Brisbane Village Helping Hands
Information for Volunteers

Thank you for your interest in volunteering with Brisbane Village Helping Hands! Because of you, the BVHH can help older Brisbane residents stay independent and in their own homes.

What is Brisbane Village Helping Hands?

BVHH is a grass roots volunteer community whose mission is to help residents "age in place" and stay connected to their community here in town. Brisbane Village Helping Hands will provide a way for older residents who want to remain in their homes to request support, and a way for community volunteers to offer support and lend a hand.

Why Volunteer?

- You will make a difference and improve the quality of life of older residents, some of whom are isolated in their homes. You may be able to help with a temporary need due to illness or accident or a longer term challenge.
- You will enjoy the satisfaction of helping others and giving to your community.
- You will get to know more of your neighbors, both members who request services and other volunteers.
- You will help build a support system that will help many of us and our friends, both now and in the future.

How Will It Work?

- After joining BVHH, volunteers will select services that fit their schedule, skills and interests from our online list of volunteer opportunities, or respond to service request emails sent to volunteers.
- Volunteers can sign up to help others as their schedules allow. This might be providing a ride or spending one or two hours helping someone with minor home maintenance.
- Although in general only Village members 55 and older are eligible to receive volunteer services, volunteers under 55 who are temporarily disabled due to illness or accident may also receive volunteer assistance through the Village.
- All volunteers will be asked to undergo a criminal and DMV background screening.

What Will Volunteers Do?

<u>Driving and Assistance (8 a.m. – 6 p.m.)</u>

Medical or other appointments
Daytime social/cultural events
Grocery shopping/errands
Special after hours (case by case)

<u>Managing at Home</u>

Minor home repairs and maintenance
Light yard maintenance
Help with computers and electronic devices

<u>Home Visits</u>

Conversation/companionship
Companionship walking
Respite for a caregiver

<u>Organizational Tasks</u>

Coordinating volunteers/service requests
Publicity/community presentations
Planning social events

How Do I Become a Volunteer?

- You must be 18 years of age or older to become a volunteer (21 or older for driving).
- You may contact BVHH by email (brisbanevillagehelpinghands@gmail.com) or by phone (415 508-2185), let us know you are interested in volunteering and tell us the best way to contact you. We'll provide you with written materials and the forms to fill out and return.
- Alternatively, you may go to www.brisbanevillage.org, where you can download all the documents you'll need.
- After we receive your completed forms we will provide you with instructions on completing the required background checks.
- Once your application is accepted, you will be provided with training materials to read. After you have verified that you have read these materials, you will be invited to join BVHH and you will be added to volunteer lists in the areas of interest you have indicated.

More About the Background Screening

Asking all volunteers to participate in the background screening process allows BVHH to keep its insurance costs low and provides all participants with a sense of confidence and security. Because BVHH has a very small operating budget and is all volunteer, we ask each person applying as a volunteer to cover the one-time tax deductible cost of his/her background screening ($35 criminal, $9 DMV for drivers). BVHH will reimburse volunteers if this fee is an obstacle to participation.

The screening process requires volunteers to provide their Social Security number to Verified Volunteers (www.verifiedvolunteers.com), the organization selected by BVHH to coordinate this confidential process. This data is not released to any member of BVHH.