

# DHS News

Newsletter of the Allegheny County  
Department of Human Services



October 2018

## **Making a difference in the lives of seniors**

DHS's Senior Companion program has recently begun piloting "Choose Home," a federally-funded home visiting program for homebound or isolated seniors who are veterans.

Choose Home participants are being identified and enrolled in partnership with the Veteran's Administration. Once in the program, participants are visited in their homes by another senior. These visits can happen once or twice a week and may include activities such as watching television, playing games or participating in hobbies.

To meet the needs of Choose Home participants, the Senior Companion program is looking to recruit and train approximately 20 volunteer companions. Volunteers must live in Allegheny County and be 55 or older. Preference is given to veterans. In addition to the satisfaction of helping others, volunteers receive a tax-free stipend, daily meal allowance, and reimbursement for travel costs, among other benefits.

"We are very excited to partner with the VA to bring the valuable service of regular, friendly visits to veterans who have sacrificed so much for our country," said John Miller, Senior Companion program manager. "I know that these visits will go a long way towards brightening the days and lifting the spirits of these veterans. The volunteers will also benefit in many, many ways."

The first orientation session for Choose Home volunteers will be held in early December. For more information, or to request an application, contact John at 412.350.4061 or [john.miller@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:john.miller@alleghenycounty.us)