



Gather Together

Volunteers Needed

The HACC is launching the Gather Together Respite Program, and we are looking for caring, dependable volunteers to join us.

Volunteers will provide one-on-one support and companionship to participants living with mild cognitive impairment (MCI) and early onset dementia. Your presence can help participants stay socially engaged, enjoy meaningful activities, and feel connected in a welcoming community setting.

Volunteer Commitment

Once or Twice a month on First and Third Wednesdays from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm (4 hours per shift)

September Training

Volunteer training will begin in September and will prepare you to feel confident and comfortable supporting participants in the Gather Together program.

What You'll Do

Volunteers may spend time visiting with participants, participating in activities, offering encouragement, and providing friendly one-to-one companionship and support.

Activities and Engagement

Gather Together Respite Program volunteers provide one-on-one support and encourage participants to take part in a variety of engaging activities, creative projects, social opportunities, and brain-stimulating exercises. Activities are designed to promote connection, independence, confidence, and a sense of belonging while creating a welcoming and inclusive environment.

Volunteers could do these things with participants at the Center:

- ADRC Lunch Program
- BINGO and other games
- Walking Path and fitness programs
- Live music and entertainment
- Community crafts and art programs
- Brain games and dementia-friendly activities

Who We're Looking For

We welcome volunteers who are patient, compassionate, dependable, and comfortable spending time with adults experiencing memory loss. No specialized experience is required—training and guidance will be provided.

Give Four Hours. Make a Lasting Connection. Join Gather Together!

For more information or to volunteer, please contact:

Amy Brezinka, HACC Program Director at 608-399-1870 or programs@holmencc.org

"People will forget what you said, but they will never forget how you made them feel." – Maya Angelou

Holmen Area Community Center

Gather Together Respite Program Volunteer Application

Thank you for your interest in volunteering with the **Gather Together Respite Program** at the Holmen Area Community Center!

Gather Together provides a welcoming community setting for individuals living with mild cognitive impairment (MCI) and early onset dementia. Volunteers provide one-on-one companionship, encouragement, and support while helping participants stay socially engaged and connected.

Volunteer Commitment

- **Frequency:** Once or twice a month
- **Schedule:** First and Third Wednesdays
- **Time:** 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- **Shift Length:** 4 hours
- **Training:** Volunteer training begins in September and will prepare you to feel confident and comfortable supporting participants.

Volunteer Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Preferred method of contact:

☐ Phone ☐ Email ☐ Text

Availability

How often would you like to volunteer?

☐ Once a month ☐ Twice a month ☐ As available

Which days work best for you?

☐ First Wednesday ☐ Third Wednesday ☐ Either Wednesday

Are you able to commit to the full 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. shift? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Tell Us About Yourself

Why are you interested in volunteering with the Gather Together Respite Program?

What interests, hobbies, skills, or experiences would you enjoy sharing with participants?

Have you previously volunteered or worked with older adults or individuals living with dementia or cognitive impairment?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please describe:

Do you have personal, professional, or volunteer experience supporting someone with memory loss or cognitive changes?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please describe:

Volunteer Strengths

Please check the qualities that best describe you:

- ☐ Patient
- ☐ Compassionate
- ☐ Dependable
- ☐ Friendly and outgoing
- ☐ Good listener
- ☐ Comfortable starting conversations
- ☐ Creative
- ☐ Flexible
- ☐ Encouraging
- ☐ Calm in challenging situations
- ☐ Comfortable working one-on-one
- ☐ Enjoy working as part of a team

What strengths would you bring to the Gather Together program?

Supporting Participants

Gather Together volunteers may visit with participants, participate in activities, offer encouragement, and provide friendly one-to-one companionship and support.

How would you help a participant feel welcome and included?

How would you respond if a participant became confused, frustrated, or upset?

What types of activities would you enjoy doing with participants?

- ☐ Conversation/visiting
- ☐ Games and puzzles
- ☐ Crafts/creative projects
- ☐ Music
- ☐ Exercise/walking
- ☐ Dancing
- ☐ Reading
- ☐ Community programs and activities
- ☐ Other: _____

References

Please provide two references who can speak to your character, dependability, and ability to work with others.

Reference 1

Name: _____

Relationship: _____

Phone/Email: _____

Reference 2

Name: _____

Relationship: _____

Phone/Email: _____

Volunteer Agreement

I understand that Gather Together is a respite program serving individuals living with mild cognitive impairment (MCI) and early onset dementia. I understand that volunteers are expected to participate in required training, maintain confidentiality, follow Holmen Area Community Center policies and procedures, and treat every participant with dignity, respect, patience, and compassion.

I understand that volunteering with Gather Together involves providing companionship and support while maintaining appropriate boundaries and following the direction of program staff.

I certify that the information provided on this application is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Volunteer Signature: _____

Date: _____

Thank You!

Thank you for your interest in becoming part of the **Gather Together Respite Program**. Your time, compassion, and presence can make a meaningful difference in the lives of participants and their caregivers.

Holmen Area Community Center

A welcoming place where our community can learn, grow, connect, and support one another.