



Friendly Visiting Program Q & A

What is the Friendly Visiting Program?

The Canadian Red Cross Friendly Visiting Program is a senior visiting program that takes place in the senior's home. The Canadian Red Cross recruits volunteers in the community and pairs them with an isolated senior. The senior and volunteer begin visiting once a week for approximately an hour.

Where does this program take place?

Right here in your community! The program is active in Yorkton, Melville, Kamsack, Foam Lake, Canora and Wynyard.

How do visits happen?

Visits happen one-on-one with the client either in their home or over their phone. It is recommended that visits occur once a week for approximately an hour.

What is the volunteer commitment?

This is a very flexible volunteer opportunity. It is recommended that visits happen once a week for approximately an hour. As the relationship develops between client and volunteer, they may choose to visit more often. In pairing clients and volunteers, schedules such as days of availability are considered.

Who can [volunteer](#)?

Any individual who has an interest in volunteering with the Friendly Visiting Program is welcomed to apply as a Canadian Red Cross volunteer. Volunteers are required to successfully complete a Criminal Record and Vulnerable Sector check to volunteer with Friendly Visiting.

Who can be a client?

The program is available to any senior (age 65+) who identifies as vulnerable and isolated and who would benefit from our social inclusion services. These individuals may be isolated due to geographical location, physical disabilities or impairments, health issues, lack of close support systems, or inability to leave home.

How often are visits?

Visits are recommended once a week for approximately an hour.

What services do the volunteers provide to seniors?

The goal of this program is companionship. Volunteers and clients are only paired to visit. Volunteers do not do any chores, care, or other services for their clients. This is made clear to both parties prior to meeting each other.

What happens during these visits?

Pairs may choose to simply chat, play a game, do a craft, discuss news or interests and go on short walks in the community.

How is safety ensured for both parties?

Safety of both clients and volunteers is a top priority. Policies have been put in place to ensure volunteers are safe, competent individuals during the volunteer application process prior to meeting the client. Policies involving assessment of the client are done prior to visits to ensure the client's needs can be met by the program. Such policies include:

- Volunteers are not to drive their clients, assist with care or household duties.
- Visits are not recommended if either party is ill or if the weather is not ideal driving condition.
- Environmental assessments of the client's home are completed and passed along to volunteers.

These policies are discussed with both volunteers and clients prior to beginning visits.

If you have more questions regarding safety, please contact the Program Coordinator at 306-216-6602 or friendlyvisitingsask@redcross.ca

How do I get involved?

For more information about the program, [apply to volunteer](#) or to [refer a potential client](#).