

Friends of the Blind Program



The Friends of the Blind Program matches caring, compassionate volunteers with those who are blind or visually impaired. These volunteers provide support, assistance and friendship.

Volunteers spend one to two hours weekly helping the individual with whom they are matched. Whether it's reading the mail, running errands, driving to doctor's appointments, writing letters or helping with shopping, volunteers are there to

assist in any way necessary. Each volunteer experience is as unique and special as those individuals involved in the program.

Volunteers and clients involved in the Friends of the Blind Program receive newsletters packed with information on upcoming events, resources in the community and special features on individuals involved in the program. Opportunities for socialization and recreation are also offered.

For more information about the Friends of the Blind Program, contact Dina Glen, Program Coordinator at (973) 538-5260 or by email at dglen@fsmc.org

Family Service of Morris County, a private non-profit organization, offers over twenty innovative programs that provide counseling, education, advocacy and support to nearly 7,000 children, families and seniors in the community.



FAMILY SERVICE OF MORRIS COUNTY

FRIENDS OF THE BLIND-VOLUNTEER JOB DESCRIPTION

Title: Friends of the Blind Volunteer

Supervisor: Dina Glen (973) 538-5260

Qualifications: Minimum of 18 years of age. Satisfactory references and background check. Valid Driver's License with a satisfactory driving record as applicable to client needs. Sensitivity and positive outlook with a sense of commitment and responsibility. Completion of orientation is required.

General Description: A "friend" is a volunteer who will work one-on-one with a blind or visually impaired individual to provide companionship, encouragement, reassurance and practical assistance in a way that promotes independence, enhances confidence and bolsters self esteem. A "friend" must recognize that he/she is one member of a team helping the sight-impaired individual to achieve maximum independence and fuller participation in social, educational, recreational and employment activities.

Time Commitment: It is expected that the "friend" will be available to assist in person on an on-going basis for 1-2 hours on a weekly basis.

Duties and Responsibilities: A volunteer acts as "substitute eyes." Needs will vary individually. Examples of the duties of the "friend" include:

- Banking and paying bills
- Shopping and running errands
- Reading mail and writing correspondence
- Providing transportation and locate resources for transportation
- Introduce new recreational activities
- Labeling, organizing, filing
- Locating employment and or volunteer opportunities
- Companionship and recreation

Training: Periodic volunteer reunions provide opportunities for on-going training and meeting with other "friends" to share ideas and exchange information.

Mutual Benefits: The "friend" will gain skills needed for effective interpersonal relationships and communication skills. Warm and supportive relationships have been identified as crucial to the physical and mental well being of persons who have suffered loss of sight. A volunteer, by the very act of donating precious time, brings an extra dimension of caring to the relationship.