



## Key Talking Points

FriendshipWorks is a non-profit, volunteer-driven organization that has been working to reduce elder isolation by matching volunteer with older adults for friendship and support for 36 years.

We accomplish this by recruiting and training volunteers of all ages, faiths, and backgrounds who provide friendship, advocacy, education, assistance, and emotional support.

1. FriendshipWorks provides its services FREE to elders 60+ (55+ with low vision or hearing)
2. FriendshipWorks thoughtfully matches volunteers with elders for a personalized experience.
3. FriendshipWorks is volunteer-driven. More than 600 volunteers make our programs possible.

“Our individual and group programs speak to the necessities and quality of life that provides meaning,” said Janet Seckel-Cerrotti, executive director for FriendshipWorks. “Attending doctor visits, getting medications, participating in music and art programs, and receiving weekly visits or assistance with tasks, that’s what our programs are for. Bringing help, joy, meaning, and purpose is what the friendships built from these carefully matched volunteers and recipients do.”

### *FriendshipWorks programs:*

#### Individual Programs

- *Friendly Visiting* - long-term. Volunteers are thoughtfully matched with older adults for long-term friendship.
- *Friendly Helping* - short term (1-3 visits) to assist with specific tasks.
- *Medical Escorts*- short term, but can be longer.

#### Group Programs

- *PetPals* - group/individual program where PetPals teams with trained and screened animals visit older adults to provide the unconditional love of a pet.
- *MusicWorks* - group program where musicians provide musical instrument interaction, singing, and occasionally, dancing(!) to residential buildings.

#### Initiatives

- *Low Vision Elder Initiative* - FriendshipWorks is spearheading an effort to raise awareness about elder vision loss and share resources that can make a difference in the lives of low vision elders.
- *LGBT Elder Initiative* - FriendshipWorks is dedicated to ending social isolation among all older adults in Greater Boston, and we have a special focus on providing opportunities for social connection for LGBT seniors.

### About FriendshipWorks

Our **mission** is to reduce social isolation, enhance quality of life, and preserve the dignity of older adults in Greater Boston. We accomplish this by recruiting and training volunteers of all ages, faiths, and backgrounds who provide friendship, advocacy, education, assistance, and emotional support.

Ending Elder Isolation. Creating Connections is our **vision**.

[www.fw4elders.org](http://www.fw4elders.org)