What is Elder Services?

Being able to age in the comfort of your own home provides security and a very important sense of independence. ESWA’s mission is to help elders, younger disabled individuals, and their families obtain essential long term support services – enabling them to remain at home with dignity for as long and as safely possible. ESWA is a private, not-for-profit agency and an Aging Services Access Point (ASAP), regulated and funded by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Building on four decades of experience, we offer expert community based, long term care solutions; making successful independent life at home possible.

Volunteer Opportunities

Worcester Area Memory Café Volunteer

The Worcester Area Memory Café meets once a month, the third Tuesday of each month from 2:00 pm—3:30 pm at the Worcester Senior Center. The Memory Café is for individuals with memory loss along with their caregivers, and/or friends and family in a safe, supportive, engaging environment. It is a time to socialize, enjoy a program, activity or entertainment, and spend time in a judgement free zone with others experiencing similar journeys. The goal is to make every guest feel as comfortable and welcome as possible.

Volunteer assistance is needed 1/2 hour prior through clean-up (1:30pm–4:00pm.)

Memory Café Volunteers assist the Memory Café Staff with decorating tables, welcoming and socializing with guests, helping with activities and clean up. Though experience with Alzheimer’s/Dementia is not necessary, volunteers must possess patience and a calm demeanor. Training on the disease is provided to all new volunteers. Volunteers receive complimentary snacks during their shift.

Office Volunteer

Assist staff with clerical duties such as: data entry, filing, mass mailings and other necessary tasks. Assigned tasks may be performed weekly or monthly; some are special projects that we need some extra help with. No experience necessary, staff will find a job for the volunteer that matches their skill level. Weekdays Monday–Friday between the hours of 8:00am—5:00pm; this position has the most flexibility in regard to commitment.

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The Agency and its programs receive funds administered through the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs; and federal financial support under the Older Americans Act provided by the Central Massachusetts Agency on Aging. Other funders include the United Way of Central Massachusetts, Greater Worcester Community Foundation, local Councils on Aging & governments, participant donations, grants, foundations and individual support. We also contract with Senior Care Organizations, One Care Organizations and other health insurance providers.

www.800ageinfo.com 1-800-AGE-INFO

Your greatness is not what you have, it’s what you give.

Contact us at:
(508) 756-1545
or
irinfo@eswa.org
Are You Looking for a Way to Give Back to Your Community?

**Why Volunteer?**

Elder Services of Worcester Area has volunteer opportunities available which will provide you with a meaningful and rewarding experience. If you have a few hours of time to spare and would like to make a difference in the life of a frail elder consider becoming an Elder Services Volunteer. Our volunteers find it very enriching as it provides them an opportunity to reach out and assist someone in their community. All volunteers are carefully screened; screening process includes a criminal background check.

**Rainbow Lunch and Supper Clubs (LGBT)**

During the Rainbow Lunch-Supper Clubs, LGBT older adults come together to enjoy a meal and socialize in a judgement free environment. The Rainbow Supper Club gathers the first Tuesday of each month from 6:00-8:00 pm. Volunteer assistance is needed approximately 1 hour prior to mealtime through clean-up (5:00-8:30pm.) The Rainbow Supper Club is ESWA’s only evening volunteer opportunity.

The Rainbow Lunch Club meets twice monthly, the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, at noon. Similarly, volunteer assistance is needed approximately 1 hour prior to mealtime through clean up (11:00am–1:30pm.)

Rainbow Volunteers assist with setting up tables/chairs, preparing place settings, serving the meal, cleaning up, registration and more. Volunteers receive a complimentary meal during their shift.

**Meals on Wheels Volunteer Driver**

Meals On Wheels Volunteer Drivers deliver nutritious meals to homebound seniors in their community. This opportunity involves delivering meals, and also checking on the consumer to ensure their safety.

Often times the driver is the only person the consumer may see throughout the day.

Volunteer Drivers may commit to one or more days per week. Meals are delivered Monday – Friday between the hours of 10:00am – 2:00pm.

Applicants must have valid Massachusetts Driver’s License and reliable transportation. Volunteers receive mileage reimbursement for assigned route. This volunteer position is a vital role within our program.

**Senior Companion Volunteer**

(Associate Services of Central Massachusetts)

A part of the National Senior Service Corps., the Senior Companion Program is sponsored locally by Family Services of Central Massachusetts. Senior Companions are volunteers 55 years of age and older who devote 15 – 40 hours per week providing individualized care and assistance to frail, often isolated, elders in the community. They may go for walks, play games, shop for groceries, or prepare a light meal for their clients. Other time spent might include reading together, reminiscing or just visiting.

**Dining Center Kitchen Volunteer**

Dining Center Kitchen Volunteers assist with serving nutritious meals at one of our 21 Dining Centers. At sites outside of Worcester Kitchen Volunteers may also assist with packing Meals on Wheels for delivery. Participants gather together in their community to enjoy a meal and have the opportunity for socialization. Kitchen Volunteers may commit to one or more days per week. Most Dining Centers are open Monday – Friday and serve at noon. This role is essential to the functions of the Congregate Dining Program.

**Money Management Volunteer Bill Payer**

Elder Services Money Management Program Volunteers assist elders once each month to help with bill paying, checkbook reconciliations, sorting and reading mail for clients, as well as mailing monthly bills. Volunteers visit their client each month in the elder’s home for one or two hours, flexible days/time.

“Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.”

~Leo Buscaglia~