

★ MEETING THE NEEDS OF VETERANS
AND THEIR CAREGIVERS

VOLUNTEER WITH VA CAREGIVER SUPPORT NETWORK



As a Volunteer Support Caregiver, you will be a vital part of a network of family, friends, social service and health professionals, and other concerned individuals who provide comfort and assistance to homebound Veterans. Please join VAVS as a volunteer today, and make a positive difference in the lives our Nation's Veterans and their families. For more information on this program or other volunteer opportunities, please contact the Voluntary Service Department at your local VA facility.



Veterans Health
Administration

The Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) and **the Office of Care Coordination (OCC)** have joined together to form the Caregiver Support Network to prepare volunteers to more effectively assist primary caregivers of Veterans. The Caregiver Support Network exists to meet a growing need to support those outside the medical environment, who have daily responsibility of caring for ill and injured Veterans in their homes. Individuals and community organizations are needed to provide compassionate support to those caregivers who give care to America's Veterans in their homes.

The Need for Volunteers

It is estimated that, by the year 2050, more than one out of every five people will be age 65 or older. That means more than 20 percent of the United States population will be comprised of older adults. These demographics will create health care needs for the growing older population that is unprecedented. Because of these trends, the likelihood that aging Veterans will need to be cared for in their home is increasing significantly. VA looked closely at how we can best support Veterans and their caregivers in the home environment.

The Caregiver Support Network is one way that VAVS is supporting the needs of Veterans and their families in the changing health care environment. VAVS is seeking individuals of all ages and community organizations who are willing to make a commitment to Veterans and their families, to meet this critical need in our Veteran community.



Make a Difference Today

The Role of the Volunteer Support Caregiver

As a Volunteer Support Caregiver, you will have an important role to provide assistance to the Veteran care recipient, their caregivers, and their families. You will provide a vital service in assisting the caregiver by performing tasks, which helps to reduce their workload. Your role will provide a much needed break for the caregiver so they can renew their energy and spirit.

Volunteers in the Caregiver Support Network have the opportunity to choose from a number of assignments within this program. Some of the assignments may overlap or be combined depending on the needs of the Veteran care recipient. Some typical assignments might be:

- » Friendly Visitor Volunteer
- » Reading Volunteer
- » Letter Writing Volunteer
- » Respite Assistance Volunteer
- » Special Needs Volunteer
- » Telephone Reassurance Volunteer



How to Become a Caregiver Support Volunteer

If you are interested in volunteering or learning more about this program, please contact the Voluntary Service Department at your local VA facility. You will be asked to complete a VA volunteer application, have an interview, and agree to complete the required background check and TB test, which the VA provides at no cost to you. VA also provides all of the necessary orientation and training that you will be required to attend. You must have your own source of transportation for this assignment.

Or visit our website at: www.va.gov/volunteer

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