

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTIONS—SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT

Friendly Companion

Summary:

The Friendly Companion services are offered through Hannan Center’s Peer-to-Peer Program and is one of the services for assisting seniors who are struggling to maintain their independence in their homes. The volunteers will make scheduled home visits to the homes of older adults whom are living independently in the community and need in-home help. The Friendly Companion volunteer will provide assistance with community living tasks and home chores. The Volunteers will not provide any direct personal care services, interact or respond to situations beyond the scope of a Friendly Companion.

Note: This opportunity requires access to reliable transportation and could require some time on weekends. Weekend time would be scheduled at the discretion of the volunteer

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Present with a warm, friendly, kind and courteous demeanor
- Complete home management tasks to assist older adults with maintaining a safe and clean home environment (light house cleaning, grocery shopping, laundry, light meal preparation) weekly or as mutually agreeable
- Assist older adults with activities of community living (sorting mail, organizing the home, walking the dog, making appointments and arranging services such as lawn maintenance or snow removal, home repairs, etc.)
- Inform the social work staff of any changes in the home (special needs/ urgent situations)
- Connect with family, friends, and caregivers to foster communication and cooperation regarding the Friendly Companion services
- Connect older adults to Hannan’s Zena Baum Service Center for other needed assistance

Interests:

- Respectful learning about different people and their backgrounds
- In-home support for others
- Building new and supportive relationships with others

Ideal Qualifications, Skills and Abilities:

- Personal, volunteer or work experience as a chore worker, housekeeper or as an in-home helper
- Volunteer or work experience with senior companion services and/or home visitations OR personal experience in these roles
- Good communication skills
- Physically able to do light house work and/or prepare meals
- Flexible and able to adapt to changes and unforeseen circumstances
- Access to transportation to travel to different home locations