

Friendship Brigade Volunteer Position Description

PURPOSE

To connect and provide company, reassurance, and friendship to isolated seniors and disabled adults living in area care communities and nursing homes.

DESCRIPTION

The **Friendship Brigade** is an outreach of Center 50+. We connect caring volunteers with isolated seniors and disabled adults living in area community care and nursing home facilities. Volunteers are assigned to one of currently 12 partner facilities a work in small groups of 3-6 for 2 hours once-a-week on a regular schedule.

Volunteers of all ages, faiths, and backgrounds are encouraged to join the Friendship Brigade including those age 50+, families, church communities, and service clubs. Volunteers interested in bringing their dog on visits are encouraged to ask about our assessment and training program.

DUTIES

- Fulfill basic training expectations before placement and thereafter
- Carry out signature **Friendship Brigade** activities on a one-to-one basis with residents or in small groups
- Engage residents who have a wide range of conditions needing nursing and medical care, including dementia, with empathy, dignity and respect
- Provide company, reassurance, and friendship to residents
 - Talk and laugh with residents
 - Listen with interest to resident's thoughts and stories
 - Reminisce
 - Share stories about the outside world and what you have been doing
- Share personal talents, skills and interests with residents
 - Walking
 - Reading
 - Letter Writing
 - Music
 - Art & Crafts
 - Hobbies and Other Interests
- Help and support residents participate in structured facility activities

REQUIREMENTS

- Demonstrate a commitment to improving the quality of life of area seniors
- Able to reliably commit to 1-2 hours once a week / 40 service hours a year
- Able to pass both City of Salem and Oregon DHS Criminal Background Checks
- (For minors) Able to provide Minor Volunteer Consent Form
- Willing to abide by Center 50 + and the Friendship Brigade's volunteer guidelines, including rules on confidentiality, health and safety
- Willing to participate in all mandatory training workshop(s)
- Committed to treating others with equity and inclusion
- Able to relate with empathy to others' situations
- Friendly and approachable manner
- Good verbal communication skills
- Able to be patient and calm even in the face of difficult situations
- Able to act on own initiative within the role description