

44 Holland Avenue
Albany, NY 12229-0001



Office for People With
Developmental Disabilities



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Developmental Disabilities



Senior Companion



(866) 946-9733 | www.opwdd.ny.gov

At OPWDD, our motto is “putting people first.” With that in mind, we are committed to providing a variety of supports and services for adults with developmental disabilities. This brochure outlines OPWDD’s Senior Companion Program, a service we offer in conjunction with the federal Corporation for National and Community Service. The program, which pairs adults with developmental disabilities with a senior-age partner, provides opportunities for individuals to better integrate into their communities, and to foster a lifelong friendship.


Kerry A. Delaney, Acting Commissioner

Senior Companion Program

The NYS Office For People With Developmental Disabilities’ Senior Companion Program is an outstanding program that partners New York State seniors with adults with developmental disabilities. The Senior Companion Program offers adults with developmental disabilities:

- Greater community inclusion
- A helping hand when needed
- Socialization opportunities
- A chance to fine-tune their daily living skills
- A valued friendship

Senior Companions aren’t staff, or program aides, but people who are willing to offer support and friendship to adults with developmental disabilities.

Is becoming a Senior Companion right for you?

Senior Companions must:

- Be at least 55 years old
- Be able to volunteer 15-40 hours per week
- Be income eligible
- Love to help people

Senior companions don’t need medical or technical skills, only a willingness to share their time and talents.

Along with the satisfaction of knowing you’re making a difference, Senior Companions receive:

- A tax-free stipend
- Paid vacation, sick leave and other benefits
- A daily meal allowance or a meal
- Transportation or mileage reimbursement
- Pre-service and on-going training





"This program has added meaning to my life. It gives me something to look forward to everyday."

Janet Batton, Long Island DDSO

"I enjoy working with the individuals. Helping them assimilate in natural settings, such as, bowling, fishing, golfing, and walking. It is really rewarding."

Carmen Gallo, Finger Lakes Craig DDSO



"I really enjoy being part of something again. It is really important to be part of something that is bigger than yourself."

Cliff Jones, Broome DDSO



For more information about this program, contact OPWDD's Senior Companion Program at (518) 474-9882, or at one of the Senior Companion Program offices listed below.

- Brooklyn, N.Y.(718) 642-6279
- Capital District(518) 581-3074
- Rome, N.Y.(315) 756-5637
- Syracuse, N.Y.(315) 473-5034
- Broome(607) 770-0401
- Craig, N.Y.(585) 382-3100
- Monroe, N.Y.(585) 461-8884
- Newark, N.Y.(315) 331-1700 ext. 2427
- Hudson Valley, N.Y.(845) 947-6198
- Long Island, N.Y.(631) 326-4441
- New York, N.Y. (Manhattan/UCP) (718) 741-7259
- Sunmount, N.Y. (518) 359-4481
- Taconic, N.Y.(845) 877-6821 ext. 3987
- Western, N.Y.(716) 517-3473

Program Information is also available through OPWDD's toll free Information Line at (866) 946-9733 voice, or (866) 933-4889 TTY; OPWDD regional DDSOs; or at OPWDD's Web Site, www.opwdd.ny.gov.

This brochure is published by the OPWDD Communications Office, located at 44 Holland Ave., Albany, N.Y. 12229.

If you're interested in becoming a Senior Companion, or just want to find out more about this rewarding and important program, please fill out the following form and mail it to us. We'll be glad to tell you all about it.

Yes, I'm interested in being a Senior Companion.

Please send me more information about the program.

Please Print

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

ZIP: _____

Phone Number: _____

For privacy, please tear off and mail in an envelope to:

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