

ALBANY UU SERVICE OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

Service Opportunity Name/Title Caring Network Volunteer

Service Opportunity Brief Description

The Caring Network (CN) is an organization of volunteers that reflects the words of the Albany UU chalice lighting; “to sustain a vital and nurturing religious community.” The CN provides encouragement and short-term support to Albany UU members who, due to hospitalization, sickness, loss, or isolation, need assistance. Services typically include transportation to medical appointments, meals and shopping during recovery, and friendly visits from CN volunteers.

Service Opportunity Detailed Description

When the CN coordinator learns of a need, an email is then sent to the CN e-group describing the specific need. CN Volunteers then respond (reply all) to the group with their commitment to fulfill a request, if they are willing and able. The CN coordinator monitors responses to ensure that requests are fulfilled. The CN volunteers then take responsibility for fulfilling the obligation for which they committed.

In addition to responses to ad hoc service requests, there are two specific duties that CN Volunteers provide to members of the congregation:

1. Sending cards as the need arises. One person is tasked with keeping track of events in the lives of Albany UU members and sending appropriate greeting cards on behalf of the Caring Network.
2. Maintaining a database of Assistive Devices for use by Albany UU members. One CN volunteer maintains a list of devices owned by congregation members such as wheelchairs, crutches, etc. They are then available for use as needed through the CN.

CN Volunteers may also participate in outreach activities including visits and providing goodie bags to congregation members who are in nursing homes and may be no longer able to attend services or other church functions. These events usually take place around the holidays and in the spring.

There are currently approximately 36 CN volunteers that contribute at various levels as they are able.

Length of Service Commitment: 1 year

This opportunity will enable you to contribute to the care of the Albany UU community in a personal way, and strengthen relationships within the congregation. This is a way to support others in need, according to your own interests and abilities.

Skills Needed: Daily access to e-mail. A willingness to help others. Reliability and good follow-through to do what you committed to do. Generally, CN volunteers need to drive so they can get to people’s homes and help people in need get around as requested.

Training, assistance, and safety requirements No particular training required.

Number of positions available: no limit

Key words: shopping, driving, work with seniors, cook, bake