



JVS Caring Companions Program offers a safe haven of support for people with lifelong disabilities who also have developed dementia.

Always smiling and affectionate, Esther first came to JVS nearly 15 years ago as part of the Supported Employment Program where she held a job in the local community. When she was no longer able to work, she began the Skill Building Program where she enjoyed working as a volunteer at various local nonprofits. Both of these programs helped her develop great relationships being part of a team and contributing to her community. When changes in health and signs of dementia set in, JVS provided Esther with new experiences through the JVS Caring Companions Program. Now, in this specialized program with caring staff who are trained to address her new needs, Esther engages in a variety of activities and she loves the social interaction.

For Esther, Caring Companions is part of her family. And Esther is not alone.

As people with lifelong disabilities age, many may also develop dementia or other memory problems. The JVS Caring Companions Program helps these individuals remain engaged and connected to others. Through favorite activities like cooking, music, arts and crafts, and gardening, participants have fun, interact with one another and practice their skills.

Caring Companions provides a safe and compassionate environment, where social contact and relationships are nurtured between the participants and the JVS staff. The apartment setting creates a safe, homey atmosphere where everyone feels valued and comfortable. And, for some, their JVS “family” members are their only friends.

As the only program of its kind in metropolitan Detroit, Caring Companions brings meaning and love to participants’ days, and the nurturing environment provides peace of mind for their families.

Program Highlights

- Days filled with laughter, friends and caring, in safe surroundings
- Recreational activities for social interaction and skill enhancement
- Discussion groups and reminiscence to stimulate the mind and memory
- Entertainment programs and visits from high school students and others, and surprise visits from furry companions
- Daily exercise providing physical activity
- Health monitoring and nutritious meals and snacks
- Personal care and transportation

