



Important Note:

Due to the vulnerability of our clients, standard screening processes apply to all potential Volunteer Companions. This process includes: interviews with the coordinator; reference checks; a police records check; and attendance at a 12-hour training program provided by the Alzheimer Society of Oxford (which will be scheduled at a time you can attend). Volunteer Companions must be at least 18 years of age.



Our Mission:

To improve the quality of life for people and their caregivers living with Alzheimer's disease or other dementias.



For information or support contact us:

Alzheimer Society of Oxford
575 Peel Street
Woodstock, ON N4S 1K6

519-421-2466
1-877-594-2368

www.alzheimer.ca/oxford

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Volunteer Companion Program

For Volunteers



Help for Today.
Hope for Tomorrow...

YOU CAN:

- Develop a new friendship and improve the quality of life of a person with Alzheimer's disease or other dementias.
- Give caregivers a much needed break to go shopping, get a haircut or have coffee with friends.
- Learn about Alzheimer's disease or other dementias, disease progression, functions of the brain and communication tips.
- Meet other caring, interesting, compassionate and fun volunteers.

"Dad would not interact with other people at all before he was matched with his volunteer companion. Over time, he recognized his volunteer companion and he knew that each weekly visit was for him. It gave my dad a sense of purpose. He felt he could help someone else. He felt useful. The other side of the coin is that it gave my mom a 2-3 hour break each week because my dad was so dependant on her each day. She really looked forward to that time each week. It is a wonderful program."

Caregiver near Tillsonburg

"I think this program is great! It is good for my mom to see other people. When you deal with this day in and day out, you need a break. I know I can plan something for Tuesday afternoons." Caregiver in Oxford County



Volunteer Companions are asked to visit the person with Alzheimer's disease or other dementias in his/her home for a minimum of two hours per week at a regular time for a minimum of six months.

Volunteer Companions do what ordinary friends like to do: reminisce, take part in a favourite hobby, create a craft, listen to music, play a game, go out for coffee or a ride in the car (not a requirement for volunteers to drive).

The coordinator will help develop an 'activity plan' that suits both you and your match.

WE WILL:

- Respect the visit times you specify (daytime or evening).
- Introduce you to a 'match' with similar interests.
- Give you the specific information and training you need.
- Contact you at least monthly to answer questions and provide support.
- Host meetings and distribute newsletters for education and support.
- Recognize the valuable contribution you are making.

"I consider the Volunteer Companion Program a real plus for my mother who has Alzheimer's disease. The weekly two hour visits challenge her to make conversation. Her mind is challenged with appropriate activities suggested by the coordinator. My mother looks forward to the visits - it's like having a family member drop in. The visits give my mother something to talk about - news to share with me when I visit. When my mother was living alone it was one day I knew she had human contact and I didn't feel that I needed to phone or visit that day."

Caregiver near Woodstock