



Statement of Purpose

ABOUT VOLUNTEER CAREGIVING ORGANIZATIONS

for members of Boards of Directors

Preserving a National Treasure

As a member of your program's Board of Directors, you may be unaware of the role your organization has played in advancing Volunteer Caregiving. You are leading one of several hundred organizations that are part of a national movement to serve America's aging and disabled populations. The original initiative was launched in 1984 by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation which offered start-up funding to 25 pilots, the success of which resulted in a \$50 - \$75 million investment that ultimately funded programs to serve upwards of 2,000 communities.

Over the following 22 years and leading into today, we estimate an average of 18 programs in every state in the nation! Truly, you are now a steward of one of our national treasures! In 2024, Volunteer Caregiving will celebrate 40 years of demonstrated success, a model that has continued to be replicated around the country.

Local volunteer caregiving organizations provide volunteer services to those most in need. While each organization maintains its own independence, it shares things in common with other programs. Central among these are the "Five Building Blocks." Through the original RWJF start-up grants, the Building Blocks were the components required to receive the initial grant funding. They continue to serve as the backbone of Volunteer Caregiving, along with another community outreach model called "Faith in Action."

Five Building Blocks:

- 1. Interfaith:** Serve diverse communities. As part of the original Faith in Action outreach, interfaith communities were essential members of the coalition of community groups. Religious communities are often on the front line of service where a natural volunteer base exists. Faith-based communities continue to serve as important partners for programs, offering volunteer and monetary support. In turn, Volunteer Caregiving organizations provide an administrative arm for coordinating and supporting volunteers and the vulnerable populations we are designed to serve.
- 2. Volunteer:** Recruit, train and coordinate volunteers to provide one-on-one service. Volunteers are vetted with background checks, trained for safety and compensated with a smile! While the level of background check may vary among volunteer caregiving organizations, depending on your size and resources, they are key to sustaining your organization's reputation and integrity. Take note that all volunteers are not compensated. Models that incorporate mileage reimbursement or stipends tend to complicate insurance and non-profit status.
- 3. Caregiving:** Provide non-professional, non-medical services in a timely and efficient manner. Most volunteer caregiving organizations provide a variety of services to assist with activities of daily living, including services such as transportation, friendly visits, grocery shopping, and much more. Volunteer Caregiving is a nimble model that can adapt to serve a wide range of community needs, but our volunteers do not provide personal care.
- 4. Long-term health needs:** Serve people with chronic health conditions and those living with disabilities. Many organizational programs are serving older people, and our ultimate mission is to help people age in place.
- 5. Resident-based:** Provide care where people reside (private residence, hospice or congregate living).

Just as the original model called for a coalition of community organizations to come together, the national network is a coalition of organizations that support and strengthen one another.



Maintaining Best Practices

The National Volunteer Caregiving Network (NVCN) is a non-profit resource that promotes volunteer caregiving. We inherited the work of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. As members of the Board of Trustees of the NVCN, we would like to make you aware of the tools and resources that NVCN offers to you as Board members and to your organization. Like you, we are responsible for oversight of and act as advisors to executive leadership.

Celebrating 40 years!

As we roll out a celebration of the 40th anniversary of Volunteer Caregiving, we want to make you, as Board members, aware our common history and the value of the services you are making possible. We also want to offer you tools and support!

With one-on-one volunteer support, individuals live independently and, thanks to the local volunteer caregiving organization, continue to be a part of the greater community in towns across the

country. Our goal is to support existing volunteer caregiving organizations and to foster new, sustainable programs which use volunteers to assist people with informal care in their homes.

2024 marks 40 years since the model was first launched and many of those early pilots have continued to thrive. Your local organization is rooted in that success and we hope you use this anniversary as an opportunity to educate your community. Here are some key messages that we hope resonate with you:

- Nearly 30% of seniors and those with disabilities live alone in the U.S. With a little help from volunteer caregivers, like those found at the National Volunteer Caregiving Network, we can all age in place! **#VolunteerCaregiving #FaithInAction**
- Volunteer Caregiving has been serving the nation since 1984, offering best practices in recruiting, training and coordinating volunteers to help vulnerable people age in place with dignity in every state of the nation. Visit NVCNetwork.org to find your local program. **#VolunteerCaregiving #FaithInAction**
- Volunteer Caregivers are good neighbors who carry in the groceries, transfer the wet clothes to the dryer and help pull the fitted sheet over the corner of the mattress. It doesn't require a Ph.D. and you might save someone's quality of life! Visit NVCNetwork.org **#VolunteerCaregiving #FaithInAction**

As members of the National Volunteer Caregiving Board of Trustees, we represent the diverse nature of the Network, with members from Hawaii to Maine and throughout the country, and we are proud to be a part of this important national movement. Please proudly celebrate this upcoming milestone of 40 years. We hope these resources will help your organization continue to do its good work!

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Tammy Glenn
Executive Director
Tammy@nvcnetwork.org