Volunteer positions

Volunteers are needed for opportunities that may include:

- Friendly visits: reading, letter writing, playing cards, board games, taking a walk, or just listening
- Assisting with transportation to and from in-house appointments and activities; driving bus to special events
- Assisting with recreational programs, community outings
- Assisting residents with diet and menu choices
- Assisting with maintenance of buildings, equipment, furniture, and fixtures
- Working both at home and onsite for the creation of a facility newsletter
- Conducting classes on subjects of YOUR interest for “everlearning” programs; teaching computer skills
- Serving on planning teams for community “Friend” raisers
- Sharing your experience and talents through workshops for staff
- Contributing your ideas, skills, love, and humor to the wonderful residents
- And more...perhaps you have an idea that is not mentioned.
What is the Cornell Jack Lewis Visitors Program?

Initially sponsored by the Cornell Association of Professors Emeriti (CAPE) and now by the Cornell Retirees Association (CRA), the program is comprised of Cornell retirees who volunteer their time to pay short, friendly visits to residents in area nursing homes.

History of the program

The Cornell Jack Lewis Visitors Program, originally named the Cornell Visitors Program, was established in the early 1980s by the late Reverend W. Jack Lewis, Director Emeritus of Cornell United Religious Work.

For over 20 years, a dedicated group of about a dozen or so retirees visited patients at the local hospital, Cayuga Medical Center, Monday through Friday, accumulating over 3,000 visits annually. Volunteers called on patients, provided newspapers, and offered to run errands.

This program was a joint effort of CAPE and CRA. However, changes to the federal health information privacy law in recent years prevent this group from being able to visit patients in the hospital.

In keeping with the late Jack Lewis’ desire to provide a friendly visit to those in need, the CRA Board has decided to change the focus of this program and visit people in local nursing homes. This program was renamed the Cornell Jack Lewis Visitors Program in 2003 in memory of its founder, and through which Jack’s caring and nurturing values are kept alive.

Who we are and what we do

We are volunteers or “visitors” who give our time and attention to brighten someone’s day while contributing to our community. We are friends and confidants, bringing joy and comfort to the lives of nursing home residents.

Choosing a nursing home to serve

The Cornell Jack Lewis Visitors Program volunteers currently visit in three local nursing homes: Oak Hill Manor (602 Hudson St.), Lakeside Nursing Home (1229 Trumansburg Rd.), and Beechtree Care Center (318 S. Albany St.). If you are interested in the possibility of helping in a center that is not listed, please call (607) 255-0388.

Here’s how you can get involved

If you would be interested in volunteering in the Cornell Jack Lewis Visitors Program, please contact Jeanette Miller at (607) 257-7258.

For information about the Cornell Retirees Association or the Cornell Jack Lewis Visitors Program, please contact Kathee Shaff, Program Manager, 101 Day Hall, (607) 255-0388 or e-mail <krs4@cornell.edu>.