

VOLUNTEER MATTERS

SOUTH SHORE ELDER SERVICES

SPRING 2016



April

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION MONTH

South Shore Elder Services salutes all of our wonderful volunteers, who together accomplish so much and enable us to fulfill our mission to serve elders, younger disabled individuals and caregivers. You are the heart and soul of our work.

“People acting together as a group can accomplish things which no individual acting alone could ever hope to bring about.”

Franklin D. Roosevelt



SAVE THE DATE

Wed., June 15

ANNUAL
VOLUNTEER
RECOGNITION
LUNCHEON

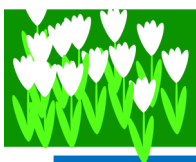
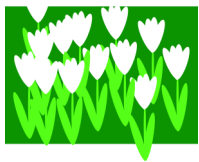
VOLUNTEER ROUNDTABLE / FOCUS GROUP

Volunteers from Meals on Wheels, Friendly Visitors, and Money Management met at SSES on April 14th where they had a chance to socialize over a light breakfast, and share their experiences.

Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Planner Donna Shecrallah lead them in a focus group discussion to identify needs and concerns for elders, barriers preventing those needs from being met, and possible solutions to overcome those barriers. An informative and lively discussion followed, and the results will contribute to future AAA planning.

Thank you to those who participated. Your input is invaluable and your commitment is outstanding!!





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VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

FRIENDLY VISITOR DIANE LUSK

Friendly Visitor Diane Lusk has been visiting her client for over 1 year. With her background in elder care and physical therapy, Diane brings a depth of understanding and experience to her volunteering.

Diane visits her client once a week for 1-2 hours. They have established a pleasant, joyful and trusting relationship.

Diane has encouraged her to reminisce about the past. They share stories, reading them to each other over snacks. They also enjoy playing cards together, and sitting outside in nice weather.

In time, Diane has discovered her client's love of singing, especially "old American tunes". They often sing together. Diane has found that this is a great way to bring her to her "happy place".

Diane says her client is "a real joy" and has a wonderful sense of humor.

The client's family is also very grateful for Diane and the difference she has made in their family member's life.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

MONEY MANAGEMENT BILL PAYER ED DONOHUE

Money Management Volunteer Ed Donohue came to South Shore Elder Services in 2003 with a background in accounting. It has been a wonderful partnership for 13 years.

Ed received his first client in 2003 and continued with him until he went into long term care in 2012. He faithfully visited monthly and helped him with reading his mail and paying his bills. This gentleman was legally blind, so the help he received was key in allowing him to remain in his own home for so long.

As Ed said at the end of his tenure with this client, "I want to thank South Shore Elder Services for allowing me the privilege of helping my client ...it has been a very rewarding experience for me to assist a WW II Veteran who gave so much so that we may all have the freedom we have today." Well said, Ed.

Ed's current client has greatly benefited from his help in sorting through and organizing piles of mail and paperwork. She is caregiver to her spouse who always did the family finances. She has learned about daily money management with Ed's guidance, and many worries have been alleviated.

As Ed will readily tell you, "When a client says 'thank you', it is a good day!"

