



PeopleInc

Where your world opens up.

SENIOR COMPANION PROGRAM

Making independence for seniors a reality



PeopleInc

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PEOPLE INC. SENIOR COMPANION PROGRAM

People Inc.'s Senior Companion Program assists older adults who have difficulty with daily living tasks so that they can retain their dignity and independence. Among other activities, they assist with tasks such as grocery shopping and errands; providing friendship and companionship; alerting doctors and family members to potential problems; and providing respite to caregivers.

BENEFITS FOR OLDER ADULTS RECEIVING HELP

Older adults who receive assistance from a Companion are provided quality support and will find countless opportunities open to them with the help of a Companion. Older adults who receive support are 55 or older and live in Erie county. They can receive assistance with the following:

- Arranging transportation for shopping or medical appointments
- Light housekeeping and cooking
- Advice about community, state and federal services and benefits
- Errands
- Friendly visitation
- Reading and writing letters
- Reminders to take medication
- Notifying loved ones of changes in their health



ARE PEOPLE INC. SENIOR COMPANIONS TRAINED AND SUPERVISED?

Yes! Senior Companions are supervised by the professional staff of People Inc. and other collaborating agencies. All Senior Companions receive 20 hours of pre-service orientation, as well as two and a half hours of in-service training monthly. In total, Senior Companions complete 40 hours of orientation training.

WHO CAN BECOME A SENIOR COMPANION?

Senior Companions are volunteers 55 years and older from Erie county who meet income eligibility requirements. They are friendly, caring, active people who want to stay involved with their community.

Senior Companions must pass a physical exam, background check, and attend orientation before a client is assigned. Senior Companions serve 5 to 40 hours per week and earn a tax-free hourly stipend, plus travel and meal reimbursement. This does not affect eligibility for Social Security, food stamps, rent subsidy, disability payments or other similar programs.

Senior Companions share that the most valuable benefit they receive from their volunteer work is the personal satisfaction they derive from helping others. Senior Companions make lasting friendships with a variety of interesting peers.

CONTACT

If you are a senior looking for assistance or would like to volunteer to become a Senior Companion, call 716.768.2381.