VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION
A Program of Providence Hood River

Anna Williams, MSW, Program Coordinator
What does Volunteers in Action (VIA) do?

• Volunteers help older adults age in place through social and practical support
• Advocate for an aging-friendly community
• Family caregiver support
Pursuing Wellness
How we do it?

Screen and train trustworthy volunteers:
• To provide non-clinical, non-emergency care
• For adults with chronic illness and their families and caregivers
• Family caregivers get support through respite, referral, support group, education, and advocacy
Who does VIA serve?

• Adults aged 60+ who have a health need which threatens their ability to live independently
• Vulnerable adults age 18+ who have a health need which threatens ability to live well or live independently
• Who reside in Hood River County or Klickitat County.

It is a priority of VIA to serve Veterans, people living below the Federal Poverty Limit and those who are most vulnerable.
VIA can help with these tasks:

• Rides (some restrictions apply)
• Respite care – a short break for family caregivers
• Light yard care and minor home repair
• Grocery shopping
• Library Services
• Helping someone make lunch/dinner for themselves
• Light housekeeping (when volunteers are available)
• Friendly visits
• Friendly phone calls
• Prescription pick up
• Visit someone in the hospital
• Group Volunteer opportunities
VIA does NOT help with these tasks:

• Lift heavy objects
• Give medications
• Give or accept gifts of value or money
• Help with bathing, toileting, or personal care
• Visit a care receiver when the volunteer is sick
• Walk on a care receiver’s roof
• Enter a home when no one comes to the door
• Give professional advice
• Sleep overnight at a care receiver’s home
Good Neighbor Saturday
May 20, 2017

• Teams of volunteers provide a day of service in Hood River and Klickitat Counties
• Services include window washing, yard work, gutter cleaning, and similar activities
• Breakfast provided at Providence Hood River Memorial Hospital at 8 am, service activities from 9 am until noon
• If you want to join us, call the VIA office at 541.387.6404.
2016 At a Glance

• 97 people were served by 131 volunteers
• 3311 service events
• 4216 hours of service, worth nearly $97,200
• 88 new clients, 91 new volunteers
• Over 41,000 miles of transportation

VIA volunteers make a difference!
“My house is safer, cleaner, and more comfortable thanks to VIA. This program keeps me in my apartment; I’d have to leave if you didn’t come help me keep things clean. And I love talking with my caregiver – she helps me feel connected to what’s going on in Hood River.”

-A current VIA Care Receiver
Are you ready to build a program like VIA?

• VIA is supported by Providence through our Community Benefit requirement as well as the Providence Foundation.

• **We are ALWAYS seeking volunteers who can be drivers, friendly visitors, volunteers who are bilingual, and people who are willing to do housekeeping for others.**

• Volunteers attend training, pass a background check, and take a TB blood screen before receiving their match.

• The Hood River program is uniquely efficient due to the Jesuit Volunteer Program.
  • What unique resources exist in your community which can be built into your program?
Options Abound

• National Volunteer Caregiving Network – start up manuals, training resources, and so much more! (Membership-based)
• RideScheduler database – email scheduling and tracking for volunteers and clients
• Liberty Mobility Now – smart phone app, not yet available in Oregon
Questions?

Thank you for your interest!

Anna Williams, MSW
Anna.williams3@providence.org
541-387-6404