



JB Pritzker, Governor  
Paula A. Basta, M.Div., Director

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May 12, 2020

Dear Aging Network:

As you know, May is Older Americans Month in Illinois and we are encouraging all Illinoisans to *Make Your Mark* in the lives of our older adults.

Usually, during this month, we are all busy engaging with our seniors in joyous ways such as senior events, fairs, and other activities. This year is undoubtedly a bit different, however our resolve has stood firm. We are indeed engaging with our older Illinoisans; just differently.

In recognition of this, we would like to collect stories of individuals you believe should be recognized as *Making Their Mark*; your employees, community partners, other older adults and even young adults who have been supporting our seniors - individuals who have gone above and beyond during this ongoing situation. We know that your organizations are continuously finding new and creative ways to provide services for our older Illinoisans, and we want to recognize these dedicated workers and share our - and your - gratitude for a job well done! If you have a story, you'd like to submit highlighting initiatives or individuals who embody the spirit of *Making Their Mark*, please provide the following information:

**Make Your Mark Submissions**

- Name of your organization:
- Location of your organization:
- What or Who you see *Making Their Mark*:
- *Make Your Mark* story, positive feedback, or quotes from older adults or caregivers (3-4 sentences):
- Photo (if available, and subject to social distancing and other health and safety precautions)

You can reply directly to this email or send your submission to [Michael.Dropka@illinois.gov](mailto:Michael.Dropka@illinois.gov), anytime **between now and June 1<sup>st</sup>**. We hope that by sharing your stories of individuals *Making Their Mark*, we can support and recognize the amazing work being done in our communities, encourage others, and trade ideas.

We would also like to pass along a [special message from Governor JB Pritzker](#) to our Aging Network regarding Older Americans Month and your service to the community. Your dedication during this crisis [has not gone unnoticed](#).

Finally, we would also like to announce that after partnering with the Illinois Film Office, IDoA is proud to release two Public Service Announcements (PSAs) creating awareness of how important it is to support our older family members, friends, and neighbors. The PSAs are also meant to raise awareness of programs and services available for our seniors and encourages everyone to *Make Their Mark*. Legendary television journalist, producer, and news anchor, Bill Kurtis graciously narrated the first PSA, with our own Director Paula Basta narrating the second. [Both are available on our website](#).

As always, please know that we are grateful for all of the work you are doing we continue to **support today, while planning for tomorrow**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads 'Paula Basta'.

Paula Basta, M.Div.  
Director, Illinois Department on Aging

Respect for yesterday. Support for today. Planning for tomorrow.  
[www.illinois.gov/aging](http://www.illinois.gov/aging)