

A Day in the Hub

(Names have been changed.)

Lenore stopped by the Hub to renew her Staying Connected membership. As she began to write her check, the Hub volunteer noticed Lenore was having great difficulty filling out the check. Lenore explained she had just driven from the eye doctor where her eyes had been dilated, so it was hard for her to see clearly right now. She went on to say perhaps she would wait to renew another time when her eyesight was clearer, but she needed to go to the drug store to get the prescription requested by the eye doctor. The volunteer said she thought it may be unsafe for Lenore to drive at this time. Knowing the importance for Lenore to get the prescription, the volunteer suggested that Staying Connected find a volunteer who could drive her to get the prescription and then home. After a few calls, a volunteer was found who could provide the ride.

(While it is preferable that members schedule their rides ahead, there are unusual circumstances, particularly when there is a safety issue.)

A part-time resident visited the Hub to inquire about local services. He explained that his wife had had a sudden downturn in her health while they were at their permanent residence in another state and was in a nursing home there. He had flown back to Sun City to, in his words, “get my head around how, when and where to move her to a local facility near Sun City.” He went on to say he was burdened by various legal issues and did not know where to turn or what to tackle first. After the volunteer listened to all his concerns, she provided him with local resources for an elder care attorney and local nursing/assisted living facilities. He was encouraged to work with his wife's social services coordinator at her current facility to help him relocate his wife to SC when the time came. The volunteers invited him to call or visit the Hub again if needed. By the time he left the Hub, he felt he was better equipped to focus on handling all the issues.

Beth called the Hub to say thanks for the companion service for her husband who has a mild dementia and needs someone to stay with him occasionally so she can attend a study group in the community that she enjoys. She said this service allows her to have her full attention at the meeting and not have interrupting thoughts about what Sam might be doing while he is alone. Moreover, Sam has enjoyed meeting each of the four companions (both men and women) who have visited over the past months. It's been a “win/win situation” for them both, she said, and makes her realize how important self-care is for the caregiver.