

Companion Volunteer Position Description

Time Requirements: 4 hours per week

Reports to: Director of Volunteer Programs

Status: Unpaid

General Summary:

Companion Volunteers will provide in-home support to family care partners of individuals with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia. Volunteers will provide companionship, socialization, and supervision for individuals with dementia, allowing their care partners to enjoy a break, go to appointments, or engage in other activities that contribute to reducing their stress level.

Responsibilities:

- Follow policies and procedures set forth by Alzheimer's San Diego
- Maintain professionalism and reliability, recognizing volunteers represent Alzheimer's San Diego to the community
- Provide companionship to the client, including conversing, playing games, taking walks, and watching movies
- Work with the care partner and client to identify appropriate activities that will be enjoyable
- Stay alert to changes in the condition of the client
- Ensure safety at all times
- Pay attention to and follow specific instructions as provided by the primary care partner, unless inappropriate
- Have the ability to handle an emergency situation and know when to contact the proper authorities, such as 911 or Alzheimer's San Diego staff
- Submit weekly visit logs/reflections in order to document activities or changes in the physical or mental condition of the client or primary care partner
- Regularly communicate with Alzheimer's San Diego staff

Skills & Qualifications:

- Excellent interpersonal skills
- Caring, patient, and compassionate
- Ability to respond to an emergency situation without panic
- Experience working with persons with dementia a plus, but not required

Requirements & Training:

- Vaccinated against Covid-19
- TB risk assessment or test (volunteer's expense, only if test is needed)
- Background check (Alzheimer's San Diego expense)
- Complete paperwork
- Complete training program
- Experiential, if appropriate