

ON MAY 2, 2023, THE U.S. SURGEON GENERAL ISSUED AN ADVISORY
ON THE HEALING EFFECTS OF SOCIAL CONNECTION AND COMMUNITY...
LET'S ANSWER THE CALL AND WORK TOGETHER.

“Given the significant health consequences of loneliness and isolation, we must prioritize building social connection the same way we have prioritized other critical public health issues... Together, we can build a country that’s healthier, more resilient, less lonely, and more connected.” - U.S. Surgeon General



U.S. Surgeon General
Dr. Vivek Murthy

November 27, 2023

Dear Friend,

Today, I am reaching out to share an urgent call to action from the U.S. Surgeon General who recently issued an Advisory on Social Isolation, outlining how connection plays a critical role in individual, community, and societal health.

He reported that, *“social connection is a fundamental human need - as essential to survival as food, water, and shelter.”*

We invite you to take action TODAY to strengthen connections for isolated older adults by making a gift to FriendshipWorks.

In the heart of Greater Boston, we have the power to make a transformative impact. FriendshipWorks has been a beacon of hope for **40 years connecting older adults to their community** through heartfelt in-person visits and meaningful friendships. Whether it’s a weekly visit with a friend, completing a household task, or someone to accompany them on a medical appointment, FriendshipWorks helps elders at no charge.

These interactions are more than just social calls; they’re lifelines of empathy, understanding, and shared experiences that enhance the mental and physical well-being of elders. And for many people, including Sandra Durant, accessing FriendshipWorks’ programs and its volunteers is akin to having an extended family:

“I am enormously thankful, that on very short notice, FriendshipWorks graciously agreed to escort me after my endoscopy from the Gastroenterology department to my ride home. Having a post-procedure escort is a firm policy at Mass General Hospital (MGH). My husband passed in 2019, and I was at a loss for an escort after my procedure. It was almost a miracle that I found your program. I am very lucky that the people I spoke with at MGH gave me FriendshipWorks’ number.”



Sandra Durant

With your help and the support of our generous partners, FriendshipWorks' Five Core Programs will remain free of charge to the elders in Boston, Brookline, Newton, Somerville, and Cambridge.

- Friendly Visiting
- Medical Escorts
- PetPals Visiting
- Friendly Helping
- MusicWorks

When you make a gift to FriendshipWorks, you:

Enhance Well-being: By helping us reduce social isolation, you contribute to improved mental and emotional health for our elders. Your support has the power to alleviate feelings of loneliness and boost overall happiness, while ensuring older adults can access their critical health appointments.

Enrich Lives: Your contribution allows us to expand our outreach, enabling more elders in Greater Boston to benefit from social connections. Every dollar you give directly translates into moments of comfort and shared memories.

Strengthen Communities: Vibrant communities are built upon strong connections. Your donation enables us to build a stronger, more compassionate society, one friendship at a time.

The good news is that social isolation is solvable and treatable, and with your ongoing support, we will continue to bring comfort, hope, and a healthier community for older adults in Greater Boston for generations to come.



Donate
Online Today
Scan Here

So let's heed the call of our Surgeon General and work together to remove the stigma of loneliness, while creating long-lasting human connections in our community.

Your chance to make life better for thousands of elders begins TODAY when you donate online at www.fw4elders.org/donate or mail in your gift using the enclosed envelope.

Thank you for believing in our important work!

Yours in Friendship,

FriendshipWorks' Executive Director

PS. Help us reach our fundraising goal of \$240,000 before December 31, 2023 to ensure older adults have access to our programs!

We act with integrity!
We've earned a



★ FOUR-STAR RATING ★

from

Charity Navigator



Carolyn (R) feels secure getting out for a walk when her Friendly Visitor, Sarah is by her side.



PetPals visits bring joy and the unconditional love of pets to elders in nursing homes, assisted living, and senior centers.



*"I enjoy shooting hoops and listening to Chris' great stories. He's a fascinating guy."
- Friendly Visiting Volunteer, Evan (L)*

HERE'S WHAT YOUR GIFT CAN DO:

\$40-\$140

Answers the call from the Surgeon General to create connections and end elder isolation. Together we can make a difference!

\$240

Coordinates a trip for a Medical Escort Volunteer who offers comfort, reassurance, and assistance to an elder from their home, to the doctor's office, and safely back home.

\$540

Helps bring an older adult through the comprehensive Friendly Visiting matching process to connect them with a caring volunteer for friendship and support.

\$1,040

"Graduates" five PetPals Visitation Teams through screening, testing, and training, so they can bring the love of pets to elders in nursing homes, senior centers and assisted living residences.

\$5,040

Offers professional development for staff to expand their knowledge base and learn new practices and techniques to effectively serve the aging population.

Do you believe in the healing power of social connection and community?

Yes! My contribution to FriendshipWorks is enclosed.

If you and our other supporters donated at least this amount, we'll reach our goal!

Your gift, no matter the size, is appreciated.

\$40 \$140 \$240 \$540 \$1040 \$5040 My Best Gift \$ _____

I would like to make my gift recurring: Monthly Quarterly Annually

Payment: Check Enclosed Charge My Credit Card FriendshipWorks Is In My Will

Credit Card #: _____ Expiration _____ CVV _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Please make checks payable to FriendshipWorks,
or give online at: www.fw4elders.org/donate