



Welcome Home is a volunteer-based program that provides companionship to individuals and families making the transition from homelessness to home. Operating in collaboration with professional housing and support services and the Capital Region Interfaith Housing Initiative, it provides companionship to reduce the loneliness and social isolation faced by many newly housed individuals. The relationships between the volunteers and program participants are based on openness and respect for the strengths and gifts of each person, and aim to assist the participants to feel truly at home in their new communities.

Offered by Catholic Social Services, Welcome Home is funded by Enbridge Pipelines Inc. in partnership with United Way of the Alberta Capital Region, the Edmonton Homeless Commission and Catholic Social Services.



United Way
Alberta Capital Region
Change starts here.



Catholic Social Services
8212-118 Avenue NW
Edmonton Alberta, T5B 0S3
phone: (780) 378-2544
fax: (780) 479-2579



Catholic Charities
Catholic Social Services
Sign of Hope

www.catholicsocialservices.ab.ca



*Be a Welcoming
Presence in Your
Community*



A program of Catholic Social Services
for people of ALL faiths and cultures.

Foster a relationship that will be mutually enriching, and make a positive impact on the life of someone who previously experienced homelessness.



Who can volunteer?

Welcome Home volunteers are members of the Interfaith community, who share the values of: respect for human dignity, solidarity with those who are poor and vulnerable, and an affirmation of the importance of creating inclusive and welcoming communities. Experience working with homeless or newly housed individuals is not required, though volunteers must be non-judgmental, and open to new experiences. Those who are interested may sign up as individuals or in pairs, as each match includes two volunteers.

What will I do?

By volunteering your time to connect with a newly-housed individual you will share meaningful daily activities that may include:

- Conversation over coffee
- Going for a walk
- Participating in leisure/sporting activities
- Familiarizing participants with resources in your community
- Attending community events and festivals
- Expanding participants' network of social contacts

Will my involvement really make a difference?

Imagine moving into a new community where everything is strange, unfamiliar, and you do not know anyone. What a difference it would make to have someone welcome you and help you feel you belong.

By welcoming a newly-housed individual, you will help them:

- Reduce feelings of isolation and loneliness by learning to develop stable, trusting and honest relationships
- Increase community/social involvement through positive interactions
- Build their self-confidence by developing positive life skills

What kind of support will I receive?

Program staff provide volunteers with orientation, training, and on-going support. Annual program events offer an opportunity for you to network with other volunteers and program participants.

What kind of commitment do I need to make?

On average, volunteers commit to spending 1-2 hours a week with their participant over the course of six months, with an opportunity to continue for the balance of the year. This length of commitment will foster a relationship that will be mutually enriching, and provide the opportunity to make a positive impact on the life of someone who previously experienced homelessness.

Where do I sign up?

Contact the Welcome Home Coordinator at (780) 378-2544.