

Who benefits from Family Friends?

The volunteers make friends, have fun, share their special skills, wisdom and life experience and find that their love is returned a hundredfold.

The families know that children thrive on the extra attention and care. Parents find support and relief sharing their needs and concerns with someone older, patient and understanding.

The community is strengthened when its members reach out to one another for mutual support and benefit.



*Connecting Generations to
Strengthen Children & Families*

The Family Friends Program is a program of the Positive Parenting Resource Center of the United Arc of Franklin and Hampshire Counties. This program is cosponsored by Franklin County Home Care Corporation and MSPCC. The Family Friends Program is funded in part by a grant from the U.S. Administration on Aging and the National Council on Aging. AoA has not approved this brochure for presentation to the general public.

Be a part of the wonder!

Call to volunteer!

413-774-5558 ext. 1042

The United Arc of Franklin & Hampshire Counties
Positive Parenting Resource Center
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Greenfield MA 01301
(413) 774-5558



Family Friends Program

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Don't think you have anything to share?

THINK AGAIN!

The United Arc
Of
Franklin and Hampshire
Counties

**You have a
lifetime of talents,
wisdom and
experience to
share with a
family!**



The Family Friends Program matches volunteers with families in Franklin and Hampshire County in which a parent or guardian is struggling with cognitive or learning disabilities. Family Friends volunteers are people who love children and want to see families succeed.

Who can be a Family Friend?

Committed, caring, mature adults who want to help families succeed.

People who love children and want to...

- ◆ Stay active
- ◆ Get to know a new family
- ◆ Gain and share skills
- ◆ Give something back to the community
- ◆ Attend trainings with other experienced adults to discuss issues that relate to you

Family Friends volunteers participate in an extensive training

before meeting

prospective families to learn more about important issues such as roles and responsibilities, positive parenting and family dynamics.

They are offered reimbursement for some expenses, including mileage. **Training and support are ongoing and personalized** to meet the needs of volunteers and families.

Who is eligible to have a Family Friend?

- ◆ Families in which a parent or child may be challenged by a cognitive, learning or other disability
- ◆ Families who are seeking on-going, supportive relationships

What might Family Friends do?

- ◆ Visit families
- ◆ Act as a role model
- ◆ Play games
- ◆ Go to the library or read together
- ◆ Help with homework
- ◆ Offer support or a listening ear
- ◆ Plan and cook meals together
- ◆ Attend school events or meetings
- ◆ Accompany a parent or child to medical appointments
- ◆ Create art or craft projects
- ◆ Take walks in the neighborhood
- ◆ Many other fun activities!

**For more information contact co-coordinators Mary Traver or Drenna Mahaney at
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