

Helping Hands Committee

Volunteer Guidelines

Helping Hands Committee volunteers will never be asked to extend financial assistance to the efforts of this committee. If a purchase is made by a volunteer, the receipt must be sent to the Freethought Society of Greater Philadelphia (FSGP) for reimbursement; or, financial assistance can also be presented to FSGP for a tax-deductible receipt instead of reimbursement.

Volunteers will only be expected to offer assistance to recipients of the Helping Hands Committee in the following areas:

1. Grocery Shopping (only necessary trips and limited to one or two stores per visit)
2. Changing bed sheets (once a week)
3. Washing dirty sheets and clothing and returning them to recipient's home
4. Cleaning (dusting, washing dishes, sweeping, etc.)
5. Providing transportation to doctor appointments, hair salon, hospital, bank, post office and other miscellaneous grooming/medical appointments.
6. Taking special requests and attempting to fulfill the needs of the recipient. For instance, a volunteer may be asked to pick up and drop off video rentals and bring items of entertainment to recipient (puzzles, books, etc.).
7. Spending time visiting and communicating with the recipient and offering friendship. Most "shut-ins" are lonely and need human connections. This can be achieved in person or over the phone. Recipients also enjoy getting cards, letters, and postcards from volunteers.



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Recipient Guidelines

Recipients are asked to limit their expectations of volunteers to the items listed on the “Helping Hands Volunteer Guidelines.” Please do not ask volunteers to provide financial assistance in any way.

If possible, please have a grocery list and errand list ready for upcoming visits from volunteers. Only necessary items should be purchased as to avoid unnecessary trips to stores.

Recipient is responsible for scheduling doctor appointments and grooming appointments, and making sure that a volunteer on the rotation schedule is available and willing to assist with transportation needs.

If bill paying assistance is needed, recipient is expected to organize and track due dates. FSGP checks to pay bills must be covered by the recipient’s designated accumulated funds.

A pleasant attitude is appreciated by volunteers.

A sincere “thank you” is always helpful to keep volunteers interested in staying involved with the Freethought Society of Greater Philadelphia Helping Hands Committee.

***Note:** The Freethought Society of Greater Philadelphia will not ask the religion of a person in need of assistance. Helping Hands Committee members/volunteers will treat all charity cases without prejudice or bigotry. The religion or non-religion of an applicant will not be a consideration of offering needed assistance.*

Recipients will be accepted on a volunteer availability basis. If volunteers are available, applications will be accepted. Applicants will be advised that services are available only if a core volunteer group can be established.