

Village Visits

Village Visits Volunteers provide friendship and companionship for older adults and adults with disabilities who may be lonely and socially isolated. Typically, village visiting Volunteers are matched with Care Receivers who live alone or who are alone during the day. Every effort is made to match Volunteers with Care Receivers according to interests, availability, geographic location, or by similarities between the Care Receiver and the Volunteer.

Volunteer matches for Village Visits are coordinated through the Volunteer Coordinator at Up Giving Village or through the Coordinator at one of Up Giving Village's Partners.

Village visiting Volunteers usually commit to 1 - 2 hours per visit-- either weekly, every other week, monthly, etc --depending on the Volunteer's availability and the Care Receiver's needs.

Friendly visits include activities such as visiting and talking in the Care Receiver's home, watching TV or a movie together, playing games, and enjoying hobbies together, depending on the Care Receiver's interests and abilities. Some Care Receivers enjoy going for a walk.

Standards for Friendly Visiting

- Within a few days of being assigned, Volunteers should contact their Care Receivers, identify themselves by name and as a Volunteer through Up Giving Village, and arrange a time for the first visit.
- When arriving for the first visit, Volunteers should introduce themselves again, addressing the Care Receiver by his/her proper name (e.g., Mrs. Smith, Mr. Jones) until asked to be more informal. If other family members are present at the time of your visit, chat with them enough to make them comfortable with you.
- State the purpose of the visit and the length of time you will be able to stay. Talk to the Care Receiver about their interests and what kinds of activities they might enjoy your time together.

- Village Visiting Volunteers should be familiar with active listening techniques and other communication tips described in the Volunteer/Intern handbook.
- Volunteers should look for signs that their Care Receiver may be tired, not feeling well, or ready to end the visit before the allotted time for another reason.
- Before leaving, Volunteers should set the time for the next visit. Always call ahead a day or two before the next visit, and again before you leave for the Care Receiver's home, to confirm the appointment.

