

Generosity Beyond Life: Family Honors Loved One with Meaningful Donations in her Name

Georgian Rekash was a woman who made a huge difference in the world where she lived. She was recognized as an independent woman who was deeply rooted in her Catholic faith. She loved to listen to people and would meet them where they were at...never offering unsolicited advice but always available to lend an ear, and if asked, let you truly know what she thought of the situation. She could strike up a conversation with anyone, anywhere. Because of these traits, and more, she was well known throughout the community as a tireless advocate for aging.



"Respond to the needs that may be found."

While simultaneously working in her brother's accounting firm and attending school, Georgian would earn her accounting degree from DePaul University. She had an aptitude and was a natural with math, and this led to her career as an IRS Audit Agent. She found math and money intriguing and would continue with this passion through her volunteer work, often serving as an organization's treasurer.

As per her own quote in *70 Seniors Over 70 to Know*, Georgian was a woman who lived life with a simple motto, "Respond....to the needs....that may be found." Upon her retirement in 2007, Georgian became heavily active in her community. According to her nieces, she did not ask to serve; she found the opportunities and filled in where she was needed. She volunteered in many ways - from helping to prepare meals during the Thanksgiving holidays, various roles at her church and local hospitals, and even something as simple as smiling at a stranger as she passed by - she believed her true calling lay in service to others.

"She found a way to become the voice for aging seniors and serve as a resource for the community", her niece Christine Rekash said. Georgian was a member of Aging Well Community Organization, Co-Leader of Countryside's Community Action Team (CAT), Senior Ambassador for Countryside Promoting Community Outreach, Member of Countryside Senior Club, and an Act II Club Member. With the merging of Aging Well and Aging Care Connections, she joined the Aging Care Connections family as a volunteer in 2010.

In 2011, she accepted the Aging Well Community Service Award for her work with Aging Care Connections and The Countryside Aging Well Community Action Team for her tireless service to the communities they served. She took her volunteer work seriously, treating it as though it were *"another job that she enjoyed"* according to her niece Thecla Hanssen. She had a strong work ethic and was a natural leader. In May 2018, she received the GEM (Going the Extra Mile) Award from Aging Care Connections for her service to her communities and her commitment to volunteering. When asked why she committed herself so fully to volunteer work, she was quoted as saying, *"Be thankful for what you have and share with those in need."*

When asked about the lasting impact that she had on her communities, her nieces responded, “...one is often remembered by what type of person you are and not about how much you accomplished. In hearing others speak about our aunt, we have learned that her involvement within the community made a lasting impact due to her willingness to listen to others and become involved in helping any way that she could.”

Upon her passing, in lieu of flowers, her family requested that donations be made to Aging Care Connections. Not only did Georgian volunteer with ACC, but she also became a client of our Top Box home delivered meals for seniors. “Seeing that this program helped to sustain my aunt with healthy food and ideas for cooking, we felt that in lieu of flowers, that would eventually die, we wanted to be able to pay it forward....” Christine said.

Aging Care Connections would like to thank Georgian Rehash for her service to not only our organization, but also the communities in which she served. We also would like to thank her family for their generous action of requesting donations in her name so that we can continue to help the older adults who need our services. If you would like more information on volunteering, please visit our website at www.agingcareconnections.org.