

## Volunteer with us!

# Older Adult Peer Connector Program

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### Program Overview

The Peer Connector Program empowers volunteers to provide information and referrals about community resources, support programs and services available to seniors. Volunteers assist peers in accessing the information and services in order to support day to day life and improve overall health and well-being. Offered in partnership with the Hamilton Council on Aging and Inform Hamilton. Funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

### Time Commitment

- Training – twice a week for 4 weeks (beginning mid-September, 2015)
- Placement - 2-4 hours per week

Funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation

### **Volunteer Qualifications**

- Exceptional interpersonal, communication and teamwork skills
- An understanding of seniors' needs
- Ability to provide information and referral services without personal judgment
- Strong English language skills; additional language skills an asset
- A Police Vulnerable Sector Check is required (dated within 12 months)

### **Volunteer Responsibilities**

- Maintain professional boundaries and confidentiality
- Act as a point of access and information for community programs and services available to seniors
- Assist seniors in obtaining needed information and services

### **Volunteer Benefits**

- The opportunity to make a productive contribution to the Hamilton Public Library and to the community
- Increased awareness and knowledge of seniors' issues and where to go for help in the community
- Develop leadership skills
- Help foster independence, inclusion as well as improved overall health and well being of peers

### **Program Location**

- Central, Dundas, Redhill and Sherwood branches
- Approved community locations – e.g. recreation centres, seniors apartment buildings, etc.

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### **To volunteer with us, please contact:**

Cadi Obermeyer, *Volunteer Coordinator, Hamilton Public Library*

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### **For more information about the HCoA Peer Connector Program, contact:**

Shelagh Kiely, Project Coordinator, Hamilton Council on Aging (HCoA)

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