous?

Sophia: I met Carrie Fisher at a convention in Chicago many years ago. She was so kind and sweet in the brief moment I got to speak with her. I am a huge Star Wars fan and it meant so much to me. She's such an inspirational woman.



LOOK WHO'S TALKING
THERAPIST OF THE QUARTER
VANESSA SAENZ

ECare: What is the most rewarding experience you have had as a COTA?

Vanessa: The most rewarding experience I've had since being a COTA is seeing patients complete daily task's they were unable to prior to receiving occupational therapy.

ECare: What's something you've always wanted to try but never did?

Vanessa: Snorkeling

ECare: What are your hobbies outside of work?

Vanessa: Spending time with my husband, family and our dogs

ECare: What are three foods you can't live without?

Vanessa: Tacos, pasta, & Korean food

ECare: What is the first concert you attended?

Vanessa: Jonas Brothers at the Fisher Theater with my mom!

ECare: What is your best piece of advice for other COTAS?

Vanessa: Take care of yourself mentally and physically so you can be your best self for your patients!

ECare: What have you learned from your experience as a COTA that has helped you in other aspects of your life?

Vanessa: I have learned to always be kind and treat others with grace as you never know what others may be going through in their lives.



We are pleased to introduce Vanessa Saenz, ExpertCare's Therapist of the Quarter.

Vanessa started with us in November 2024 as a Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant. Vanessa has exemplified what it means to be a therapist with ExpertCare. She has fostered so much growth among the recipients she works with. We have received nothing but exceptional feedback regarding Vanessa and her skills. We are lucky to have her as part of the Therapy Team and are looking forward to many more years with her on the team.

Thank you for all your hard work, dedication & commitment to helping people succeed.





LOOK WHO'S TALKING
NOVEMBER CAREGIVER OF THE
MONTH
GILBERTO VILLARREAL

ECare: What made you decide to become a Caregiver?

Gilberto: I find it rewarding to help others.

ECare: What was your first paying job?

Gilberto: Laborer at a boat factory.

ECare: What is the most exciting part of your job?

Gilberto: Getting to spend time with the recipient.

ECare: What do you do for fun?

Gilberto: Watch movies with my family.

ECare: Have you ever met anyone famous?

Gilberto: No

ECare: What is your best piece of advice for other Caregivers?

Gilberto: Even when tired, do your best to listen to your recipient as you may be the only person they get to talk to that day.

ECare: Would you consider yourself an introvert or an extrovert and why?

Gilberto: I am an introvert and prefer spending my time at home with a good book/game/movie .

ECare: What have you learned from your Caregiving experience that has helped you in other aspects of your life?

Gilberto: Patience is a huge key to success when aiming to achieve long term goals.

We are proud to honor Gilberto Villarreal as our Caregiver of the Month! Gilberto has consistently gone above and beyond in his role, making a meaningful and lasting difference in the life of the family he supports.

Gilberto's dedication, patience, and genuine commitment have not only earned the admiration of his recipient, but also the deep appreciation of their family. According to the guardian, Gilberto has helped their loved one achieve goals that no other caregiver has been able to accomplish. His creativity and encouragement shine through daily whether he's incorporating exercise routines, developing new learning activities, or finding fun and meaningful ways to help his recipient build confidence and independence.

What truly sets Gilberto apart is his enthusiasm and heart. He approaches every day with positivity, purpose, and a sincere desire to help others grow. His ability to support both physical and cognitive development has had a tremendous impact, bringing joy and progress to the family he serves.

Gilberto, thank you for being a shining example of what compassionate and dedicated care looks like. Your efforts do not go unnoticed, and we are incredibly grateful to have you as part of the ExpertCare team. Congratulations on this well-deserved recognition!

Thank you for demonstrating ExpertCare's core values of:
Helping People Succeed
Passion for Success
Can Do Attitude





GHS

Genesee **HEALTH SYSTEM**

SHINES TOGETHER

GHS welcomes the community to celebrate the holidays with
a tree lighting ceremony at the Main Campus.
Music, refreshments, activities, and an appearance from Santa!

Free community event.

December 3, 2025

6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

GHS Main Campus,

1040 W. Bristol Rd., Flint, MI, 48507

Questions, call 810-424-6090 | www.genhs.org