

Senior Services



Southwest
Michigan

Volunteer Opportunities Kalamazoo & Calhoun Counties

SENIOR SERVICES OF SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN is the largest, most comprehensive, all inclusive nonprofit organization helping older adults and those who care for them, anywhere in the United States! Although known primarily for our Meals on Wheels program, Senior Services hosts over 20 programs and takes pride in the high standards and professionalism of our organization and staff. Trusted, dependable and caring, since 1963.

OUR MISSION: To enhance and promote the independence and well-being of older adults, adults with disabilities and those who care for them.



Those who are interested in volunteering must complete a Volunteer Application and provide a copy of their driver's license or government issued identification card. Volunteer positions require a confidential criminal history check, and some volunteer positions require a driving record and/or reference check. Volunteers receive excess accident and liability insurance coverage at no cost that supplements any insurance they may have.

We are not currently accepting court-order community service placements.

Meals on Wheels

Contact: Dan Pontius, 269-382-0515 ext. 317, dpontius@seniorservices1.org in Kalamazoo County
Vince Wheat, 269-382-0515 ext. 300, vwheat@seniorservices1.org in Kalamazoo County
Mark Barber, 866-200-8877 ext. 350, mbarber@seniorservices1.org in Calhoun County
Kayla Frye, 866-200-8877 ext. 351, kfrye@senioservices1.org

Deliver home style, nutritious meals to people age 60 and older who are frail or homebound to help them remain living in their homes. It's more than just a meal, volunteers deliver caring smiles, companionship and hope to seniors facing isolation, hunger and loss of independence.

Driver and Hopper shifts are about 1.5 to 2 hours starting around 10:15 a.m. Regular, substitute and short-term flexible schedules available Monday through Friday. Opportunities are in Kalamazoo and Calhoun counties. Nutrition Assistant shifts available Monday through Friday, and the schedule is flexible. Opportunity is in Kalamazoo County.

- **Driver:** delivery route driver
- **Hopper:** ride on delivery route and take meal(s) to the door, provide a quick check on recipients well-being
- **Nutrition Assistant:** assist with projects or clerical tasks in the office

Volunteers 4 Seniors

Contact: Kathy Cox, 269-382-0515 ext. 127, kcox@seniorservices1.org

Provide basic assistance to seniors to help them remain independent and living at home.

Volunteers choose opportunities that are right for them, and the schedule is flexible. Volunteers may choose to be matched with a senior for rides or visits, or serve with an on-call team for rides. Opportunities include rides to doctor appointments, grocery shopping or errands, visiting to offer support and friendship or assist with reading and sorting mail. Opportunity is in Kalamazoo County.

MMAP: Medicare Medicaid Assistance Program

Contact: Lisa Fuller, 269-382-0515 ext. 203, lfuller@seniorservices1.org

MMAP is looking for people who like to solve puzzles, meet new people, learn new things and have fun. MMAP educates, counsels and empowers older adults and individuals with disabilities and those who serve them, so they can understand and make informed decisions about health benefits.

Volunteers explain Medicare Health Plan options, find Part D prescription options, review supplemental insurance, and more. Certification training is provided. Counselor schedule is 10-15 hours a month, in regular or flexible shifts available Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Other opportunities offer regular or flexible shifts Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Opportunity is in Kalamazoo County.

- **Counselor:** assist older adults with problems or questions about Medicare, Medicare Prescription Insurance, Medicaid, Medicare supplemental insurance, long term care insurance and related issues
- **Caller:** call MMAP customers for feedback
- **Outreach Assistant:** promote community awareness of MMAP, represent MMAP at community events
- **Administrative Assistant:** provide clerical support, and help with data collection, entry and analysis

Tuesday Toolmen

Contact: Mark Premer, 269-382-0515 ext. 142, mpremer@seniorservices1.org

Provide home repairs and barrier free modifications to help seniors stay living safely and securely in their homes, and to address accessibility issues.

Volunteers may install grab bars or handrails, repair stairs, install smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, build accessible ramps, and more. Knowledge of basic hand and power tools, and basic home repair skills such as general home maintenance, carpentry, electrical, or plumbing required. Shift is Tuesdays from 8:45 a.m. to 4 p.m., and the schedule is flexible. Opportunity is in Kalamazoo County.

Chore/Handy Helper Services

Contact: Mark Premer, 269-382-0515 ext. 142, mpremer@seniorservices1.org

Provide chore helper services including home fix-up tasks and occasional heavy cleaning for homebound seniors to improve their ability to live in a safe and sanitary home.

Volunteers may wash walls, floors or windows, clean household appliances, replace electrical plugs, light bulbs, door locks or faucets, and more. Knowledge of basic hand and power tools, and basic home repair skills such as general home maintenance, carpentry, electrical, or plumbing required. Shifts are between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., available Monday through Thursday, and the schedule is flexible. Opportunity is in Calhoun County.

Information Assistance

Contact: Tauhric Brown, 269-382-0515 ext. 145, tbrown@seniorservices1.org

Provide friendly assistance to older adults, adults with disabilities and their family members in finding information about agency and community resources to help meet their needs for services. Assist with administrative and clerical projects. Shifts are once a week or every other week from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. or 12:30 to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Schedule is flexible, and training is provided. Opportunity is in Kalamazoo County.

