

Riverview Offers BeFriender Ministry!!!

What is BeFriender Ministry at Riverview?

BeFriender Ministry is a lay pastoral care program at Riverview. Trained volunteers enter into a caring relationship with a resident and provide emotional and spiritual support.

A resident may need support during difficult and transitional situations such as illness, loneliness, loss of abilities, loss of a friend or loved one, etc. BeFrienders may also offer support to a new Riverview resident and assist them with the adjustment process.

BeFrienders embody the caring presence of God, our Riverview community and serve as a living reminder of God's love.

How do they do this?

BeFrienders provide a nonjudgmental listening presence to those they visit.

BeFrienders accept people as they are without telling them how they should be, listen with compassion without giving advice, and allow others to make their own decisions without trying to decide for them.

Are BeFrienders counselors?

BeFrienders are not counselors and do not give advice.

How often do BeFrienders visit a resident?

A BeFriender usually visits a resident once a week for about an hour.

If I meet with a BeFriender, will the discussion at the visit be kept confidential?

Everything that is shared in a visit is kept very confidential. A BeFriender does not discuss the visit with other BeFrienders or anyone else. Each BeFriender volunteer must sign a Code of Confidentiality and maintain complete confidentiality at all times. A BeFriender may contact Don or Jenny in Spiritual Services if they believe it would help the resident, with the resident's permission.

How do I find out more information about BeFriender Ministry or request a BeFriender visit?

Contact Don or Jenny in the Spiritual Services office. Visit us in person, leave us a note, or call us by phone: Don 701-271-7533 or Jenny 701-271-7505.

We are excited to start the BeFriender Ministry program at Riverview and look forward to providing personalized spiritual and pastoral care for our residents!

“The friend who can be silent with us in a moment of despair or confusion, who can stay with us in an hour of grief and bereavement, who can tolerate not knowing, not curing, not healing, and face with us the reality of our powerlessness, that is the friend who cares.”

By Henri Nouwen, from *Out of Solitude*.