

Homeowner Care Volunteer Fact Sheet

Thank you for your interest in learning more about becoming a **Homeowner Care Volunteer** at **The Pittsburgh Project**. In our neighborhood, and in others around Pittsburgh, senior citizens, shut-ins and disabled residents are often at the most risk. For these neighbors, we seek opportunity to build relationships and to repair their failing homes. Each summer, we serve the home repair needs of over 100 homeowners through crews of volunteers, most of whom are students. Many of these homeowners could benefit from ongoing relationships with volunteers who are interested in building friendships with them on a year-round basis.

This fact sheet should provide you with answers to some frequently asked questions about volunteering your time to visit a vulnerable urban neighbor. Please call **Lauren Pfeiffer, Homeowner Services Manager**, at 412-321-1678 or email her at lpfeiffer@pittsburghproject.org for answers to any further questions. For more information about the vision and programs of **The Pittsburgh Project**, visit our website at www.pittsburghproject.org. Our volunteers provide the lifeblood of our work and help us to achieve our purpose.

What is the Vision and Purpose of The Pittsburgh Project?

Our **vision** statement reads “That Pittsburgh will be called a City of Truth, where once again, men and women of ripe old age will sit in the streets, each with cane in hand because of age, and where the city streets will be filled with boys and girls playing there.” (from Zechariah 8:4-5)

Our **purpose** statement reads, “We develop servant leaders and uphold the dignity of vulnerable homeowners.”

What does a Homeowner Care Volunteer do?

Homeowner Care Volunteers commit to visit one homeowner and to offer them a listening ear and encouragement. These volunteers are simply asked to give the precious gift of time and compassion to someone truly in need of companionship and in turn to receive the friendship of someone precious in God’s sight.

What is the time commitment?

Homeowner Care Volunteers make a commitment to monthly visits for one year of at least one to two hours. They may of course renew this commitment after that period, if they so desire. They also provide our **Homeowner Services Manager** with regular reports on their visits.

Do I need to have special skills or training to volunteer in this ministry?

You just need a Christian commitment, a desire to care for vulnerable aging people within our community and a sincere respect for people of different backgrounds, races, faiths and cultural groups.

We ask that each **Homeowner Care Volunteer** visit with a **partner Homeowner Care Volunteer**. Between the two of you, you will also need to provide your own transportation for visitation.

What kind of training or orientation do I need?

New volunteers are required to attend one of our scheduled *Homeowner Care Orientations* that are typically held on Saturday mornings in the fall and spring semesters. Orientations are held at our site, 2801 North Charles Street, on the North Side of the city. Our **Homeowner Services Manager** at The Pittsburgh Project leads these sessions. Individual orientations can also be scheduled as needed.

During the orientation, participants will review a position description in specific detail and receive helpful information regarding their role as a volunteer. Completion of the orientation does not obligate someone to commit to this opportunity.

How will I be matched with a homeowner to visit?

The **Homeowner Services Team** will match volunteers with homeowners. Our Homeowner Services team get to know each of our homeowners when we address their home repair needs and we can assess who would most benefit from ongoing relationships with volunteer visitors. Homeowners will also be asked whether or not they would like to be part of our visitation network and they will provide us with pertinent information if they decide to become involved.

When I have concerns or questions in my volunteer service, who will support me?

We desire that our volunteers will feel cared for as they reach out to care for others. **Homeowner Care Volunteers** will contact Lauren Pfeiffer at 412-321-1678 for most concerns or questions regarding their visits, but Tim Osterwise and Ross Kronenbitter will also be available should concerns arise.

What are the personal requirements for this ministry?

Interested persons should possess a Christian commitment and a desire to serve God. They must be 21 years or older. Patience, compassion and sincere care for the concerns of aging individuals are important personal traits as well. We ask that each volunteer visit with a partner. Eligible candidates must provide two references and complete applicable record checks.

How do I find The Pittsburgh Project?

Directions to our facility are located on our website: www.pittsburghproject.org. For further information, contact Lauren Pfeiffer at 412-321-1678 or by email: lpfeiffer@pittsburghproject.org.

We hope you will consider joining our Homeowner Care Team. You will be a source of great encouragement and support for a special senior.