Friendship Centers

Contact: Vince Wheat, 269-382-0515 ext. 300, vwheat@seniorservices1.org in Kalamazoo County
Mark Barber, 866-200-8877 ext. 350, mbarber@seniorservices1.org in Calhoun County

Friendship Center's throughout the community provide people age 60 and older, and people with disabilities, a nutritious meal prepared fresh each day by Senior Services. Participants enjoy friendship, activities, and social engagement opportunities. Shifts are 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., available Monday through Friday depending on location, and the schedule is flexible. Opportunities are in Kalamazoo and Calhoun counties.

- **Meal Site Coordinator:** Oversee daily meal site including set-up, serving, and clean-up of lunch time group meals. Coordination may include supervising other volunteers. Training is provided, and includes proper food handling procedures.
- **Meal Site Assistant:** Assist Meal Site Coordinator with set-up, serving, and clean-up of lunch time meals.
- **Entertainer:** If you have special talents, you can bring joy into the lives of many. The meal sites welcome pre-approved guests for special events.

Program Assistants

Contact: Tracie Wheeler, 269-382-0515 ext. 137, twheeler@seniorservices1.org

Provide office and service delivery support. Responsibilities may include: filing, copying, collating materials, preparing packets, answering phone, making calls, mailings, and basic data entry (some computer experience is needed). The schedule is flexible, Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Behavioral Health and Wellness Program Assistant schedule is 4-8 hours a week on Monday, Thursday or Friday afternoons. Opportunities are in Kalamazoo County.

Behavioral Health and Wellness Case Aide

Contact: John Grib, 269-382-0515 ext. 117, jgrib@seniorservices1.org
Sean Wierenga, 269-382-0515 ext. 129, swierenga@seniorservices1.org

Assist with the coordination and provision of case management for persons living with serious and persistent mental illnesses. Accompany and transport consumers to appointments, shopping, and errands. Complete documentation and reports for activities, services and support, and complete clerical and special projects. Requires State of Michigan licensure as a registered nurse or social worker (professional supervision is available towards full social work licensure), and mental health experience. Schedule is 11-15 hours a week, available Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. with some flexibility. Opportunity is in Kalamazoo County.

National Service Programs for People Age 55 & Better

Foster Grandparent Program

Contact: Karen Betley, 269-382-0515 ext. 138, kbetley@seniorservices1.org

This national service program provides people, age 55 and older who meet certain income eligibility requirements, with opportunities to assist children with special or exceptional needs develop the skills, confidence, and strength to succeed in life.

Foster Grandparents receive a modest tax free stipend to offset the cost of volunteering, reimbursement for transportation, some meals during service, an annual screening, and supplemental accident, excess auto liability and personal liability insurance while serving provided at no cost. Available hours are Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., and the flexible schedule is 15 to 20 hours per week. Opportunity is in Kalamazoo County.



Senior Companion Program

Contact: Karen Betley, 269-382-0515 ext. 138, kbetley@seniorservices1.org
Laurie Havel, 269-382-0515 ext. 139, lhavel@seniorservices1.org

This national service program provides people, age 55 and older who meet certain income eligibility requirements, with opportunities to assist adults with special needs to maintain the highest possible level of independent living.

Senior Companions receive a modest tax free stipend to offset the cost of volunteering, reimbursement for transportation, some meals during service, an annual screening, and supplemental accident, excess auto liability and personal liability insurance while serving provided at no cost. Available hours are Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., and the flexible schedule is 15 to 20 hours per week. Opportunities are in Kalamazoo and Calhoun counties.

RSVP – Your Invitation to Volunteer

Contact: Tracie Wheeler, 269-382-0515 ext. 137, twheeler@seniorservices1.org
Traci Furman, 269-382-0515 ext. 123, tfurman@seniorservices1.org
Kathy Cox, 269-382-0515 ext. 127, kcox@seniorservices1.org

RSVP is a national service program that engages people age 55 and better in volunteer service to meet community needs and provides a high quality experience for the volunteers. RSVP partners with nonprofit agencies and schools to connect older adults to volunteer opportunities. Many opportunities are available in Kalamazoo County, with a few offered in Calhoun County.

RSVP membership is free and open to volunteers choosing to serve in an RSVP focus area activity (listed below). RSVP volunteers serving in these activities receive membership benefits including limited mileage reimbursement for those who might otherwise find it financially difficult to volunteer, invitation to a volunteer celebration, and supplemental accident, excess auto liability and personal liability insurance while serving provided at no cost.

We are accepting new RSVP Volunteers to serve in these focus area activities.

- Deliver Meals on Wheels
- Tutor or mentor students
- Give seniors rides to the doctor or grocery store
- Spend time visiting with homebound seniors
- Help older adults access health care benefits
- Assist Veterans at the VA Medical Center
- Distribute emergency food
- Tutor adults in reading
- Make home repairs for low-income seniors
- Educate older adults on healthy aging
- Supporting home medical equipment loan program