



Helping people move beyond  
the limitations of poverty,  
inequity and social isolation.

Moving Lives Forward.

## Metropolitan Family Service Volunteer Description

**Program:** Project Linkage  
**Position:** Community Visitor: In-Home

**Program Description:** Project Linkage helps older adults and people with disabilities remain independent in their own homes by linking them with volunteers who provide in-home support and transportation services. Project Linkage has served older adults and people with disabilities in the community since 1978.

**Position Description:** Project Linkage Community Visitor volunteers make a difference in the life of someone who is isolated and lacks a local network of support. Volunteers regularly visit clients to provide emotional, social and health support.

**Time Commitment:** There is an average one hour per week expectation for In-Home Visiting volunteers. This may be an ideal opportunity for evening and weekend volunteering, depending upon the needs of the client and the schedule of the volunteer. Because the relationship that develops is an important form of support for clients, volunteers are asked to commit one year of service.

**Responsibilities:** Volunteer activities vary based on the client served. Clients designate what kind of support is desired in a Visiting Plan which will be presented to their volunteer prior to visitation. In general, activities include listening, talking, and participating in activities enjoyable to the client and the volunteer (e.g. recreational walks, games, reading aloud, art). Volunteers may also help clients with steps toward achieving personal health goals. Periodically, volunteers may assist with special requests or errands. Community Visitor volunteers who wish to take their client out by providing transportation will be required to submit to a driver history check and complete additional training.

**Expectations:** Volunteers should be personable, listen well, understand limitations experienced by some clients, and have a good sense of humor. Volunteers must also have a clear sense of boundaries in working with clients. Volunteers must be at least 18 years of age and successfully complete a criminal background check and program application.

**Supervision & Training:** A three-hour Pre-Service Orientation and Training must be completed prior to beginning service. Additional training opportunities are offered throughout the year. The client and volunteer are contacted during the first month of service to ensure that the match is going well, and quarterly after that time. Individual volunteer support and consultation will also be provided by staff members throughout the course of service.

**For more information:** Contact Metropolitan Family Service at 503.232.0007, ext.211