

Queen City Memory Café

Volunteer Opportunity – Steering Committee Member

Title: Memory Café Volunteer Steering Committee Member

Summary: The Queen City Memory Café seeks several volunteers to serve on its Steering Committee that plans and implements monthly cafés, held the 3rd Saturday from 10 am to Noon. The Memory Café seeks to create a comfortable, inclusive atmosphere for people with dementia, such as Alzheimer’s disease, and their care partners. The Memory Café offers a social time and place for people with memory loss, and their care partner, to talk, laugh, and celebrate feeling understood and connected. The Café supports participants’ social needs; it is not a support group. Prospective volunteers are encouraged to attend several cafes to get a sense of the café.

Benefits: Being a member of the Memory Café Committee offers an opportunity to serve an often forgotten group of folks in our community, those who have dementia and their care partners. You will have a chance to meet some unique people in our community, to learn about the experience of those with dementia and their families, and to work with a team to plan, promote and prepare for the monthly cafes.

Responsibilities: Be an active member of the Memory Café Steering Committee

Responsibilities include:

- Serving as “Co-Captain” of at least 3 cafes per year. This involves confirming the program; arriving early to set-up refreshments; greeting café participants and guests; interacting with the program leader or entertainer, and cleaning up afterwards. May also include making reminder calls to café participants.
- Preparing and setting up the venue at Thayer House, Garden Commons Room, in the New North End of Burlington (located next to the Ethan Allen Shopping Plaza at 1197 North Ave., Burlington, VT 05408)
- Creating a friendly environment for all attendees.
- Talking and listening to people with dementia and their caregivers in a sensitive and supportive way.
- Joining in with social activities that vary with each café program.
- Helping to promote the Café through community boards, posters, Front Porch Forum, etc. Those who are so inclined, are encouraged to offer presentations to local civic and community groups.
- Attending monthly, one hour planning meetings, by phone or in-person
- Helping to find appropriate entertainment and programs for the café

Experience: Suggested Qualifications and Experience

- Experience or interest in event planning.
- Experience working with older adults, particularly those with dementia.
- Organization and communication skills; ability to work as part of a small team

Term: A one year commitment is requested in order to provide continuity for the café participants, as well as the Steering Committee

Time Required: Approximately 5-6 hours per month

Accountable to: Other Steering Committee Members

More Information: Contact Janet Nunziata (Center on Aging at The University of Vermont):
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