



County Executive John R. Leopold

Department of Aging and Disabilities

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For Immediate Release

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FRIENDLY VISITOR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Annapolis, MD (Jan. 20, 2011) -- Volunteers are needed for the Friendly Visitor Program coordinated by the Anne Arundel County Department of Aging and Disabilities, with a 90-minute training program at the end of February. Applications for the Friendly Visitor Program are being accepted now. The Department has a waiting list of 58 clients seeking a Friendly Visitor. Particularly needed are volunteers in the northern portion of Anne Arundel County and male volunteers to meet with male clients.

The Department matches a homebound isolated person age 55 or older or an adult with disabilities with a volunteer visitor who comes to his or her own home. The Department matches by geographic area and similar interests.

This is an opportunity to provide lively conversation, be a companion, and provide activities such as playing games and cards and discussing books or other topics, thereby stimulating new interests and giving a break from the daily routine. Male volunteers often can talk past job history, service in the military, sports and hobbies with their "Friend."

The trained Friendly Visitor visits at least one hour per week for a six month minimum. Contact by phone, card, or letter may be substituted when necessary, such as if the visitor is out of town. Visitors report any problems or concerns related to the well being of their "Friend" and information is kept confidential.

Orientation will be held at 2:30 and repeated at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 23, at the county Department of Aging and Disabilities, 2666 Riva Road, Fourth Floor, in Annapolis. For information, call Susan Law, the Friendly Visitor coordinator, at 410-222-4464, Ext. 3022, or e-mail aglaw001@aacounty.org. The department website is www.aacounty.org/aging.

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