

RVA Reassurance Roundtable



Social Isolation may occur when people become disconnected from family, friends, and community. Any number of changes that are common to aging can trigger this issue.

Recent research has focused on the connection between social isolation and poor health. Studies have found that social isolation negatively impacts a person's health equal in consequence to smoking, high blood pressure and obesity. People who are socially isolated may have weaker immune systems and recover more slowly from illness than people with strong social connections. People who are socially isolated are also more likely to suffer from depression and anxiety.

Older adults who live alone are especially at risk for social isolation and reduced quality of life if there are co-existing conditions such as poverty, lack of transportation, illness, disease or disability.

Several organizations in the greater Richmond area are combating social isolation through volunteer telephone reassurance and friendly visiting programs,

and other creative solutions.

Did You Know?

- *In our region, more than 1 in 4 older adults (ages 65 and over) live alone. That's 42,521 older adults who may be at risk for social isolation.*
- *Older adults are the fastest growing age segment of the U.S. population. The older adult population is projected to more than double over the next 20 years. For the first time in our region, the number of people ages 60 and older will outnumber school- age children.*

The RVA Reassurance Roundtable's mission is to improve social connectedness among those experiencing or at risk of social isolation.

Richmond Area Reassurance Program Providers:

Chesterfield County Telephone Reassurance Program: Participants will receive a phone call daily or weekly from a trained volunteer. The call is placed between 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, and between 12-2 p.m. on Tuesdays. This program serves residents in Chesterfield County. Alexa van Aartrijk, MSG, ALFA, Manager of Aging and Disability Services - Agingservices@Chesterfield.Gov.



Commonwealth Catholic Charities Call Reassurance: Caring volunteers call seniors and persons with disabilities to chat with them and check on their well-being. Participants are called twice per week. This program serves the greater Richmond area. Contact: Diane Hargraves, MSW, Social Worker Independence for Seniors - diane.hargraves@cccovfa.org. 804-545-5916.



Family Lifeline, Visiting Volunteers: Trained volunteers create connections and build relationships with older adults and persons with disabilities through visits, phone calls, emails, texts, and virtual visits. Contact: H. Debbie Ward hward@familylifeline.org. 804-402-6338.



JFS Richmond: Friendly Visitors make weekly social visits with older or home-bound adults. Telephone Reassurance volunteers call every weekday morning to check in, chat and make sure everything is okay. Contact: Cindy Brooks, Program Services Coordinator - cbrooks@jfsrichmond.org. 804-349-0790.



Senior Connections' TeleBridges: The TeleBridges program provides friendly, concerned, volunteers who will stay in touch with seniors two to five times per week. Each phone call provides reassurance- offering a listening ear and an encouraging word. This program serves the Greater Richmond area. Contact: Shana Beverly, CVA, Volunteer and TeleBridges Program Manager - sbeverly@youraaa.org. 804-343-3024.

RVA Roundtable Member Organizations

Rachel Lawson, Rachel Lawson, Program Manager, Alzheimer's Association, Greater Richmond Chapter. 804-967-2575, ralawson@alz.org. 24-hour helpline: 800-272-3900, www.alz.org/grva.



Roxann A. Mboto, Senior Case Manager, Meals on Wheels/ Feed More, Inc., 804-934-1937, rmboto@feedmore.org.

Tiffany Dews, Case Manager,

Elizabeth Beving, Client Services & Logistics Coordinator

Lee Owens, Senior Connections, AmeriCorps Seniors Programs Coordinator, FGP & RSVP, 804-343-3050, lowens@youraaa.org.



**AmeriCorps
Seniors**