



Mercy Care for the Adirondacks

185 Old Military Road
Lake Placid, NY 12946

For Release.....

Date: September 22, 2021

**RE: Mercy Care Friendship Volunteer Training - New Volunteers
Needed
October 19 and October 20, 2021
Lake Placid (or virtually)**

Contact: Donna Beal, Executive Director
518-523-5581
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Lake Placid—Mercy Care for the Adirondacks is recruiting new volunteers and has scheduled a Friendship Volunteer Training Program in Lake Placid on the mornings of October 19 and October 20, 2021. (Both mornings are required to complete the training).

Mercy Care's Friendship Volunteer Training Program is free of charge but pre-registration is required. To request registration information, please contact Sarah Kane, Elder Care Manager by e-mail at skane@adkmercy.org or by calling 518-523-5585. To register on-line, please visit Mercy Care's website at [www.http://adkmercy.org](http://www.adkmercy.org) Volunteers of all faiths are encouraged and invited to participate.

Mercy Care invites new volunteers to join our 100+ volunteers from Lake Placid, Saranac Lake, Tupper Lake and surrounding areas to help elder neighbors age in place more successfully. New Volunteers will help their elder neighbors stay connected to their communities and help to make their lives a little easier and happier.

Jerry Hayes, Mercy Care's Board President remarked, "The pandemic has only amplified the need some elders in our community have for the joy and companionship of a kind and compassionate Friendship Volunteer to help ease their isolation and loneliness."

The need for Mercy Care Friendship Volunteers is growing. Mercy Care recently received 23 new referrals within a two-week period for elders in need of Mercy Care's friendship and informal support assistance.

About half of Mercy Care's Volunteers are enjoying in-person visits with their elder friend, following Mercy Care protocols, adhering to CDC guidelines, and using PPE (masks and hand sanitizer). Other Mercy Care volunteers are being creative in visiting

their elder by telephone or helping them get their groceries, leaving a plant on their porch to know they are thought of, helping their elder friend read their mail, or sharing photographs via electronic devices.

Can you help?

Mercy Care receives requests for a Friendship Volunteer from elders themselves, their families, or friends.

Volunteers will learn about offering friendship and assistance to elders in sessions on healthy aging, spirituality and aging, community resources for elders, and COVID-19 precautions and protocols. New Volunteers will hear from experienced Mercy Care Friendship Volunteers who find purposeful service to their elder friends to be meaningful in their own lives.

Mercy Care invites anyone in the Tri-Lakes region or other surrounding areas who is interested in becoming a Mercy Care Friendship Volunteer to take the training in Lake Placid (if safe to do so) or virtually. Mercy Care is seeking to extend its Friendship Volunteer assistance program to the Au Sable Forks, Keene Valley, Keene, Wilmington, and Jay communities.

The mission of Mercy Care for the Adirondacks, sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy, is to extend mercy to elders living in the community in order to enhance the fullness of their lives and help them age in place more successfully.

Mercy Care for the Adirondacks is governed by a local board of directors and relies solely on grants and charitable gifts from individuals, businesses, and foundations for its support. Mercy Care's services are provided free of charge to those it assists. Board members include: Jeremiah M. Hayes, President, Melissa Eisinger, Vice President, David Aldrich, Ann E. Cantwell, Art Devlin, Catherine Johnston, Jack McGill, Judy Meagher, Sr. Camillus O'Keefe, RSM, Paul O'Leary, Kathryn Reiss, Mary Welch, Jamie Whidden, Sr. Denise Wilke, RSM, and Fr. John Yonkovig.

Mercy Care can be reached at 185 Old Military Road, Lake Placid, NY 12946, by calling Donna Beal, Executive Director, at 518-523-5581, or by e-mail at dbeal@adkmercy.org For more information, visit Mercy Care's web site at adkmercy.org

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