

Janet Batton: Senior Companion



Senior Companion, Janet Batton is a wonderful woman from the township of Brookhaven and lives in the small hamlet of Gordon Heights, Long Island, New York. Ms. Batton began her volunteerism with New York State in December 2006 by first becoming a Senior Companion at the Gordon Heights Intermediate Care Facility through the Long Island Developmental Disabilities Services Office. Janet quickly became very involved in all of the many activities at the site including sharing her love of Jazz and Popular Music, working with individuals creating beautiful Arts and Crafts projects and attending Community Inclusion outings where she has attended many events at the Nassau Coliseum, local beaches, museums, concerts, community events and social gatherings.

Janet was recognized for her involvement and was nominated and confirmed to the New York State Senior Companion Program Statewide Advisory Board as a Senior Companion representative. She has been active in all of the Boards activities including attending meetings held in Albany, New York as well as statewide teleconferences held periodically throughout the year. Her participation as a board member is highly valued and she has contributed many comments and suggestions to improve the program. Janet is also highly active in recruiting efforts to find new seniors to join the Senior Companion Program on Long Island.

Ms. Batton is always concerned with the individuals' health and well being. Janet has even created a unique community experience for them by forming "The Breakfast Club", where she and other Senior Companions and staff take the individuals to a different community restaurant each and every Saturday morning to enjoy breakfast in the community. Needless to say that the individuals enjoy this time very much and are now recognized by the places they frequent where they are always warmly welcomed as valued members of the community! Janet also began another program that takes place on Sundays where Senior Companions and other local volunteers assist individuals to attend religious services at one of the many local churches in the area. Ms. Batton is a model of what a volunteer can do to make someone else's life more fulfilling while finding it fulfilling too! We at OMRDD salute you and congratulate you on your outstanding service to your community and to the individuals we serve.

Submitted By: Benjamin Calderone LIDDSO Senior Companion Program Coordinator