



COUNCIL ON AGING

SERVICES FOR SENIORS

JOB DESCRIPTION **FRIENDLY VISITOR PROGRAM**

The Friendly Visitor Program is a volunteer program through Council on Aging which targets seniors who have expressed feelings of loneliness and isolation, and have difficulty getting out. After the prospective volunteer is interviewed and screened, he or she is eligible to be matched with a senior. Once matched, the volunteer is asked to visit the senior a minimum of one hour per week with the hope of the development of a long-term relationship, and the ultimate goal of helping the senior to remain at home as long as possible.

VOLUNTEER ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

1. The volunteer must be able to visit on their own, thus a car is desirable.
2. A copy of the driver's license and automobile insurance must be provided.
3. A background check is mandatory and costs \$18.00.
4. Desirable traits are compassion, good listening skills, acceptance and understanding.
5. Training will be scheduled to correspond with our Volunteer Case Management Program.
6. The interviewer reserves the right to use their discretion about making a match with the ultimate safety of the senior always at the heart of the match.

DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The volunteer is asked to visit for at least six months and preferably one year.
2. The volunteer will try to visit weekly. If this is not possible, contact will be made by telephone.
3. After the first visit, the volunteer will call the Friendly Visitor Coordinator at Council on Aging and leave a voicemail about how the visit went.
4. If the volunteer is unable to continue the visiting, he or she will contact the Friendly Visitor Coordinator and the senior.
5. If the senior is experiencing unusual problems, the volunteer will call the Director of Volunteers at Council on Aging. A report will be generated to **Case Management** to discuss options.

(Rev. 10/30/2008)