



CHOOSE HOME
INITIATIVE



VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs



Introducing the CHOOSE HOME INITIATIVE – Silver Key's V.E.T.S. Veterans Engagement Togetherness Support

MISSION: To provide no cost companionship and support to senior Veterans in need of extra assistance so they remain living independently, in their own home and community for as long as possible.

About the program

- Unique National Pilot Program, funded in partnership with the Veterans Administration and AmeriCorps Seniors, funded through a multi-year federal grant
- Advisory Council meets quarterly – helps guide and connect with resources
- Volunteers are paired with senior Veterans in need of companionship
- Written work plan between volunteer and Veterans is developed with our Veteran Coordinator

Benefits to Senior Veterans and Vet Spouses - Examples of Companionship to ease social isolation

- In-home help with daily tasks, shopping and errands
- Assist with walking and exercise or enjoy moments on the porch
- Share stories and meals out; attend social events together
- Compose/read letters, Emails, update Facebook
- Volunteers may accompany senior Veterans to medical appointments

Volunteers will provide, for example:

- Companionship to senior Veterans and Veteran spouses to help ease loneliness and social isolation
- Transportation assistance utilizing your personal vehicle
- Volunteers are needed to serve as eyes and ears to families and professionals - who can intervene in the case of medical deterioration on the part of their Veteran.

Benefits to Volunteers:

- While serving, volunteers improve their own lives by staying active and engaged
- Specialized, interactive orientation and training
- Tax free stipend (\$2.50 hour) that is not considered income*
- Special recognition for service as a Silver Key V.I.P. Senior Corps volunteer!

Requirements for Volunteers:

- Must be 55 and older
- Commit to 20 hours of orientation plus 24 hours of specialized training/annually
- Background checks (including fingerprinting), drug testing and DMV checks required
- Commit to between 5-25 hours a week volunteering to help one or more senior Vet or Vet spouse

Learn More: www.silverkey.org/vets

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