



Key Talking Points

FriendshipWorks is a non-profit, volunteer-driven organization that has been working to reduce elder isolation by matching volunteer with older adults for friendship and support for 36 years.

We accomplish this by recruiting and training volunteers of all ages, faiths, and backgrounds who provide friendship, advocacy, education, assistance, and emotional support.

1. FriendshipWorks provides its services FREE to elders 60+ (55+ with low vision or hearing)
2. FriendshipWorks thoughtfully matches volunteers with elders for a personalized experience.
3. FriendshipWorks is volunteer-driven. More than 600 volunteers make our programs possible.

“Our individual and group programs speak to the necessities and quality of life that provides meaning,” said Janet Seckel-Cerrotti, executive director for FriendshipWorks. “Attending doctor visits, getting medications, participating in music and art programs, and receiving weekly visits or assistance with tasks, that’s what our programs are for. Bringing help, joy, meaning, and purpose is what the friendships built from these carefully matched volunteers and recipients do.”

FriendshipWorks programs:

Individual Programs

- *Friendly Visiting* - Volunteers are thoughtfully matched with older adults for long-term friendship. Starting with a one year commitment, some friendships can last over a decade!
- *Friendly Helping* - short term (1-3 visits) assistance with specific tasks.
- *Medical Escorts* - Volunteers accompany older adults to and from medical appointments.

Group Programs

- *PetPals* - group program where PetPals teams with trained and screened animals visit older adults bringing joy and comfort through the unconditional love of a pet.
- *MusicWorks* - group program where musicians provide musical performances, instrument interaction, singing, movement, and dancing to residential buildings.

Initiatives

- *FriendshipWorks has spearheaded several initiatives including a Low Vision Elder Initiative* - an effort to raise awareness about elder vision loss and share resources that can make a difference in the lives of low vision elders.
- *LGBTQ+ Elders* - FriendshipWorks is dedicated to ending social isolation among *all* older adults in Greater Boston, and has provided opportunities for social connection for LGBTQ+ elders.

About FriendshipWorks

Our **mission** is to reduce social isolation, enhance quality of life, and preserve the dignity of older adults in Greater Boston. We accomplish this by recruiting and training volunteers of all ages, faiths, and backgrounds who provide friendship, advocacy, education, assistance, and emotional support.

Creating Connections to End Elder Isolation.

www.fw4elders.org