

## COMMUNITY FRIEND VOLUNTEER

### Objective

To provide one-on-one companionship/support to clients in homes.

### Key Tasks

- Visit a person with MS on a regular basis
- To arrange the details of each visit (time and date and any particular activity to be undertaken as part of the visit) with the Member directly.
- To arrange visits to fit in with work, family or other commitments and responsibilities of the person with MS.
- To encourage social interaction by initiating general discussion.
- To provide social support at the Members home or other locations within the community.
- To promote member independence, choice and self esteem.
- To promote community participation in areas of interest through involvement in recreational and social options, if required.
- To respect the rights of the Member including confidentiality, privacy and dignity.
- To exercise a duty of care at all times.
- To provide a record of visits to the Volunteer Coordinator.
- To inform the Volunteer Coordinator if experiencing any difficulties with visiting.
- To notify the Volunteer Coordinator of any accident or incident that occurs while visiting.
- To notify the Volunteer Coordinator if intending to stop visiting a particular Member.

### Time Commitment

Frequency of visits to be negotiated between the Member, volunteer and the Volunteer Coordinator. Visits may take up to 2 hours, each visit will be variable.

### Skills Required

- A commitment to building a friendship with the Member.
- Maturity and reliability.
- Friendly and cheerful disposition.
- Empathy and understanding for people with MS and related disabilities.
- Effective communication and listening skills.
- Ability to work independently.
- Ability to seek advice as appropriate.
- Culturally sensitive.