

The Volunteer Role of the Friendship and Support Volunteer

Introduction

The FSV is a voluntary unpaid role, and generally we say it takes one or two hours a week as a member of a team supporting the tenants in a house.

The role

The main role is to be a *friend with purpose*: befriending, loving, mentoring and being family to the tenant.

- Pray
- Meet with potential tenants at the referral stage and be part of the decision-making process on whether they are accepted into the house
- Liaise with HIA over the move-in process and arrange welcome packs for new tenants (including card, toiletries, basic food items etc.)
- Help to prepare tenants rooms before move in, together with the house team
- Begin establishing a *friend with a purpose* relationship before they move into the house
- Meet tenant weekly, but understand every relationship may be different
- Work with the HIA Empowerment Worker to discuss the tenant's action plan and help tenant with their 'meaningful use of time'
- Try to find activities that tenants can enjoy and be involved in, encouraging engagement within the life of the church and local community to give them social, volunteering and work opportunities where possible/appropriate
- Love and persevere with the tenants, being there for them. 'Good cop' to HIA's 'bad cop'
- Pass on life skills and provide support where needed (i.e. lifts? Cookery? Etc.)

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