



OTHER SERVICES

- Individual Support
- Information and Discussion Groups
- “Journeying Together” groups for people with early stage memory loss and a spouse/family member/friend
- Resource Centre
- Safely Home Wandering Registry
- Education
- Advocacy
- Children’s and Teen Programs
- Cuddle Bear Program
- Speaker’s Bureau

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

You can help the Alzheimer Society of Oxford continue their important work by:

- Becoming a member
- Making a donation (financial contributions, including bequests and memorial donations are gratefully accepted and are tax deductible)
- Volunteering your time



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Volunteer Companion Program

For Families



Our mission:

To improve the quality of life for people and their caregivers living with Alzheimer’s disease or related dementias.

BENEFITS:

- Develop a new friendship with a person who is caring, knowledgeable about the disease, and is trustworthy.
- Receive a minimum two hour social visit once a week at a regular time.
- Caregivers may use the visit time as they wish, knowing that the person they care for has company.
- The person with Alzheimer's disease or related dementia will benefit from the activity that the volunteer provides with input from the individual, family, and coordinator.

"Dad would not interact with other people at all before he was matched with his volunteer companion. Over time, he recognized his volunteer companion and he knew that each weekly visit was for him. It gave my dad a sense of purpose. Dad felt he could help someone else. He felt useful. The other side of the coin is that it gave my mom a 2-3 hour break each week because my dad was so dependant on her each day. She really looked forward to that time each week. It is a wonderful program."

Caregiver near Tillsonburg

"I think this program is great! It is good for my mom to see other people. When you deal with this day in and day out, you need a break. I know I can plan something for Tuesday afternoons."

Caregiver in Oxford County



Volunteer Companions are very caring, dedicated, skilled people who choose to give their time to improve the quality of life for people living with Alzheimer's disease or related dementia.

Volunteer Companions do what ordinary friends like to do: reminisce, take part in a favourite hobby, create a craft, listen to music, play a game, go out for coffee or take a walk together.

The coordinator will help develop an 'activity plan' that suits everyone.

THE SOCIETY WILL:

- Introduce you to a volunteer with similar interests.
- Help find appropriate activities.
- Provide service at no charge.
- Adequately screen volunteers for your protection (police record check every three years, reference checks, interviews, a 12 hour training session, and ongoing monitoring of the match.)
- Meet with you in your home to assess your situation, determine your appropriateness for the program, and answer your questions.

"I consider the Volunteer Companion Program a real plus for my mother who has Alzheimer's disease. The weekly two hour visits challenge her to make conversation. Her mind is challenged with appropriate activities suggested by the coordinator. My mother looks forward to the visits—it's like having a family member drop in. The visits give my mother something to talk about—news to share with me when I visit. When my mother was living alone it was one day I knew she had human contact and I didn't feel that I needed to phone or visit that day."

Caregiver near Woodstock