Friendly Visitors

Volunteer Visitors for Home-Bound Seniors

It’s easy for homebound seniors or people with minor disabilities to feel isolated and alone. Friendly Visitors helps ease that loneliness.

Compassionate volunteers are paired with seniors ages 60 or older in need of some support. Many of the volunteers are seniors themselves, who want to contribute their time to those in need. Volunteers are available to make daily phone calls to check on a senior’s well-being or as a medication reminder; visit weekly to combat loneliness; or provide transportation to medical appointments or the grocery store (as available).

Services are offered to seniors in Emporia, Johnson County, Lawrence, Leavenworth, Topeka and Wyandotte County at no charge. Donations are highly encouraged to offset program expenses.

To begin services, volunteer or obtain more information, contact:

- **Emporia:**
  620.343.2296 ext. 1313
  Marilyn Thomas
  mthomas@catholiccharitiesks.org

- **Johnson/Wyandotte Counties:**
  913.433.2059
  Betsy Holzworth, RN, BSN, MA
  bholzworth@catholiccharitiesks.org

- **Lawrence:**
  785.233.6300 or toll free 888.737.1137
  Marilyn Thomas
  mthomas@catholiccharitiesks.org

- **Leavenworth:**
  913.651.8060 ext. 1708 or 913.353.9150
  Amybeth Richardson
  arichardson@catholiccharitiesks.org

- **Topeka:**
  785.233.6300 ext. 1313 or toll free at 888.737.1137
  Marilyn Thomas
  mthomas@catholiccharitiesks.org
Arvin’s Hope Story

When you first meet Arvin, a former local business owner, you’ll be impressed with his high energy, dry wit and constant grin.

After losing his wife to cancer, Arvin became increasingly depressed and somewhat reclusive. When his daughter noticed how her mother’s loss had affected Arvin’s overall health condition and mental state, she called Betsy Holzworth, our Friendly Visitors Program lead.

Betsy was able to match Alvin with Tina, a Friendly Visitors volunteer. Tina has been volunteering for Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas for two years.

Tina and Arvin have connected as friends who have experienced loss and are mutually supportive. “Arvin has so much to share. When I met him he was lonely but so joyful,” says Tina, “I lost both of my parents, my dad recently to cancer. Arvin is like an uncle to me. He helps me with perspective. We are two friends, who wouldn’t have met without Friendly Visitors, here to support each other through our losses and help each other spiritually mend.” Arvin shares that Tina is “like family. She calls me daily and visits me weekly. She’ll swing by just to check in. We play chess...she’s a formidable opponent.”