

## Background

Millions of older people in our country live alone. They are often determined to remain independent in the familiar comfort of their own homes, in spite of failing health and other challenges. With family members scattered and no one checking on them regularly, a simple problem may lead to disastrous consequences.

## Gatekeepers to the Rescue

The Gatekeeper Program was created to make sure that every older person has a network of trained community representatives looking out for them on a regular basis.

Gatekeepers are the public service and utility company employees, postal workers, newspaper carriers, police officers and every day citizens who are trained to recognize danger signs indicating an elderly person is at risk. When a problem is suspected Gatekeepers call CONTACT Cape-Atlantic's Gatekeeper Program.

The Gatekeeper staff contacts the elderly person to determine whether there is cause for concern. The situation is assessed and referrals are made to vital services such as home delivered meals, medical care, homemaker services, transportation and financial assistance.

Many seniors are unaware of the resources available at low or no cost to them. The Gatekeeper Program opens the door to services that may be the determining factor in maintaining an independent lifestyle.

## How the Gatekeeper Program Works

Danger Signs that Gatekeepers look for:

### HOME

- House in need of repair
- Yard overgrown, untended
- Mail or newspaper uncollected

### PHYSICAL CONDITION

- Difficulties with seeing, hearing, speaking
- Limited mobility

### EMOTIONAL WELL BEING

- Confused, disoriented or forgetful
- Nervous or fearful
- Hostile or agitated

### ECONOMIC SITUATION

- Not enough money for food or medication
- Unable to pay bills

### SOCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

- Lives alone
- Appears isolated
- No contact with family or neighbors

## Gatekeeper Reporting Process

- 1) Gatekeepers contact the Gatekeeper Line: **(609) 823-1850**
- 2) Identify yourself as a Gatekeeper. You will need to provide your name, organization and phone number.
- 3) Gatekeepers provide detailed information about the elderly person: name, address, phone number or contact person.
- 4) Gatekeepers provide details about the situation; observations of living conditions and needs; comments made by the elderly person; physical impairments - limited hearing or vision, confusion, other disabilities.

**Contact Cape-Atlantic will update Gatekeeper on referral if requested.**

## How Can You Help?

If you know an elderly person who needs assistance or are interested in becoming a Gatekeeper, please call:

**(609) 823-1850**

The Gatekeeper Program  
is funded by the  
United Way of Atlantic County  
and donations from the general public.

*A donation is greatly appreciated.*

## Gatekeeper Program

The Gatekeeper Program is an innovative partnership that respects and values the older members of this community. Seniors can count on familiar figures in their own neighborhoods to watch out for them and take prompt action when danger signs appear. With a trained Gatekeeper nearby, help is just a phone call away.

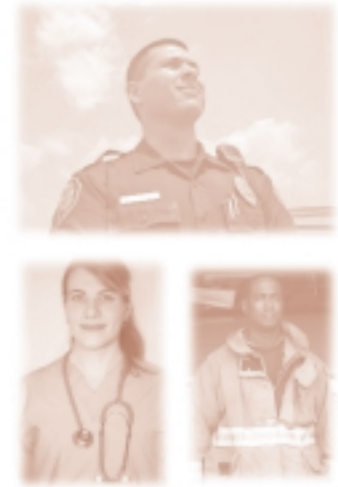


For more information about the Gatekeeper Program, call:  
**(609) 823-1850**



A Program of CONTACT Cape-Atlantic  
P.O. Box 296, Somers Point, NJ 08244  
(609) 823-1850, (609) 463-4564  
contact-c-a@excite.com

**CONTACT**  
Cape-Atlantic  
P.O. Box 296  
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**CONTACT**  
Cape-Atlantic

## *Gatekeeper Program*



**(609) 823-1850**



Partner Agency United Way of Atlantic County  
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