

VOLUNTEER RIGHTS

Volunteer care giving is a two-way street. People with needs in the community receive invaluable support and assistance. In turn, caregivers receive the opportunity to live out their personal beliefs by helping others. Volunteers gain new skills, a sense of accomplishment, new friendships and recognition of their contributions.

Volunteer caregivers commit time, talent and energy in order to fulfill their job responsibilities. The work can be challenging and demanding. In order to stay motivated and avoid “burn-out”, volunteers need to be aware of their rights and be comfortable with basic assertiveness skills (refer to Appendix). Keeping expectations clear avoids miscommunication and frustration; it helps keep volunteers positive and satisfied with their experiences. **Always remember to communicate both positive and negative experiences to your Volunteer Coordinator.**

Volunteers have the *Right To:*

- Receive orientation and ongoing training to prepare them for assignments.
- Know what is required of them prior to starting their volunteer assignments.
- Receive sound guidance, direction and support on a regular basis from their Volunteer Coordinator.
- Enter situations that are not hazardous to their well-being.
- Be treated with respect by the care receiver, his/her family and other community workers.
- Be trusted with adequate information about the person they will be working with.
- Have their privacy protected by not disclosing their home address or phone number to the care receiver.
- Receive feedback on the effectiveness of their work to enable them to improve their abilities to help others.